

LALA BOLANDER

Artist + Educator

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Chicago, IL 

EXPERIENCE

Guest Artist

Smart Museum of Art Chicago | 2023

- 2-day workshop for Smart Museum's "Art after Dark" Series 2023
- Virtual workshop: Honoring Our Dead: Altars and Offerings
- In-person workshop: Community Ofrenda Building for Dia de los Muertos

Writer, Director, Producer

Welcome Home with Nico Segal, Steppenwolf LookOut Series | 2023

- Adapted the story of the music behind the album "Tell the Ghost Welcome Home", by Nico Segal, into a 45-minute theater production with dance, live music, and video
- Led an ensemble of 4 in biweekly rehearsals over the course of 3 months with defined goals for each rehearsal and scene
- Managed all production needs including securing venue, coordinating rehearsal schedule and location, collaborating with other team leads for promotional materials, set design, costume design, and logistics; Oversaw completion of production timeline

Founder, Vocalist

Kebranto | 2022-2023

- Scheduled weekly rehearsals and coordinated rehearsal spaces
- Managed band social media
- Led collaborative efforts between a group of five musicians to write original music and lyrics rooted in collective resistance and community wisdom

Muralist

Chicago, IL | 2015-2023

- Archer Park Garage Door Mural Series, 2021, 2022, 2023
- The Port Ministries community center door mural, 2022
- Anti-gentrification mural, Logan Square neighborhood, 2021
- Ayotzinapa Memorial mural, Pilsen neighborhood, 2020
- Cafe La Catrina mural, Pilsen neighborhood, 2015

Writer, Director

Chicago Hip Hop Theater Festival | 2016

CORE is a collaborative performance piece that uses interdisciplinary expression to tell the magical creation stories of music and footwork dance. Through original music and movement, CORE explores the history of sound and dance while expanding the viewer's ideas of how the art of footwork has been used as a tool of resistance for Black and brown creators.

Writer, Director

Line Breaks Hip Hop Theater Festival, Madison WI | 2015

SPILL is a contemporary dance production that tells the story of the first song in the universe. With a cast of 18 dancers representing the characters of darkness, light, and wind, SPILL weaves together poetry, original music, and movement to create touchpoints for viewers of all ages to understand the creation story of music.

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Bachelor's of Art in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

OMAI First Wave Scholar
2011-2015

SKILLS

- Fluent in English & Spanish
- Visioning: goal setting, benchmarks, production timelines
- Budget management, partnership development, event planning, workshop design and facilitation
- Poetry: writing, editing, book formatting
- Visual and Physical Art: drawing, painting, mural design and execution, aluminum carving, installation work
- Direction: Interdisciplinary productions, team poetry, dance and music ensembles

ORGANIZATIONS

- Kuumba Lynx
- Yollocalli
- OMAI First Wave
- The Port Ministries

WORKSHOPS

- Creative writing + storytelling
- Power mapping 101
- Script writing
- Mixed media collage
- Aluminum carvings