

LALA BOLANDER

Artist + Educator

EXPERIENCE

Featured Artist

Chicago Public Library Latinx Heritage Month Series, Chicago | 2025
L'Cafecito Jumping Bean, Chicago | 2025
Chicago Public Library Latinx Heritage Month Series, Chicago | 2024
Argyle Street Market, Chicago | 2024
Poetry Corner, Chicago Reader | 2024
Kuumba Lynx' Poetry Making Playground, West Side Justice Center | 2024
Día de los Muertos, Smart Museum of Art Chicago | 2023
'I Am' art exhibition, 2240 Gallery Chicago | 2022
Logan Square Mural Project | 2021

Muralist

Immigrant Solidarity Mural, Little Village neighborhood, 2024
Archer Park Garage Door Mural Series, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2025
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, Producer

Welcome Home with Nico Segal, Steppenwolf LookOut Series | 2023
Co-directed an ensemble of 4 for 3 sold out performances of the adapted story behind the musical album "Tell the Ghost Welcome Home", by Nico Segal. Using using dance, live music, and video, this stunning collaboration explored layers of complexity that echoed throughout the album.

Founder, Vocalist

Kebranto | 2022-2023
5 piece Chicano punk band creating music about shared experiences of displacement, gentrification, violence, and community resistance.

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, metal embossing, installation art

Direction: Team poetry and interdisciplinary stage productions

ORGANIZATIONS

Kuumba Lynx
Yollocalli Arts Reach
OMAI First Wave
The Port Ministries

WORKSHOPS

Creative writing + storytelling
Script writing
Mixed media collage
Metal embossing