



**Byron Asher**

New Orleans, LA

**Music**



Byron Asher is a saxophonist and clarinetist AND amateur pizzaiolo in New Orleans, originally from rural Maryland. His favorite pizza topping combination is Italian sausage, peppers and caramelized onions, but if we're being real, PLAIN CHEESE PIZZA is the truest form of the pie, and he will argue about the best cheese pizza in town until you're so hungry that you have to go and eat some. When he's not perfecting his dough recipe, he can be found performing with one of his many bands, including the "free jazz party band" Basher and his little big band Skrontch Music. Byron also teaches all aspects of music making at the University of New Orleans, and above all, he invites his students to be unapologetically themselves and GET WEIRD. He also has a really cute dog named Ida, pics available upon request.

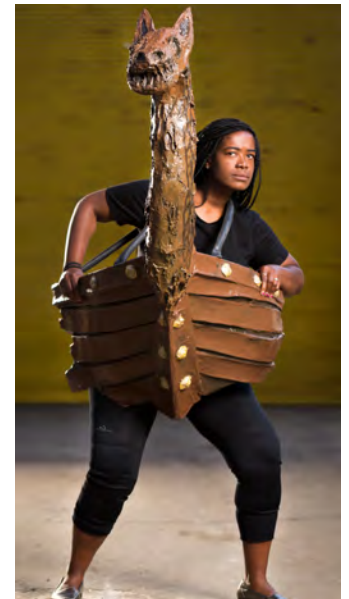
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**Torri Lynn Ashford**

Glover, VT

**Puppetry/ Stilting**

Torri Lynn Ashford is an Auntie, actor, puppeteer, and teaching artist who engages in communities through collaboration and exchange. She has performed with Detroit ensemble-based theaters including; A Host of People, The Hinterlands, Matrix Theatre, PuppetART Theater and Detroit Puppet Company to name a few. She has also been a teaching artist with Living Arts and Detroit Wolf Trap. She was awarded a New Leaders grant by the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs from her work leading Detroit Puppet Company's Community Outreach Initiatives. At present Torri Lynn is a movement facilitator, loving daughter, tap dancer, and avid road traveler. She's also a long time company member, brass band musician and aioli producing puppeteer with Bread and Puppet Theater (Glover, VT).



**Sidney Astl**

New Orleans, LA

**Digital Photography/ Visual Arts/ Journalism**

Sidney Astl is a New Orleans based artist focusing on printmaking and textile arts. She is a kindergarten teacher with a passion for fashion. Sidney loves to combine textile, printmaking, and photography to create visual stories. But mostly, Sidney loves to get her hands dirty and make something exciting and new! When she's not making art or teaching, you can find Sidney roller skating with Big Easy Roller Derby, quilting, or reading.

**Emily Brink**

New Orleans, LA

**Stop Motion Animation**



Moving to New Orleans from Brooklyn 9 years ago, Emily and her family have found their home! Although she might be new-ish to the Big Easy, she is not new to stop motion animation or to teaching art. After finishing her graduate work at the Pratt Institute in New York City, Emily created and ran a small art school that used the vehicle of stop motion animation to teach different art making mediums to children and adults alike. She taught her students to make art move all over New York City, from prestigious institutions like the Metropolitan Museum of Art to small public schools in Queens, loving every minute of it. Oh! During this time she also wrote a how-to book about creating stop motion animation at home and had twins! Two spirited girls who keep her on her toes and bring joy and the right amount of craziness to her life everyday. Good thing she is a runner too! When she is not running, gardening, teaching or writing, you can find Emily petting her garden kitty, Apollo or hanging with her three favorite people at home.

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**Erin Cessna**

New Orleans, LA

**Stage Combat/ Acting**

Erin Cessna is an actor, educator, TTRPG nerd, and cool bug public relations consultant from right here in New Orleans. She has appeared on many local and not-so-local stages over the years, and, recently, even a few screens! Erin holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from Tulane and an MFA in Acting from the University of Connecticut. When not playing make-believe, Erin works as an Earth Educator with the local non-profit, Teaching Responsible Earth Education (T.R.E.E.), where she teaches third and fourth grade earth science curriculum in the great outdoors.





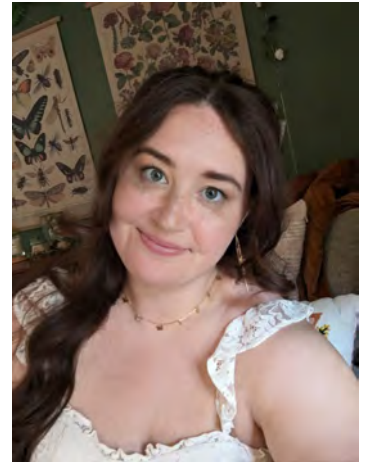
**David Chervony**  
New Orleans, LA **Circus Arts**

David Chervony is a circus creator and performer who is thrilled to be back in New Orleans! Regarded as an “unexpected showstopper,” their works are built on sincerity and surprise. David is a founding member of Company To X For and has presented several full-length shows, with David’s first solo show, “Dam,” currently in development. Credits include the Vampire Circus, Midnight Circus, the Circus Hub at the Edinburgh Fringe, and the Nowhere Nowhere Show in Berlin.

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**Jade Coates-Ranck**  
New Orleans, LA **Musical Theater**

Jade is so honored and excited to be back for her 4th year at CDCA! Jade has participated in musicals both on and offstage her entire life. She graduated in 2015 from Loyola University in vocal music and theater arts. She has directed shows across the US with Missoula Children's Theatre and has taught music, acting, and theatre arts locally. Jade is a new mommy, an Early Childhood Educator at Country Day, and in her spare time enjoys making art and playing Dungeons and Dragons!



**Emily Conelly**  
New Orleans, LA **Dance**



Emily is excited to join the CDCA team and use her background in dance and visual arts education to help students cultivate a lasting love of dance and movement. She believes that early arts education is essential to developing lifelong audiences, performers, and creative thinkers. Emily trained pre-professionally at Lexington Ballet, graduated high school through North Carolina School of the Arts, and attended summer programs at the School of American Ballet, Ballet Aspen, Ballet West, Boston Ballet, Jacob’s Pillow, and the Martha Graham School. She enjoyed an 11-year professional dance career, performing with Nashville Ballet, Charleston Ballet Theatre, Augusta Ballet, Southern Danceworks, Alabama Ballet, Ballet Tucson, and even did some light-up puppeteering with New Orleans’ own Lightwire Theater. Combining her BFA in Art Education and Visual Culture with extensive dance teaching experience, Emily is dedicated to bringing out the best in her students and building their confidence and joy in movement.



Jessica Danby

New Orleans, LA

## Visual Arts

Jessica Danby earned her BFA in Painting from Southeastern Louisiana University and an MFA from the Memphis College of Art. Today, she spends the day encouraging high school students to become creative, confident problem solvers. She teaches in the Gifted/Talented Program at Fontainebleau High School in Mandeville, Louisiana. She also spent the past 15 summers at an arts-based summer camp in Covington, LA. In her studio practice, she explores a range of media driven by concept, from encaustic and watercolor landscape painting to tactile, knitted soft sculptures. One of her most meaningful works was an interactive letter-writing tent made from hand-sewn portraits of her students, fostering connection and creativity through handwritten correspondence. She feels incredibly fortunate to be an art teacher!

Bella Delatte  
New Orleans, LA

## Culinary Science

Bella DeLatte is from New Orleans but currently stays in West Lafayette Indiana, where she is a Food Science student at Purdue University. She also has a background in Culinary Arts as she is a NOCCA culinary arts alumna and teaches cooking classes at Purdue's gym. She loves finding ways to combine creativity and science, and believes you often need one to have the other. Besides cooking and science, Bella also enjoys video games, Magic the Gathering, drawing portraits, making earrings, and learning ASL. If you see Bella this summer, ask her about: how to make the best baked goods with little effort, what Red Hot Chili Peppers song is the best, the few benefits of living in the Midwest.





**Kami Galeana**  
New Orleans, LA **Painting**

Kami Galeana has a colorful heritage of Guatemalan and Cajun ancestry. As such, she has been influenced by vivid colors, geometric patterns and playful subject matter. She has been consistently questioning spatial arrangement and explores this concept via portraiture, still lifes of banal subject matter, and landscapes that reflect places of transition. Kami is originally from the bayou city of Houma and she relocated to New Orleans to pursue an art education. She studied at the University of New Orleans for undergraduate school from 2000-2004 and attended Graduate School from 2005-2007. She has had her work featured in various museums, galleries and juried exhibitions. She has been an active member of the New Orleans art community from 2004 up to the present moment.

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**Ash Gaude**  
New Orleans, LA **Painting**

Ash Gaude moved to New Orleans in 2018 drawn to the vibrant art scene and culture. She was awarded the Tolmas Scholars Grant in 2019, which supported a series of portraits exhibited at the University of New Orleans's Innovate UNO. She earned her Master of Fine Arts in 2025. As part of her graduate assistantship, Gaude has taught Drawing I and II, fostering foundational skills in emerging artists. She is currently an instructor at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts and at the New Orleans Jewish Community Center. When not in the studio or classroom, Gaude enjoys the company of her two cats, Shrimp and Andouille.



**Ana Maria Gaviria**  
New Orleans, LA **Capoeira**

Ana Maria Gaviria (aka Instrutora Joia) is originally from Colombia but has made New Orleans home for over a decade. She has been practicing capoeira for 16 years under Mestre Cocada and is so thankful for the community that it has brought into her life. She will be returning for her 5th summer at CDCA and is excited to help young artists find their inner ninjas and see the world upside down! Outside of CDCA she is a bilingual speech therapist and can be found making music, walking her dog in the park, or traveling around Brazil to learn more about capoeira and its rich culture.



**Susan Gisleson**

New Orleans, LA

## Director of CDCA

Susan Gisleson taught art for eighteen years before becoming the director of Country Day Creative Arts. She is a New Orleans based artist and educator and a founding member of the literary and visual arts non-profit Press Street, Antenna Gallery, and the 24 Hour Draw-a-thon. Susan has also designed signature floats for the Krewe of Muses as well as some of their throws. She believes that CDCA is a place where dreams become realities and realities become dreams.

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**Annie Goldman**

New Orleans, LA

## Assistant Director

Annie is the school counselor at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. She loves supporting children and cheering them on as they discover strengths they did not know they had! Annie is so excited to be a part of the CDCA this summer for the first time. Her children participated in the camp and their home is covered in art they made at CDCA! Annie is committed to helping every young artist at CDCA reach their potential, artistically and socially! Annie is looking forward to a summer surrounded by inspiring artists of all ages.



**Jason Goodenough**

New Orleans, LA

## Culinary Arts



Chef Jason Goodenough grew up in New York City but moved to New Orleans 14 years ago. For as long as he can remember, he wanted to be a great chef, and there is no better place to do that than New Orleans. Ten years ago, he opened his restaurant, which was called Carrollton Market. Three years after it opened, the Times-Picayune named Carrollton Market one of the New Orleans' 10-best restaurants, and Chef Jason was the New Orleans Magazine Chef of the Year. In 2020, he closed the restaurant to spend more time with his wife, Amelia, and his two daughters, Eloise (now 15) and Penelope (now 11). These days, Chef spends his time working on Goodenough Supper Club, an underground dining experience, and Goodenough Private Events. He is very excited to teach at CDCA again this summer!



**Josh Jackson**  
New Orleans, LA

## Visual Arts

A product of NC barbecue, lessons from his Granny & Pa, and watching too much TV, Josh Jackson is a multi-disciplinary artist and co-founder of local art studio, Daggum Creative. Whether he's designing wacky sculptures, wiring chandeliers, or practicing traditional crafts, Josh's work invites everyone to embark on a creative adventure, unearthing humor and fun along the way.

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**Jennifer Jones**

New Orleans, LA

## Ceramics

Jennifer Jones found herself head-over-heels in love with the vibrant city of New Orleans while pursuing her MFA in Fine Art at the University of New Orleans. After bidding adieu to her graduate studies, she opened a ceramics studio called Puddle Clayworks., a playground for clay enthusiasts! Jennifer not only teaches classes but also offers memberships, so you can let your inner ceramicist run wild. She has had the opportunity to show her work in places such as, Second Story Gallery, UNO St. Claude Gallery, and The Louisiana Contemporary at the Ogden. For the past eight years, she's been spreading her love for education teaching art in public schools, teaching English as a second language in Guangzhou, China, and teaching ceramics at the University of New Orleans. When she's not teaching or creating art, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her family of six, travel, and cooking. Art and teaching fuel her creative spirit and zest for life in the vibrant city of New Orleans. She is so excited to join CDCA this summer!



**Jenny LeBlanc**  
New Orleans, LA

## Sink Manager

Westbank native, artist, educator, and parent Jenny LeBlanc returns to the CDCA SINK this summer. She holds degrees from the Alabama School of Fine Arts, Louisiana State University (BFA in Sculpture), and Virginia Commonwealth University (MFA in Sculpture), and has taught art in some form or fashion for the past 25 years. Jenny believes deeply in the profound magic of the SINK! She can't wait to help facilitate and witness all the transformations of old scraps, junk, and supplies into true art that will transpire during CDCA 2026!



**Sasha Martin**  
New Orleans, LA

## Yoga

Sasha has spent years developing a passion for yoga. She finds inspiration in storytelling, nature, and asking big questions while paying attention to the small details that make life beautiful. You will often find Sasha enjoying bike rides through the city and going on adventures with her dog, Mr. Leo. Sasha brings a wealth of skills cultivated through years of teaching and learning. Her teaching experience includes working with non-native English speakers throughout Greater New Orleans and deepening her expertise in trauma-informed and social-emotional learning practices as a lifelong student.

**Rose McBurney**

New Orleans, LA

## Permanent Sub

Rose Willow McBurney graduated with an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from the Yale School of Art in 2025 and received her BA in Studio Arts from the University of New Orleans in 2023. She lives and works in New Orleans, LA. McBurney is an experimental figurative painter whose work manifests in many forms, paying attention to dreams, recognizing the potential for meaning in mundane moments, experimenting with embodied movement, or exploring material research. In 2025, she was awarded the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation Fellowship and the Carol Schlosberg Memorial Prize for Excellence in Painting from the Yale School of Art. Her most recent exhibitions include *Powerline* at Perrotin Gallery in New York, NY (2025), the Felix Art Fair at With Hair + Nails Gallery in Los Angeles, CA (2025), *Freshly for You* at Hair+Nails Gallery in New York, NY (2024), *Sotto Voce* at Perimeter Gallery in Belfast, ME (2024), *Selected Works* at Good Children Gallery in New Orleans, LA (2020), and *Louisiana Contemporary* at the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, LA (2020).



**Grace McIntyre-Willis**

New Orleans, LA

## Engineering/ Tech

Born and raised under the unforgiving Florida sun, Grace McIntyre-Willis is no stranger to basking in a petri dish of experiences; their work as an artist focuses on the differing perspectives of all forms of life, and the interconnectivity all matter shares with one another. Grace currently teaches as an adjunct Art and Design lecturer at Tulane University and manages two of the School of Architecture's Digital Fabrication Labs. Since their first year teaching at CDCA in 2025, Grace has also worked with the New Orleans Film Festival as their seasonal Design and Graphics Coordinator





**Jimmy Mehiel**  
New Orleans, LA

## Video

Jimmy spent six years teaching screenwriting and film making at SUNY Purchase (his alma mater), where he inspired a new generation of storytellers. He got his start in New York's indie film scene before moving to Los Angeles, where he spent eight years working in roles from PA to Director on projects ranging from major commercials to independent TV pilots. He later relocated to New Orleans, working at a local production house as a writer, director, editor, and camera operator, while also teaching "movie making" at an awesome summer arts program.

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**Allison Mott**  
New Orleans, LA

## Visual Arts

Sauce Mott is a visual artist who was born and raised in New Orleans. She received her BFA from the University of Mississippi in 2008 and her MFA at Texas A&M - Corpus in 2017. Sauce loves junk, kitsch, plastic, tchotchkes, reflective surfaces and 1980's mecha anime. As a mother of two incredible little human children, Sauce gets very little sleep, but even while rocking babies and cutting grapes into fourths, her creative brain whirs with ideas to repurpose, reuse and rework old things into new, much cooler things. Sauce finds immeasurable joy in creative collaboration and leaving things better than she found them.



**Jeanie Osborne**  
New Orleans, LA

## Mosaics/ Mixed Media

Jeanie has been teaching Mosaics and Mixed Media at CDCA for a multitude of summers! She grew up in Upstate New York and attended Syracuse University for her BFA in Sculpture and later attended Newcomb College/ Tulane University for her MFA in Sculpture. She has been teaching art at Louise S. McGehee School for over 30 years. During the school year, she teaches with 3rd- 6th grade girls. She enjoys the opportunities at Country Day Creative Arts to work with young artists to nurture and develop their art and ideas. She likes the atelier atmosphere, the community, and camaraderie that manifests each summer. She makes fabric arts and mixed media collages throughout the year, likes to sew, bead, garden, bike ride, and take photographic adventures.



**Hanna Pilch**  
New Orleans, LA

## Horticulture

Hanna is an interdisciplinary artist and Earth educator at a local nonprofit called T.R.E.E. T.R.E.E. is an organization which educates children and adults about the life science processes that govern our planet, and inspires them to appreciate and protect it. Hanna gained a love and appreciation for the natural world while growing up in Wyoming, and exploring its rural public lands. She continues to draw artistic inspiration from the planet that we call home, and the happenings of its members. She is delighted to share her passion for art, education, and the environment at CDCA.

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**Keri Pollock**  
New Orleans, LA

## Business Manager

Keri is so happy to be a part of CDCA for another glorious year! She is the Business Manager and can be found working, but really having fun, in the office. Prior to working at CDCA, Keri lived in Atlanta and worked at Eileen Fisher for 7 years selling clothing to boutiques in the Southeast. She wears her Eileen Fisher samples that she was busy hoarding during her working hours whenever she can. Outside of CDCA, Keri is busy being a mom to Max and Sarah.



**Ella Roche**  
New Orleans, LA

## Robotics/ Tech

Ella Roche is a New Orleans based artist and educator, she received her BFA focusing on art and technology from the Art Institute of Chicago and has a passion for creating interactive installation works that reflect and prospect on tech futures. She created and developed creative STEM programs and workshops for local nonprofit Electric Girls. In her free time she enjoys building 2D and 3D works from natural found materials and tinkering with old CRTs.

**Spencer Schnell**

New Orleans, LA

**Improv**



Spencer Schnell is a teacher and improviser based in New Orleans. Over the years he has explored many different fields including cooking in a French Quarter restaurant, fixing fighter jets, and most recently, teaching high school. A longtime fan of improv, Spencer first jumped into performing to make the most of his summers off and quickly discovered he loved making things up and creating new worlds with friends. He currently performs in and produces monthly shows at Big Couch Theater in the Bywater and works with several local improv troupes. Spencer is excited to share his enthusiasm for all things comedy with CDCA and help young artists discover the fun of creating comedy with a supportive team. When Spencer isn't doing comedy, he can usually be found experimenting in his kitchen or starting a new book despite being halfway through about a dozen others.

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**Mike Seely**

New Orleans, LA

**Team Games**

Mike has been an educator and coach in the New Orleans area for the last 25 years. He spent 10 years in Jefferson Parish schools as a physical education teacher and head coach of both baseball and football before going on to Hahnville High school as a science teacher and coach of both baseball and football. Mike currently teaches Physical Science and Engineering at Destrehan High School and coaches middle school baseball at Albert Cammon Middle School. He believes that team sports can bring out the best in people and show how creative they can be to overcome the obstacles set out before them. Mike also enjoys the teamwork aspect of sports and helping people to learn to work together to overcome adversity. For Mike, "it's one of the greatest parts to being a coach and educator."



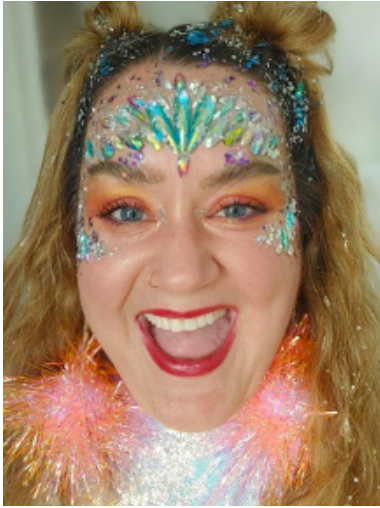
**Ashley Sercovich**

New Orleans, LA

**Adornment/ Costume**



Ashley Sercovich was born & raised in New Orleans and has spent MANY summers at CDCA. She has studied Visual Arts & Theatre Design at Southeastern Louisiana University, with concentrations on gallery exhibition, curating, and costuming. Ashley had the honor of curating the first day of CDCA gallery exhibition for a few years, and had the immense pleasure of working for LadyParadiseStudios on seasonal costume builds and JamNOLA. She currently works in the employ of Royal Artists, for Proteus parade, as maker of cut-out motifs which adorn Mardi Gras floats. Ashley's life approach is as a cultural anthropologist. She's a lover of people's stories and the humanities and has a deep admiration for the wonders of the natural world. She is a terrible yet enthusiastic fisherman. She is an artist who thrives in collaborative environments and flourishes in process art work as well as the mother to Drew who is a brilliant and athletic teenager.



**Sara Shearman**

New Orleans, LA

## Visual Arts/ BIG ART

Sara is a former New Orleans native and current resident of the Northshore. From 1996-2010 Sara was a CDCA camper and intern, and is so excited to return this summer as a member of Senior Staff. Sara has a BA in Art Education with a concentration in Ceramics, and has been teaching art for 13 years at Fontainebleau High School in Mandeville. When not teaching, Sara can be found covered in glitter doing her side hustle and running Northshore Face Painting. Sara is also known as mommy to her two wonderful daughters, Chloe and Emily.

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**Kyle Sirman**

New Orleans, LA

## Comics

Kyle Bravo is a cartoonist and art educator. His cartoons have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Antigravity*, and more. He has self published numerous collections of his own cartoons and comics while still finding time to play with his kids and take occasional naps. He co-founded the Bywater artist-run gallery, *The Front*, and the letterpress and screenprinting studio, *Hot Iron Press*, but recently retired from being a hipster to become just a regular old man. He loves pizza, matcha lattes, and everything that is funny.



**Sean Starwars**

New Orleans, LA

## Artist in Residence



Sean Star Wars lives in New Orleans with his wife and five children. Sean earned his MFA in Printmaking from Louisiana State University. In addition to making woodcuts for over thirty five years, Sean has been an Adjunct Professor, a Janitor and a Used Car salesman. Sean currently works fulltime as a printmaker and he makes about a dozen visiting artist appearances a year at many of the nations' leading art programs. Sean is a proud member of the legendary Outlaw Printmakers and his work is in numerous public and private collections. Star Wars' work can be seen on book covers, album covers, magazines, television programs, films and commercials. He is currently embarking on his most challenging project ever, a woodcut a week "FOR LIFE". Sean drinks more Mountain Dew than anyone who has ever lived and he can beat you at Ms. Pacman.



**Goldie Sylvan**

New Orleans, LA

## **Sign Language**

Goldie Sylvan has been serving the deaf community of the greater New Orleans area since graduating the American Sign Language interpreter training program at delgado community college in 2015. She also strives to live up to her creative gifts as a lifelong artist, having graduated with a BFA from her hometown University of Louisville in 2006. The twin centers of her life are her wife, Lynn and 3-year-old, Wally, the rest radiate out from there. She is passionate about imparting enthusiasm for ASL and handwork to the next generation.

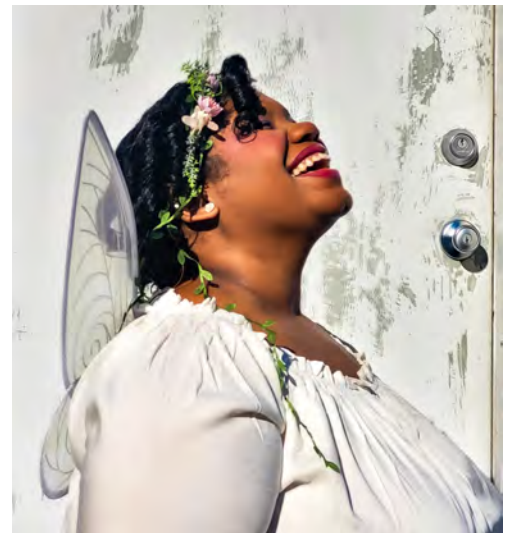
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**Maiya Tate**

New Orleans, LA

## **Creative Writing/Acting**

Maiya is a lover of books, cute shows, and devastating fantasy worlds. As a high school English teacher and aspiring writer, her head is sometimes in the clouds— but always for a good reason! Along with being an avid reader and consumer of media, Maiya has also been a dancer and performer since she was a kid. She hopes to one day change the world with her words.



**Jeffrey Thurston**

New Orleans, LA

## **Ceramics**

Ross Turner's parents won him as the 2nd place prize in a watermelon-eating contest at the Yockanookany County Fair in 1986. He grew up in Chickenbone, Mississippi, subsisting on a heart-healthy diet of fried catfish, fried okra, and fried Dr Pepper. He chased a bolt of rainbow lightning named Sauce down to New Orleans and married the heck out of her. They raise two organic, free-range children together.



**Ross Turner**

New Orleans, LA

## Woodworking

Ross Turner's parents won him as the 2nd place prize in a watermelon-eating contest at the Yockanookany County Fair in 1986. He grew up in Chickenbone, Mississippi, subsisting on a heart-healthy diet of fried catfish, fried okra, and fried Dr Pepper. He chased a bolt of rainbow lightning named Sauce down to New Orleans and married the heck out of her. They raise two organic, free-range children together.

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**Sarah Wardell**

New Orleans, LA

## Costumes/ Fabric Art

Sarah is an independent designer who likes to make chaos in her studio. She is a tailor with a love for upcycling, a printmaker with a background in graphic design, and a paper mâché artist with a penchant for plaster. She likes to mix media and experiment, and usually makes a big mess while she works. She has lived in New Orleans for 6 years, and absolutely loves the unlimited creativity this city offers.



**Bryant Watson**

New Orleans, LA

## Music



As soon as Bryant Watson could reach, he played his father's sparkly orange drum kit in a Canton, Ohio basement. Surrounded by a family of musicians, Watson grew up listening to soul, RnB, jazz and fusion. Thoroughly immersed, he began gigging at age 14, creating a strong foundation of musicianship. Through out high school, he performed in the Jackson High School Jazz Ensemble, Symphony and Marching Band, All State Jazz Ensemble and Tri C High School All Star Band. With an anchor in jazz, Watson expanded his range to rock, Latin jazz and AfroCuban, touring around the United States. After moving to Cleveland in 2013, he gained experience in Greek, Chinese, and American classical music while obtaining a BA in Music Education at Cleveland State University. In 2017, he moved to New Orleans where he plays around the city with many musicians, including Michael Watson and the Alchemy, Daria and The Hip Drops, NOLA Dukes, and more. When Watson is not performing, he produces and manages gigs for private events.

