

Renae Williams Niles has worked in the nonprofit sector for over 25 years serving in many capacities including executive director, associate dean of administration, dance company manager, grantmaker, dance presenter, adjunct professor, grant panelist/nominator, diversity liaison, consultant, moderator and guest curator. Early in her career, she worked with the Lula Washington Dance Theatre as company manager and Grand Performances as special projects manager. She also served as director of grant programs for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission where she created their first economic impact report and was part of the artist selection process for the Ford Amphitheatre. For more than 11 years, she worked for The Music Center eventually serving as vice president of programming. Renae was the first associate dean of administration for the USC Kaufman School of Dance where she authored a five year diversity and inclusion plan and co-led implementation. She recently served as the executive director for the Culver City Education Foundation and is currently the chief content and engagement officer for the Los Angeles Philharmonic where she oversees all programming, learning, marketing, community and government relations. For three years, Renae was adjunct faculty for Claremont Graduate University's Arts Management program. She regularly serves as a guest curator, consultant, and moderator nationally. Renae will guest curate The Joyce Theater's American Dance Platform for January 2022 in New York. She is also known for moderating conversations with renowned artists including the film *La La Land's* creative team, award-winning choreographers Camille A. Brown and Sir Matthew Bourne, the legendary Yo-Yo Ma and artist/author Ben Folds to name a few.

Within the Los Angeles area, Renae has been a fellow with the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities since 2014. She has served on the Dance Resource Center board, as a founding member of Emerging Arts Leaders, founding member of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation, founding member of USC Kaufman's Board of Advisors, host committee co-chair for the 2018 Dance/USA national conference, and currently serves as an advisor to BODYTRAFFIC and an unofficial advisor and facilitator for many artists and dance companies.

Renae has served as a panelist for the James Irvine Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, United States Artists, among others and also as an anonymous nominator for national foundations. She served as board president of the Western Arts Alliance (WAA), on the board of trustees for Dance/USA and as a three-year advisor for the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project. Renae is currently board chair of the Association of Performing Arts Professionals and board member of American Dance Movement formerly the Dizzy Feet Foundation and on board of councilors for USC Kaufman. She holds a certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University and participated in the inaugural USC Racial Equity Leadership Academy. In 2017, she received the WAA Service to the Field Award and in 2021, Renae was an Unsung Hero honoree of the California Legislative Black Caucus.

Renae, an alumna of the University of Southern California is happily married to a UCLA Bruin and a proud mother of three!

Jamal Story trained at the Lula Washington Dance Theatre in Los Angeles and holds degrees in Dance Performance and TV/Radio Communications from Southern Methodist University. He has performed with Complexions, Dallas Black Dance Theater, Fort Worth/Dallas Ballet, Donald Byrd/theGroup, Madonna's 2001 *Drowned World Tour*, and Cher's *Living Proof: The Farewell Tour* and is currently the dance and aerial supervisor for her *Here We Go Again* tour. He continues arts advocacy as the chair of the National Dance Committee for SAG-AFTRA, and has written two books, [12:34](#) and [Toss in the Ether](#), both available on his website <http://www.jamalstory.com/online-book-store>.

Bianca Sapetto, choreographer, director, teacher, aerialist, and dancer began her career as a rhythmic gymnast, claiming five U.S. National Championships titles and an alternate position on the 1992 U.S. Olympic Team. Bianca studied comparative religion at Amherst College before "running away" to join the circus with Cirque du Soleil. She has performed, choreographed, and directed for Disney, Cirque du Soleil, Warner Brothers, Paramount films, the Grammy Awards, the Tonight Show, Good Morning America, American Music Awards, Jackie Chan's Stunt Team, Michigan Opera, Teatro Zinzanni, Astor Piazzola Tango Foundation, the Olympic Gymnastics Tours, Burning Man, and at the Summit of the Americas for all the North and South American presidents and prime ministers. She has lead classes and workshops at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Esalen Institute, USC, UCLA, National Young Arts Foundation, Joffrey Ballet, PEN USA, and yoga, acting, dance, and circus schools across the country. Bianca lives in Los Angeles with her husband, children, and cat.