

# Dr. Ofosuwa M. Abiola

Scholar-Executive | Dean | Research Strategist | Founder of the Afrikinesis Paradigm

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## EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Award-winning scholar-executive, graduate education leader, research strategist, and founder of the Afrikinesis Paradigm. My work bridges African and African Diaspora dance research, cultural history, public humanities, research infrastructure, graduate education innovation, and institutional transformation. As Dean of the Graduate School at Bowie State University, I lead initiatives that strengthen graduate student research, expand external partnerships, improve research reporting and documentation infrastructure, and position the Graduate School as a central engine for Bowie State University's research growth and R2 trajectory. My scholarly portfolio includes four books, major fellowships and grants, national awards, international fieldwork, peer-reviewed digital initiatives, archival projects, and a sustained record of building programs, conferences, collections, strategic plans, and research ecosystems.

## SIGNATURE IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Domain	Selected Evidence of Impact
Graduate Research Leadership	Dean of the Graduate School, Bowie State University; Director, Graduate Research Center; founder of Research Incubator launching Summer 2026; architect of <i>Elevate</i> , the Graduate School's inaugural strategic plan.
Research Capacity Building	Established <i>Idea to Impact</i> graduate student grant competition; created "Securing Your Research Future" grant writing workshop series for graduate students and faculty; improved university-wide grant reporting and research documentation infrastructure.
Scholarly Paradigm & Publications	Founder of the Afrikinesis Paradigm; author of <i>Afrikinesis: A Paradigm for Research on African and African Diaspora Dance</i> , winner of the NDEO Ruth Lovell Murray Honorable Mention Book Award; author of four books.
External Funding & Strategic Investment	Secured more than \$2.7M in grants, fellowships, and strategic investments, including NEH, CAORC, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Howard University strategic investment funding.
Partnerships & Public Impact	Built partnerships with Maryland Planning Commission, City of Bowie Museums and Historic Places division, and the Performing Arts Center for African Cultures to create graduate internships, public programming, and foundation-building opportunities.
National Recognition & Service	NDEO Outstanding Dance Researcher; Master Folk Artist; Fulbright recipient; NEH & NEA reviewer; NAST accreditation site evaluator; external tenure and promotion reviewer; invited scholar and keynote speaker.

## Current Research and Institutional Leadership Agenda

Graduate research ecosystems; BSU research infrastructure; creating and initiating a pathway to R2 status; culturally intelligent AI and motion capture; African and African Diaspora dance as epistemology; arts, technology, and embodied knowledge; graduate student research development; research partnerships that produce tangible deliverables including publications, patents, datasets, public scholarship, and applied policy outputs.

## Core Leadership Identity

Builder of new structures: research centers, archival collections, journals, grant programs, conferences, strategic plans, honors frameworks, professional pipelines, and cross-sector partnerships.

## CURRENT LEADERSHIP PORTFOLIO | BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

**2025-Present Dean of the Graduate School.** Bowie State University, Bowie, Maryland. Leads the Graduate School's academic, administrative, strategic, research-development, partnership, and student-success priorities.

**2025-Present Director, Graduate Research Center.** Graduate School, Bowie State University. Directs the Graduate Research Center as an infrastructure-building hub for graduate student research, faculty collaboration, research development, workshops, and university research growth.

**2025-Present Architect, *Elevate: Graduate School Inaugural Strategic Plan.*** Designed the Graduate School's inaugural strategic plan, *Elevate*, aligning graduate education, research development, student experience, enrollment, partnerships, and institutional advancement with Bowie State University's broader research ambitions.

**2025-Present Founder, *Idea to Impact Grant Competition.*** Established and launched a graduate student research grant competition supporting innovative projects with the potential to produce scholarly, creative, applied, or entrepreneurial impact.

**2025-Present Founder, Graduate School Research Incubator.** Created a Research Incubator to support research collaborations among graduate students, scholars, industry professionals, and corporate partners. The incubator will focus on collaborative projects that produce tangible deliverables such as publications, patents, public scholarship, datasets, prototypes, policy briefs, or other applied outcomes. Launch: Summer 2026.

**2025-Present Creator, *Securing Your Research Future Grant Writing Workshop Series.*** Created and teaches a grant writing workshop series for graduate students and faculty to strengthen external funding readiness, research planning, proposal development, and grantsmanship.

**2025-Present University Research Infrastructure Improvement.** Improved grant reporting and research documentation infrastructure for the university, including processes to better capture, document, and report research and development activities and expenditures.

**2026 Forthcoming Founder/Convener, Transformative Synergies: Arts, Business, STEM, Education & Health in a Changing World.** Establishing an interdisciplinary conference that positions the Graduate School as a convener of cross-disciplinary research, public scholarship, graduate student engagement, and external visibility. Forthcoming November 2026.

## CURRENT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS | BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

- **Maryland Planning Commission:** Developed a partnership to provide paid, real-world internships on the MPC site for Bowie State University graduate students in Business and Computer Science.
- **City of Bowie Museums and Historic Places Division:** Developed a partnership to provide a public lecture, "Echoes of the Ancestors," and an African dance demonstration. Proceeds will support the Graduate School Foundation.
- **Performing Arts Center for African Cultures:** Developed a partnership with the nonprofit organization to provide a paid internship for a graduate student to learn nonprofit operations, community engagement, organizational budgets, program administration, and cultural arts management.

## EDUCATION

**2016 Ph.D., History, Howard University, Washington, DC.** With distinction; Phi Alpha Theta. Major concentrations: African Cultural History; African Dance History. Minor concentrations: African Diaspora History; Public History.

**2010 B.I.S., Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.** Summa cum laude. Specialization: Cultural Studies. Minors: History; Dance.

## ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

**2025-Present Dean of the Graduate School.** Bowie State University, Bowie, Maryland.

**2024-2025 Presidential Appointment, Bison Vision Council.** Howard University. Council appointed to advise the President on the University's strategic plan.

**2021-2024 Inaugural Associate Dean of Research and Creative Endeavors.** Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University. Awarded a *Dean's Cabinet Award* for innovative initiatives as the College's first Associate Dean of Research.

**2020-2022 Interim Chair, Department of Theatre Arts.** Howard University.

**2019-2025 Director, Africana Theatre and Dance Collection, Founders Library.** Howard University.

**2018-2020 Coordinator, Dance Program, Department of Theatre Arts.** Howard University.

**2017-2020 Supervisor, Experiential Learning and On-Campus Placement, Howard University Student Employment Program.** Office of Career Services, Howard University.

**2017-2020 Coordinator, Honors Program, Department of Theatre Arts.** Howard University.

**2017-2020 Coordinator, Theatre Arts Minor Program, Department of Theatre Arts.** Howard University.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2020 Associate Professor with Tenure, Department of Theatre Arts.** Howard University, Washington, DC.  
**2016 Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre Arts.** Howard University, Washington, DC.  
**2013-2016 Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Theatre Arts.** Howard University, Washington, DC.  
**2012-2013 Associate Teacher, Department of History.** Howard University, Washington, DC.

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

*Total documented grants, fellowships, and strategic investment awards listed below exceed \$2.7 million.*

- 2025 Grant, \$150,000.** National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC.  
**2021 Strategic Investment Grant, \$2,200,000.** R.I.S.E. (Revitalize. Innovate. Sustain. Emerge) Proposal for Strategic Investment in the Department of Theatre Arts. Successfully submitted a proposal to Howard University to increase investment in the Department of Theatre Arts; fully funded.  
**2021 Fellowship, \$15,000.** National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Washington, DC.  
**2020 Fellowship, \$12,000.** Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), Washington, DC.  
**2018 Grant, \$99,948.** National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Humanities Initiatives, Washington, DC.  
**2019 Grant, \$3,000.** U.S. Department of Education/Center for African Studies, Howard University, Washington, DC.  
**2017 Grant, \$10,000.** Summer Faculty Research Grant, Howard University, Washington, DC.  
**2011-2016 Fellowship, \$96,000.** Frederick Douglass Doctoral Fellowship, Howard University, Washington, DC.  
**2011 Fulbright.** J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship, Morocco, North Africa. First person in the history of Virginia State University to be awarded a Fulbright.  
**2011 Scholarship.** U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, Arabic.  
**2010-2011 Grant, \$20,800.** Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant.  
**2010 Fellowship, \$1,000.** George H. Bennett Fellowship, Petersburg, VA.  
**2009-2010 Grant, \$20,800.** Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant.  
**2008-2009 Grant, \$18,000.** Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant.  
**2007 Grant, \$2,500.** Newport News Arts Council Grant, Newport News, VA.  
**2006-2008 Grant, \$41,600.** Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant.  
**2005-2006 Grant, \$3,000.** Virginia Foundation for the Humanities grant to teach an apprentice the art of traditional African dance and culture.  
**2004 Grant, \$2,700.** Friends of the Arts, Inc., Richmond, VA.  
**2003 Grant, \$4,700.** Hampton Arts Council, Hampton, VA.  
**1998 Grant, \$500.** The Links, Newport News, VA.

## AWARDS & HONORS

- 2024 Ruth Lovell Murray Honorable Mention Book Award.** For *Afrikinesis: A Paradigm for Research on African and African Diaspora Dance*, National Dance Education Organization (NDEO).  
**2022 Outstanding Dance Researcher Award.** National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), Washington, DC.  
**2022 Dean's Cabinet Award.** For innovative initiatives as the College's first Associate Dean of Research, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University.  
**2020 Mary Ellen Lane Multi-Country Travel Grant Award.** Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). Awarded for top-ranked multi-country research proposal.  
**2018 Outstanding Student Advisement.** Office of Research Development, Howard University.  
**2017 Outstanding Assistant Professor.** College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University.  
**2012 Special Commendation.** Office of the Mayor, Washington, DC.  
**2012 Special Commendation.** Public History Lecture Series, Washington, DC Archives.  
**2008 Unity Award.** Hampton City Council, for innovatively utilizing African dance to facilitate conversation between diverse groups.  
**2007 Outstanding Contribution to Music in the Commonwealth.** Virginia Music Educators' Association, Norfolk, VA.  
**2006 Excellence in the Arts Award.** Southeast Virginia Arts Association, Norfolk, VA.  
**2005 Master Folk Artist Award.** Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.  
**2000 Main Stay Award.** Department of the Navy, Pentagon, Arlington, VA, for performance above and beyond.

## RESEARCH PARADIGM, PUBLICATIONS & DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

### Founder, Afrikinesis Paradigm

Developed and codified Afrikinesis, a transformative epistemological framework and research methodology for the study of African and African Diaspora dance. This paradigm disrupts colonial research models by centering African cultural logics and recognizing movement as a primary intellectual and historical record.

### Books | Monographs

**2024** *Afrikinesis: A Paradigm for Research on African and African Diaspora Dance*. Monograph. Routledge. Winner, Ruth Lovell Murray Honorable Mention Book Award, NDEO.

**2022** *Fire Under My Feet: History, Race & Agency in African Diaspora Dance*. Monograph. Routledge.

**2020** *Historical Perspectives on Dance in Africa*. Textbook. Intelligentsia Press.

**2019** *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance*. Monograph. Routledge.

### Monographs in Progress

*Unwitting Witnesses, Pivotal Moments, and Embodied Epistemologies of Africana Dance*. Monograph in progress. Awarded an NEH fellowship and a CAORC fellowship to conduct research in Africa for the book.

### Journals | Chapters | Digital Works

**2026** *Voiceless Shouts, Unruly Arts & Embodied Resistance*. Founding Editor-in-Chief, Forthcoming fall 2026.

**2023** “*The Performance of Identity and the Disruption of Colonial Ideological Hegemony*”. Book review. *Performance Research*, Vol. 27, Issue 4.

**2023-2025** [www.africanadancehistory.org](http://www.africanadancehistory.org). Pedagogy website for African and African Diaspora dance history courses.

**2021** *Nankama African Dance Conference Recap*. Short-form documentary. Director, writer, narrator, and video editor. Produced by Araku Studios.

**2021** “*Dancing Protest: (Re)Visiting The Black Arts Movement Through the Lens of Dance*”. Book chapter. Black Freedom Struggles. Kendall Hunt Publishers.

**2018-2020** *Evoke: A Historical, Theoretical, and Cultural Analysis of Africana Dance and Theatre*. Founding Editor-in-Chief. Peer-reviewed digital journal. Digital Howard: Howard University.

**2017** “*Bury Me Towards Africa: Nineteenth-Century African American Cemetery Rituals*”. Chapter in *The Last Thing That Tells Our Story*, a government white paper report on Mt. Pleasant Plains Cemetery, National Park Service.

**2016-2022** *Dance History Pedagogy*. Website supporting African and African Diaspora dance history courses.

**2016** *Grave Revelations: Cultural and Historical Narratives from the Colored Union Benevolent Association Burial Ground*. Documentary. Directed, researched, wrote, and narrated.

**2016** *History Dances: African Dance Systems as Methodology*. Short-form documentary and visual supplement for *History Dances*. Directed, researched, wrote, and narrated.

**2014** “*It Fits Like a Glove: Women and Black Consciousness in South Africa, 1901-1989*”. Article. *Africological Perspectives*, Spring Issue, pp. 77-92.

**2012** *Meet the Rain at the Clouds*. Digital story. Director, researcher, writer. Presented for Women’s History Month, National Park Service.

**2012** *From Strength to Liberation*. Documentary. Director, researcher, writer. Published by Anacostia Library as part of city-wide Sesquicentennial Celebrations.

## PROGRAM INITIATIVES, RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE & COLLABORATIONS

**2026 Forthcoming Transformative Synergies: Arts, Business, STEM, Education & Health in a Changing World**. Founder/convenor, interdisciplinary Graduate School conference at Bowie State University.

**2026 Forthcoming Graduate School Research Incubator**. Founder. Research collaboration model connecting graduate students, scholars, industry professionals, and corporations around tangible deliverables.

**2025-Present Idea to Impact Grant Competition**. Founder. Graduate student research grant program at Bowie State University.

**2025-Present Securing Your Research Future Grant Writing Workshop Series**. Creator and instructor. Grant writing workshop series for graduate students and faculty.

**2025-Present Graduate Research Center**. Director. Graduate School, Bowie State University.

**2025-Present Elevate Graduate School Strategic Plan**. Architect of the Graduate School’s inaugural strategic plan.

**2025-Present Research Reporting and Documentation Infrastructure**. Improved university-wide documentation and reporting infrastructure for research and development activities.

**2023 Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts Honors Program.** Established the framework for the inaugural honors program for the newly established fine arts college, Howard University.

**2022 *Reimagining Research, 2022-2024.*** Established the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts' first strategic plan for research, Howard University.

**2022 Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts Grant Writing Series.** Established the first grant writing workshop series to support grant writing by Fine Arts faculty and staff.

**2022 Submitting Your Grant Proposal for the National Endowment for the Humanities.** Organized workshop for humanities faculty at Howard University; invited presenter Dr. Mary Macklem, Senior Program Officer for Research, NEH.

**2022 Candid Conversations on Arts and Research.** Convened the college's first arts research conference panel consisting entirely of Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts faculty, Howard University Research Month.

**2021 Professional Pipeline Program.** Established formal partnerships between the Department of Theatre Arts and regional/national theatre and dance companies to provide industry experience for students.

**2021 I.D.E.A. (Imagine. Design. Engage. Achieve) 3-Year Strategic Plan, 2021-2024.** Developed the Department of Theatre Arts' first strategic plan, Howard University.

**2020 Nankama African Dance Conference.** Founding Director. International two-day scholarly conference on African and African Diaspora dance and performance research.

**2019 Nankama African Dance Conference.** Founding Director. International two-day scholarly conference on African and African Diaspora dance and performance research.

**2018 Africana Theatre and Dance Collection.** Director. Established a digital archival collection in Howard University's Founders Library; awarded NEH funding for the project.

**2012 Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts Archives.** Created the first archives for the nation's only federal performing arts park, U.S. Department of the Interior.

## INVITED SCHOLAR, SPEAKER & KEYNOTE ENGAGEMENTS

**2026 Keynote Speaker.** 11th Annual National Conference of the African Psychology Student Association (APSA), "Afrikinesis: The Architecture of Spirit and the Healing Power of West African Dance," April 11, 2026.

**2024 Invited Scholar.** "Afrikinesis: Embodied Research and the Africana Worldview," Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD, October 22.

**2024 Invited Scholar.** "African Dance and Culture: the Glue that Binds Africa to Her Diaspora," AfroSoul Symposium, Howard University, Washington, DC, February 25.

**2024 Invited Scholar.** "Afrikinesis: A Research Paradigm for African Dance," University of California-Irvine, Claire Trevor School of the Arts | Dance, January 22.

**2022 Keynote Speaker.** "Leveraging Your Scholarship Currency: Writing Proposals for Fellowships and Grants," Mellon Center for Faculty Excellence/Prairie View A&M University Faculty Conference, August 15.

**2021 Invited Panelist.** Atlantic Council Africa Center *High-Level International Summit on the African Creative and Cultural Industries*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, October 15.

**2021 Invited Panelist.** HBCUx Focus Group, Black Seed Fund, national strategic plan to facilitate HBCU theatre and dance programs, October 9.

**2021 Invited Speaker.** Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Spotlight Series: Arts Education & Leadership, October 25.

**2020 Invited Speaker.** U.S. State Department, "African Dance in the Diaspora," Recife, Brazil. Postponed due to coronavirus.

**2014 Invited Panelist.** "Africa, the Ring Shout, and Hand Dancing: Exposing the Ancient Foundations of DC Hand Dancing," National Hand Dance Association Annual Conference, Arena Stage.

**2013 Invited Lecturer.** "Research and the Arts," Dance History I, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University.

**2012 Invited Speaker.** "Fortitude and the Embodiment of a Movement," DC National Archives Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of Emancipation in Washington, DC.

**2011 Invited Speaker/Choreographer.** "African Dance and the Utility of Tradition," International Arts Festival, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA.

**2011 Invited Speaker/Workshop.** "Historic Vistas of African Dance," Norfolk State University Annual Dance Conference.

**2011 Invited Speaker.** "History, Traditional African Dance, and the 21st Century," Thomas Nelson Community College Annual Black History Month Conference.

**2010 Invited Speaker/Choreographer.** "Moving Forward: African American Dance," Norfolk State University Annual Dance Conference.

**2010 Invited Speaker.** "Manjani: Conceptualizing the Rite of Passage in Mandinka Dance," Office of International and Intercultural Programs, Wesleyan College.

## TEACHING, MENTORING & DOCTORAL COMMITTEES

### External Ph.D. Dissertation Committees

**2024 External Reader, Ph.D. Comprehensive Oral Exam.** Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, Portland, ME.

**2022-2024 Dissertation Director.** “Black Artistic Thought: Contextualizing the Spiritual as An Art Form Through the Voice of Black Women Artists and Thinkers,” Rikiesha Metzger, Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts. Successfully defended April 1.

**2021-2022 Dissertation Director.** “Removed Closeness: A Phenomenological Inquiry into the Black Dancing Body Across Space, Time, and Geographies,” Truly A. Bennett, Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts. Successfully defended December 8.

**2020-2023 Dissertation Committee Member.** “Phenomenology of Stepping and its Potential as a Liberatory Praxis,” Dominic King, Department of Community, Liberation, Indigenous, and Ecopsychology, Pacifica Graduate Institute. Successfully defended January 20.

### Howard University Courses Taught

- **Academic Courses:** African History I; Arts, Libraries, and Archives; Research Methods in Dance, Theatre, and Performance; Dance History I: Africa, Antiquity to the 20th Century; Dance History I: World Dance; Dance History II: Engaging the African Diaspora, 1600 to Present; Theatre History I: World Theatre to the 18th Century; Introduction to Theatre; Performance and Identity; Honors Thesis I-II; Honors Directed Research I-II.
- **Undergraduate Dance Technique Courses:** African Dance I; African Dance II; African Dance III; African Dance Performance Workshop.
- **Courses Created:** Arts, Libraries, and Archives; Research Methods in Dance, Theatre, and Performance; Performance and Identity.
- **Digital Pedagogy:** Pedagogy websites and online course conversions including The History of Africana Dance, Africana Cultural History, Dance History I, and Dance History II.

### Other Teaching Experience | African Dance Technique & Culture

Hampton University; University of California-Irvine; Norfolk State University; Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts; Old Dominion University; Dance Institute of Washington; Christopher Newport University; Thomas Nelson Community College; Pacifica Graduate Institute; Governor’s School for the Arts.

### Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisement

**2018-2019 Thesis Director.** Jaylen Wilson, “Theatre is a Weapon: The Efficacy of Theatrical Presentation as a Device for Combating Systemic Racism.” Selected for Howard University Research Week.

**2017-2018 Thesis Director.** Adanna Paul, “Bound to Post-Black: Examining and Redefining Tenets of the Post-Black Arts Movement.” Won award for best presentation in Arts and Design, Howard University Research Week.

**2017-2018 Thesis Director.** Mary Morris, “Breaking the Cycle: An Investigation of Drama Therapy as an Intervention on the School to Prison Pipeline and At-Risk Youth.” Selected for Howard University Research Week.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, CONSULTANCY & PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

**2022-Present Consultant/Researcher.** Cultural organizations, nonprofits, agencies, and government.

**2022 Keynote Speaker.** Celebrating Life in Harmony, Kwanzaa Program, Dance Institute of Washington, Cramton Auditorium.

**2022 Consultant.** Spirit of Kwanzaa, Dance Institute of Washington.

**2022 Humanities Specialist.** “Reflections on Justice,” Dance Institute of Washington DC Arts and Humanities grant project.

**2019 Consultant.** BREathe Dance Project, Fort Washington, MD.

**2019 Host.** Talkback for DC screening of Black Enough, Landmark’s E Street Cinema.

**2018 Dance Dramaturge.** Trials to Freedom, Seals Dance Project, Washington, DC.

**2017-2022 Consultant.** Wazee African Dance and Culture, Hampton, VA.

**2016-2017 Humanities Specialist.** National Hand Dance Association, Washington, DC.

**2016 Planning Committee Member/Reception Director/Choreographer.** African American Women and the Law Conference, National Education Association.

**2014-2016 Cultural Historian/Researcher.** National Park Service, Washington, DC.

**2014 Research Associate Curator.** Polyrythm: The Evolution of African American Dance and its African Roots, National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center.

**2013-2014 Co-Investigator.** Ethnographic and Historical Project, National Park Service.

**2004 Organizer.** Suwabi in Gambia, three-week African dance, history, and culture conference/study trip to The Gambia.

**1996-2011 Artistic Director/Founder.** Suwabi African Ballet. Directed and managed a company of 50 dancers and drummers; operated the dance school; conducted research; choreographed African dance ballets; wrote grants; curated seasons; created and managed budgets.

**2005-2011 Director.** CampRize! Dance Camp, Norfolk, VA.

**2004-2009 Director.** Stage Norfolk Theatre Company, Norfolk, VA.

**2000-2009 Artist in Residence.** Governor's School for the Arts, Norfolk, VA.

**2000-2003 Artist-in-Residence.** Old Dominion University, African dance choreographer, Norfolk, VA.

**2000-2002 Artist-in-Residence.** Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA.

## FEATURED SCHOLAR & MEDIA

**2024 Grovin' Griot: The Role of Dance in African Diasporic Storytelling.** Featured scholar. Podcast produced by the Digital Futures Institute at Teachers College, Columbia University.

**2022 Southern Theatre.** Featured in "Opening Doors: Professional Theatres Partner with HBCUs to Help Develop Black Leaders," Vol. LXII, no. 1.

**2019 ABC Good Morning Washington.** Interviewed February 7.

**2019 Howard University Hot 15 Books for Black History Month.** History Dances featured.

**2018 Afro-American Newspaper.** Featured author, "Howard Fine Arts Professor Shows How African Dance Chronicled History."

**2018 Perspectives on History.** Spotlight Scholar, American Historical Association.

**2018 Dance Spirit.** Interviewed and provided historical content for "Step By Step," article on African American step dancing.

## CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS & SUMMITS

**2024 15th Annual International Conference on Stigma.** "Shattering Stigma, Elevating Honor: Empowering Women through African Dance," workshop on dance applications for stress release, Washington, DC.

**2022 Roundtable with Hon. Raila A. Odinga.** African Union High Representative and former Prime Minister of Kenya; exclusive invitation from Ambassador Rama Yade, Atlantic Council Africa Center.

**2022 Africa Fast Forward: Building a Pathway to an Emerging Continent.** Visionary Leaders' Summit, GE7 Initiative, and George Washington University Institute for African Studies.

**2022 Investing in Africa's Creative Industries.** Summit; exclusive invitation from Ambassador Rama Yade, Atlantic Council Africa Center.

**2019 Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora.** "Les Ballets Africains and the Restoration of Black Identity in Africa and the Diaspora," Williamsburg, VA.

**2018 Association for Science Teacher Education International Conference.** "Dance, Performance, African Rock Art, and the History of the Earth," Baltimore, MD.

**2018 Association for the Study of African American Life and History.** "Dancing Off Blackface: Vaudeville and the Construction of Black Identity in the World War I Era," Indianapolis, IN.

**2017 Wazee African Dance and Culture.** "Jondon/Wolosodon," featured artist, master class, lecture and workshop.

**2016 August Wilson Society.** "Nangadef: August Wilson, Dance and Ritual," discussion, Howard University.

**2014 Organization of American Historians.** "When They Stood Up: 19th-Century African American Cemetery Ritual," Atlanta, GA.

**2013 District of Columbia City Council Emancipation Conference.** "Revelations of Africanisms: The History of Washington DC's Emancipation."

**2010 Cross Cultural Solutions, Morocco.** "A Separate Space: Historical Highlights of Gnawa Dance, Arts and Culture in Contemporary Morocco."

**2009 Hampton University.** "The State of Black Dance in America," invited speaker and workshop.

**2008 National Folk Festival/National Council for the Traditional Arts.** "Diversifying Dance Venues," invited speaker and performance.

**2007 America's 400th Anniversary, Jamestown Settlement.** "Africa, America, the Arts and Inclusion," invited speaker, performance, and choreography.

**2006 Hampton University Department of Education.** "Incorporating the Arts in the Homeschool Curriculum," invited lecturer.

**2005 Virginia Music Educators Association Annual Meeting.** "Kasa: Celebration through Traditional Jola Drumming," invited speaker and workshop.

## JUDGE, ADJUDICATOR, REVIEWER & ACCREDITATION SERVICE

- 2024-2025 National Endowment for the Arts.** Research Evaluator, HBCU Research Study Technical Working Group Specialist.
- 2024 Washington, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.** Grant Reviewer, FY25 Capital Projects.
- 2024 Wesleyan University.** External reviewer, promotion to Associate Professor with tenure application.
- 2023 National Dance Education Organization.** Judge, Ruth Lovell Murray Book Awards.
- 2022 National Endowment for the Humanities.** Grant Reviewer, Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education.
- 2022 National Association of Schools of Theatre.** Accreditation Site Evaluator.
- 2022 Dance Research Journal.** Reviewer.
- 2021 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.** Adjudicator and Grant Reviewer, FY21 Arts and Humanities Fellowship in Dance.
- 2021 University of North Carolina-Charlotte.** External reviewer, tenure and promotion application.
- 2021 Wayne State University.** Reviewer, Arts and Humanities Research Support Program.
- 2020 Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa.** Reviewer.
- 2020 National Endowment for the Arts.** Grant Reader, Grants for Arts Projects.
- 2020 NAACP ACT-SO.** Judge, National Competitions.
- 2019 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.** Adjudicator, Kennedy Center Dance Lab.
- 2019 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.** Adjudicator and Grant Reviewer, FY20 Arts and Humanities Fellowship in Dance.
- 2019 Arts.** Reviewer, peer-reviewed international journal.
- 2019 The Griot: The Journal of African American Studies.** Reviewer.
- 2016-2019 National Park Service.** Judge, Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest.
- 2009-2011 The Attucks Theatre.** Judge, CampRize Dance Auditions.
- 2006-2008 NAACP ACT-SO.** Judge, Regional Competitions, Newport News, VA.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUED EDUCATION

- 2024 Training.** Mapping Your Budget to Your Strategic Plan, Office of Strategic Development, Washington, DC.
- 2022-2024 Training.** Cybersecurity Awareness Training, Office of Enterprise Technology Services, Howard University.
- 2023 Workshop.** Navigation Excellence: Exploring the Federal Peer Review Ecosystem & Peer Review Fair, White House Initiative on HBCUs.
- 2023 Workshop.** Pre-Meeting Workshop for Seasoned Theatre Administrators in Higher Education, NAST Annual Meeting.
- 2022 Workshop.** Workshop for New and Aspiring Theatre Administrators in Higher Education, NAST Annual Meeting.
- 2021 Training.** Training Workshop for Visiting Evaluators, National Association of Schools of Theatre.
- 2020-2021 Training.** Chairs Leadership Academy, Office of Faculty Development, Howard University.
- 2020 Training.** Specific Procedures for NAST Evaluation, NAST.
- 2020 Certification.** Blackboard Certified, CETLA, Howard University.
- 2019 Certification.** HU-Teach/Quality Matters Online Course Design Standards, Howard University.
- 2017 Certification.** Writing Across the Curriculum, CETLA, Howard University.
- 2017 Certificate.** Faculty Writing & Creative Works Summer Academy, Howard University.
- 2015 Certificate.** Preparing Future Faculty, Howard University.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE | HOWARD UNIVERSITY

- 2024 Member.** Howard University Honorary Degree Committee.
- 2022-2023 Member.** New Building Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.
- 2023 Member.** Bylaws Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.
- 2022-2023 Chair.** Bylaws Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. Created and directed the initial process for writing the bylaws for the newly established college.
- 2022 Judge.** Howard University Annual Research Month presentations.
- 2021-2024 Member.** Executive Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.
- 2021-2024 Member.** Alumni, Honorary Degree, and Distinguished Faculty Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts.
- 2020-Present Member.** Interdisciplinary Faculty Consortium, Howard University Office of Research.
- 2020-2021 Fine Arts Representative.** Howard University Faculty Senate.

**2020 Acting Chair.** Transition Team, College of Fine Arts.  
**2019-2020 Member.** Transitional Team Executive Committee, College of Fine Arts.  
**2019 Member.** Transition Team, College of Fine Arts.  
**2019 Member.** Transitional Team Bylaws Committee, College of Fine Arts.  
**2019-2020 Member.** Executive Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.  
**2019 Judge.** Poster and paper presentations, Howard University Annual Research Week.  
**2019 Reviewer.** Abstract submissions, Howard University Annual Research Week.  
**2018-2019 Member.** College of Fine Arts Working Group, committee for reinstating the College of Fine Arts.  
**2018 Member.** Department of Theatre Arts Sabbatical Committee.  
**2018 Member.** Search Committee, Department of Theatre Arts Lighting Designer.  
**2018 Judge.** Poster and paper presentations, Howard University Annual Research Week.  
**2017-2018 Chair.** Department Chair Search Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.  
**2017-2021 Member.** Academic Policy, Standards, and General Education Committee, College of Arts and Sciences.  
**2017-2020 Chair.** Curriculum Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.  
**2017-2019 Member.** Honors Council, College of Arts and Sciences.  
**2016-2019 Member.** Executive Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.  
**2015-2019 Chair.** Library Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.  
**2014-2017 Member.** Curriculum Committee, Department of Theatre Arts.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools; Council of Graduate Schools (CGS); African Studies Association (ASA); Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora; American College Dance Association (ACDA); National Dance Education Organization (NDEO); American Folklore Society (AFS).

## FIELDWORK, ARCHIVAL RESEARCH & LANGUAGES

Fieldwork and archival research: Republic of Senegal; Republic of The Gambia; Morocco; Nassau, Bahamas; Freeport, Bahamas; United States.

Languages: French (reading); Wolof (basic); Spanish (basic); Arabic (basic).

## ARTISTIC WORKS, CREATIVE PRODUCTION & CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

### Selected Artistic Works | Creative Production

**2020 RITES.** Choreography, African dance ballet. Invited to present in Recife, Brazil with five students through U.S. State Department-Smithsonian Museum joint project; postponed due to coronavirus.  
**2016 Lamban.** Ceremonial reception director and choreographer for African dance reception and procession, African American Women and the Law Conference, National Education Association.  
**2010 Umoja.** Suwabi African Ballet's 14th Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer. Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.  
**2010 Cultural Continuities II.** Founder/Director, African Dance & Culture in the Diaspora Conference, Attucks Theatre.  
**2009 Cultural Continuities.** Founder/Director, African Dance & Culture in the Diaspora Conference, Attucks Theatre.  
**2009 Once on This Island.** Choreographer, Hampton Roads Academy, Newport News, VA.  
**2009 Faju.** Choreography, A Choreographer's Showcase, Old Dominion University.  
**2008 Imani.** Suwabi African Ballet's 12th Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer.  
**2007 Nia.** Suwabi African Ballet's 11th Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer.  
**2006 Bena.** Choreographer, Governor's School for the Arts.  
**2006 Kuumba.** Suwabi African Ballet's 10th Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer.  
**2004-2009 First Night at Colonial Williamsburg.** Suwabi African Ballet commissioned annually to perform, College of William and Mary.

### Original Full-Length African Ballets | Selected

Choreographer, writer, director, drumming arranger, costume designer/maker: Wasalunke and the Three Virtues (2008); Imhotep (2006); Waters of Despair, Waters of Hope (2004); The Voices of Shu (2002); The Dismal Swamp (2000); Africa: A Song of Me (1998).

## **Musicals | Selected Choreography**

Rainbow Park (2007); Outliers II (2006); Outliers (2005); Once on This Island (2004); The Wiz (2000).

## **Commissioned Site-Specific Works | Selected**

America's 400th Anniversary, Jamestown, VA (commissioned by the U.S. government); Chrysler Museum; Norfolk Botanical Garden; Mariner's Museum; SS Rotterdam/Holland America cruise ship; Spirit of Norfolk; Norfolk Zoological Museum; Peninsula Fine Arts Center; Hampton University Museum.

## **Festival Performances & Overseas Presentations | Selected**

Gnawa Arts, Rabat, Morocco; Corichow Dance Company, Kololi, The Gambia; Newport News Folk Arts Festival; African American Arts Festival, Norfolk; National Arts Festival, Richmond; Umoja Festival, Portsmouth; African American Festival of the Arts, Charles City. Overseas performances/presentations include The Gambia, Senegal, Morocco, Bermuda, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and St. Thomas.

## **Featured Artist | Selected**

**2007 In Good Keeping: Virginia's Folklife Apprenticeships.** Featured as a Master Artist, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

**2007 VFH Radio Productions Program.** Featured as Founding Artistic Director of Suwabi African Ballet.

**2007 NBC WAVY 10.** Performance feature at the NTELOS Pavilion with Suwabi African Ballet.

**2006 WOWI Radio.** Interviewed on The Morning Show.

**2005 PBS.** Interview with Master Folk Artist Ofosuwa Abiola, aired nationally.

**2002 CBS.** A Day with Suwabi African Ballet, featured with company.

**1999 CBS.** Live at Nine, performance.

## **Kwanzaa Dance Concerts**

1997-2011: Choreographed, directed, and produced 14 annual Kwanzaa concerts opening on Kujichagulia (Self-determination) from 1997-2005 and Umoja (Unity) from 2006-2011.