

CHRISTINA ACOSTA

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Creative professional with 25+ years of experience in the arts. Extensive background in building community partnerships, strategic decision-making, and creative programming. Passionate and driven leader who inspires and motivates others. Strong academic background with notable successes in developing interdisciplinary collaborative projects. Seeking opportunities to advocate for and elevate the arts on a global scale.

Education and Certifications

Columbia University, Teachers College

MA - Dance and Dance Education | 1997

Graduate Teaching Assistant, National Merit Scholarship recipient

Brenau University

BFA - Dance Performance | 1994

BA - Arts Administration | 1994

Evans Somatic Dance Institute (NY)

Teacher Training | 2009

Dance Education Lab (DEL) (NY)

Teacher Certificate Program | 2005

Merce Cunningham Dance Company (NY)

Training Program | 1994-1996

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre (NY)

Certificate program | 1992

Experience

Program Director, Dance Program | 2001-present

Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL

Assistant to the Dean, Academic Affairs | 2001-2003

Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL

Program Associate, Development/Fundraising, Public Relations, Archive | 1994-1997

Merce Cunningham Dance Foundation, New York, NY

Consultant, Curriculum Development | 2004

Polk County Schools, Lakeland, FL

Consultant, Curriculum and Program Development | 1997, 2001-2003

Hillsborough County Schools, Secondary Education Programs, Tampa, FL

Program Administrator, Young Artists Summer Program | 1994

Glimmerglass Opera, Cooperstown, NY

Consultant, Grant Assistance | 1994

Foundation for Contemporary Arts, New York, NY

Academic Appointments

Professor, Dance Program | 2016-present
Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL

Associate Professor, Dance Program | 2012-2016
Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL

Assistant Professor, Dance Program | 2001-2012
Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL

Adjunct Faculty, Dance Program | 2002-2003, 2008
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Adjunct Faculty, Dance Program | 2006
Harrison Arts Center, Lakeland, FL

Full-time Faculty and Co-Director, Dance Program | 1997-2001
Howard W. Blake High School for the Arts, Tampa, FL

Adjunct Faculty, Dance Program | 1999-2001
St. Petersburg College, St. Petersburg, FL

Adjunct Faculty, Dance and Dance Education Program | 1996
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

Selected Additional Training

Dance New Amsterdam (formerly Dance Space), New York, NY | 1994-1996, 2008, 2015

Florida Dance Festival, Tampa, FL | 2011-2013

Mark Morris Dance Center, New York, NY | 2008, 2010

92nd Street Y, Choreographers Collective, Improvisation Festival, New York, NY | 1996-1997

Erick Hawkins Dance Center, New York | 1996-1997

Trisha Brown Studio, New York, NY | 1996

Het Onafhankelijk Toneel, Theatre Intensive, Atlanta, GA | 1994

Selected Teaching and Workshops

Hillsborough Community College | 2001-present
Modern Dance I-IV, Dance Basics, Music for Dance, Dance Composition, Dance Improvisation, Special Topics
Dance Practicum, Dance Ensemble

University of South Florida | 2002-2003, 2008
20th Century Dance History, Teaching Folk Dance

American Ballet Theatre, Summer Intensive, Contemporary and Modern Dance | 2021
Janson Dance Project, Summer Intensive, Repertory, Modern Dance, Tampa, FL | 2012-2021
Cypress Lake Center for the Arts, Residency, Repertory, Modern Dance | 2012, 2013
University of Tampa, Repertory | 2015, 2016
Harrison Arts Center, Residency, *Lifeforms* software, Lakeland, FL | 2008

Selected Projects

Visual and Performing Arts series, Founder/Producer | 2009–present

Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, FL

Curate and produce a cutting-edge performance series presenting world-class multidisciplinary artists.

Integrate residency activities into the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

Past Guest Artists include:

Flock, *contemporary dance* | 2021

Stewart/Owen Dance, *theatrical contemporary dance* | 2021

Davalois Fearon Dance, *multidisciplinary dance theatre* | 2016, 2021

Jose Dominguez/Anti-Heroes Project, *multi-cultural theatre* | 2014, 2021

Monica Bill Barnes, *contemporary dance* | 2011, 2013, 2015, 2020

Niurca Marquez /History House, *dance theatre* | 2014, 2020

Orange Grove Dance, *contemporary dance* | 2019

Cakeface, *performance art* | 2019, 2010

Bridgeman/Packer, *multi-media dance theatre* | 2014, 2016, 2019

Axis Dance Company, *physically integrated contemporary dance* | 2018

elephant JANE dance, *dance theatre* | 2018

Dusan Tynek Dance Company, *contemporary dance* | 2012, 2018

Sara Juli & Claire Porter, *dance theatre* | 2017

Contra-Tiempo, *multicultural dance theatre* | 2016

Victoria Marks Performance, *mixed-ability dance, dance for camera* | 2016

Dante Brown/Warehouse Dance, *contemporary dance* | 2015

Adele Myers and Dancers, *contemporary dance* | 2015

Jane Comfort, *dance theatre* | 2014

Brian Brooks/Moving Company, *modern/contemporary dance* | 2013

Claire Porter/Portables, *comedic monologues* | 2009, 2013

Ballet Flemming, *ballet* | 2012

FreeFall Dance Theatre, *dance theatre* | 2012

HT. Chen and Dancers, *multi-cultural dance, Asian-American expression* | 2011

Meaghan Snow, *performance art* | 2010

Pig Iron Theatre Company, *theatre* | 2010

Karen Furhman/Grounded Aerial, *aerial dance* | 2009

Student Choreography Showcase | 2001-present

Faculty advisor and producer for the annual HCC student choreography performance.

Mural, Diversity in Dance | 2022 (in progress)

Proposed and secured funding for a dance mural celebrating diversity, equity, and inclusion.

HCC Dance 20th Anniversary Weekend | 2021

Created workshop series and curated a performance celebrating alumni achievements.

HCC Intermedia Center | 2013, 2017, 2021-present

Envisioned, researched, and provided support for the design of a new integrated arts and technology facility.

CHOREOworkspace | 2019-present

Created and co-directed an incubator program for emerging choreographers with Moving Current Dance Collective.

HCC 50th Anniversary | 2018-2019

Co-chaired the Ybor City campus 50th Anniversary committee and curated the *Celebrate the Arts* performance gala as well as coordinated various activities in honor of the anniversary.

Dance Through the Decades | 2019

Produced a weekly series open to all students to learn social dance forms (1960-2020) to celebrate HCC's 50th Anniversary.

HCC 50 Years in the Making | 2019

Co-directed, devised theatre, musical tribute performance with the HCC Theatre program.

High School Dance Lab | 2017-present

Created a summer dance workshop for high school students to experience "a day in the life" of a college student.

Middle School Dance Day | 2017-present

Developed an event for middle school dancers to experience the diversity and variety of course offerings at the college.

Summer Dance Institute | 2016

Created and secured funding for a pilot summer dance program for alumni, current, and prospective students from diverse backgrounds.

Arts Immersion Day | 2016-present

Created an event for high school seniors interested in dance, visual art, theatre, and music to come to campus and participate in workshops and masterclasses with the Visual and Performing Arts programs on campus.

Associate of Fine Arts | 2014

Wrote and submitted a state-wide proposal for a transferrable AFA degree in dance.

Four Days of Dance series | 2008-2013

Curated and directed a performance series to produce regional emerging and established choreographers.

Health Odyssey | 2012

Created and co-produced a holistic health and wellness event that introduced the HCC community to the benefits of nutrition, somatics, and self-care.

Standards in Dance | 2011

Co-Chaired the Florida State Standards committee and contributed to the authoring of materials.

African Hymn | 2010

Collaboration between HCC Music and Dance Programs, Co-directed with Patrick Hernley and Ruthie Nelson.

Blood Wedding | 2009

Collaboration between HCC Theatre and Dance Programs, Directed by Dr. Sybil Johnson.

Romeo and Juliet Remix | 2007

Collaboration between HCC Theatre and Dance Programs, Co-directed with Melody Seoane.

Florida Dance Education Organization | 2004, 2005

Conference chair and host site for the state-wide conference.

Curricular Development | 2001

Designed and implemented the A.A. program of study with emphasis in Dance at Hillsborough Community College.

Selected Invitations

Lights on Tampa, Public Art Event | 2021

Directed performance art project, City of Tampa, Department of Arts & Cultural Affairs

Van Gogh Alive, Immersive Exhibition | 2021

Choreographer, Dance at the Dali event

HCC Presidential Showcase | 2020

Choreographer, HCC Foundation fundraiser

Forward Motion Dance Festival | 2019, 2021

Choreography showcased in Integrated Dance Performance, Miami, Florida

Black, Brown and College Bound Summit | 2013, 2016, 2018

Choreographer, Equity and Diversity Program

STEAMworks | 2016

Multimedia exhibition, Maze Gallery

American Dance Festival | 1995

Directed course on *LifeForms* software with Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Durham, North Carolina.

Panels, Presentations, Guest Speaking

Breaking the Stereotypes and Politics of the Dancing Body. | 2020

Presentation, Coffee Talks series

Courageous Conversations, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion on Campus. | 2018

Virtual Presentation, HCC Department of Equity and Diversity

Leadership and Motivation in the Arts. | 2017

Presentation, Harvest Time Community Center

One Million Cups | 2017

Presentation on dance, technology, and entrepreneurship.

The Sustainable Dance | 2016-2017

Presentation and Performance excerpt, Tampa Sustainability Expo | 2017

Presentation, Beyond Sustainability Conference | 2016

Consider Water | 2015

Panel organizer and moderator, Davalois Fearon and Tampa water conservation organizations in connection to performances to educate audiences about the importance of water to our daily lives.

What is Beauty | 2014

Panel Organizer and moderator, Jane Comfort Dance

Structural Energetic Therapy: Unlocking Common Core Distortion Patterns in College-level Dancers. | 2013

Presentation, Research findings and results, All College Day

The Future of Programs in Experimental Media: Non-Traditional Models for Arts Education. | 2008

Paper, Sabbatical Committee. Higher Education Journal submission.

Cerebro, A Choreographic Concept. |2008
Presentation, Florida Dance Education Conference

What will the Future Hold? A Closer Look at Dance, Engineering, and Technology. |2007
Presentation, Florida Dance Education Organization Conference

Imagine the Possibilities: A Comparison Paper on Dance Facilities in the State of Florida. |2003
Paper, Submitted to Florida Department of Education

The Similarities and Differences Between Teaching Methodologies of Modern Dance. |1998
Presentation, Thesis research, NYC Dance Educators Association

Honors, Awards, Grants

Community Impact Grant, City of Tampa |2020
National Endowment for the Arts Panelist |2015, 2016
Associate Artist, Residency, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna, FL |2013, 2014
Ybor City Development Corporation, Special Events Co-sponsorship |2019, 2020, 2021
Faculty Staff Professional Development Award funding |2006, 2009 2013, 2019
Instructional Development Grant |2018
Champion of Diversity Award |2016
Faculty Excellence Award, HCC Foundation |2016
Student Activities Service Fund Award |2009-present
Campus Improvement Funding |2008-present

Academic Service

Nourishment, Education and Social Terraces (NEST) Committee |2021
Communications, Humanities, Arts and Design Division |2015-present
Campus Development Council |2018-present
HCC Foundation Arts Committee |2014-present
General Education Committee |2014-present
Visual and Performing Arts Committee |Chair 2003-2010, member 2010-present
Faculty Credentials Committee |Alternate, 2013-present
Humanities Discipline Group |2003-present
Black History Month Committee, MLK event subgroup |2001-present
HCC Presidential Showcase Committee |2003-2006, 2018-2020
Search Committee for Theatre Production Staff |2013, 2016
Campus Planning Council |Chair 2008-2012, Co-chair 2013-2018
Search Committee for Dance/Theatre Assistant |2016, 2018, 2019
Student Activities Service Committee |2010-2015
50th Anniversary Committee |2017-2019
Academic Affairs Rep for Cluster 2 |2004-2007, Alternate 2007-2009
Native American Month Committee, Ybor City Campus |2001-2004
Hispanic Heritage Committee, Ybor City Campus |2003-present
Faculty Search Committee |2002, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2016
Enrollment Recruitment Committee |2003-2010
International Festival Committee |2002-2018
Honors Convocation Committee |2002, 2004, 2008
Ybor Child Development Center/Dance Studio Building Facility Design Committee |2001-2005
Liaison for Dean of Academic Affairs for Dual Enrollment programs, Ybor City Campus |2001

Affiliations

American College Dance Association, Institutional Member | 2001-present
Florida Dance Education Organization, Member | 2002-present
Florida Higher Education Arts Network, Institutional Member | 2018-present
Florida Dance Education Organization, President | 2008-2010
Florida Dance Association, Member | 1998-2019
National Dance Education Organization, Member | 1998-present
National Association of Schools of Dance, Individual Member | 2006-2012
Florida Alliance for Arts Education, Member | 2008- present
Foundation for Excellence in Education, Arts for Life Scholarship, Panelist | 2008, 2021
Arts Council of Hillsborough County, Advisory Council, Board Member | 2002-2004

Selected Choreography

Perky, Quirky, Smirky | 2021

Commissioned by REVolutions Dance Company.

Performances:

US State Department International Arts Envoy Exchange, Poland | 2019
Moving Current Dance Collective Concert, Tampa, FL | 2019
Forward Motion Conference, Miami, FL | 2021
IMMERSE Festival, Orlando, FL | 2021
Forward Motion Festival, Miami, FL | 2021
HCC Dance 20th Anniversary Gala, Tampa, FL | 2021

Cogs in the Machine | 2014

Commissioned by REVolutions Dance Company.

Performances:

Beacon Dance Performance, St. Petersburg, FL | 2021
Versatility Dance Festival, Denver, CO | 2020
US State Department International Arts Envoy Exchange, Poland | 2019
Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay, Tampa, FL | 2019
IMMERSE Festival, Orlando, FL | 2019
Forward Motion Festival, Miami, FL | 2019
Florida Dance Festival, Tampa, FL | 2019
US State Department International Arts Envoy Exchange, China | 2017
US State Department International Arts Envoy Exchange, Russia | 2015, 2016, 2017
National Dance Education Organization Conference, Tampa, FL | 2014

Choose Your Distraction | 2017

Performances:

HCC Dance Concert, Tampa, FL | 2017
Gasparilla Fringe Festival, Tampa, FL | 2017
HCC50 Event, Tampa, FL | 2018

Pepper's Jukebox | 2016

Performances:

HCC Dance Concert, Tampa, FL | 2016
Black History Month Program, College-wide Diversity Council, Tampa, FL | 2016

Transmission | 2015

Commissioned by Moving Current Dance Collective

Performances:

- Gasparilla Fringe Festival, Tampa, FL | 2015
- Moving Current Dance Concert, Tampa, FL | 2015
- HCC Dance Concert, Tampa, FL | 2018

Recalculating | 2016

Performances:

- Florida Dance Education Organization Conference, Tampa, FL | 2016
- Thesis Dance Event, Tampa, FL | 2016
- GASP event at Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL | 2016
- WFLA Daytime TV show, Tampa, FL | 2016
- Black, Brown and College Bound Conference, Tampa, FL | 2016
- HCC Presidential Showcase, Tampa, FL | 2016

Portrait of a 10 X10 Room | 2013

Performances:

- 5 X 5 Exhibit, Tampa Museum of Modern Art, Tampa, FL | 2013
- Four Days of Dance, Tampa, FL | 2013

Waiting In Solitude | 2013

Performances:

- 5 X 5 Exhibit, Tampa Museum of Modern Art, Tampa, FL | 2013
- Four Days of Dance, Tampa, FL | 2013
- Community College Humanities Association Conference, St. Petersburg, FL | 2014
- African American Heritage Month Celebration, Tampa, FL | 2014
- HCC Dance 20th Anniversary Gala, Tampa, FL | 2021

Discordant Recollections | 2013

Performances:

- Miami International Dance Festival, Miami, FL | 2013
- Spec Performance series @ Studio 620, St. Petersburg, FL | 2013

Hidden | 2015

Performance:

- Florida Cultural Diversity Summit, Tampa, FL | 2015

Elbow. Head. Knee. Pelvis | 2015

Performances:

- HCC Dance Concert, Tampa, FL | 2015
- University of Tampa, Tampa, FL | 2017

Under Suspicion | 2012

Performances:

- HCC Dance Concert, Tampa, FL | 2012
- Harrison Arts Center, Lakeland, FL | 2014

Fire | 1999, 2021

Performances:

- HCC Dance Concert, Tampa, FL | 2005, 2010, 2021
- Festival of the Moving Image, Tampa, FL | 2011
- Cypress Lake Center for the Arts, Fort Myers, FL | 2011
- St. Petersburg College, St. Petersburg, FL