



## Ofosuwa M. Abiola

Office: Graduate School,  
4th & College St. NW, Rm. 104  
Washington, DC, 20059  
ofosuwa.abiola@howard.edu  
<https://www.oabiola.org/>  
Office: (202) 806-6218

### CV

#### EDUCATION

- 2016      Ph.D., African History  
(with distinction, *Phi Alpha Theta*)  
Major Concentration: African Dance History  
Minor Concentrations: African Diaspora Dance History; Public History  
Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2010      B.I.S. (Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies)  
(*summa cum laude*)  
Specialization: Cultural Studies  
Minors: History; Dance  
Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA

#### ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-Present    Inaugural Associate Dean of Research and Creative Endeavors, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2020-2022      Interim Chair, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2018-2020      Coordinator, Dance Program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017-2020      Coordinator, Honors Program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017-2020      Coordinator, Theatre Arts Minor program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.

#### 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.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### *BOOKS / MONOGRAPHS / PROJECTS*

- 2023 *Afrikinesis: A Paradigm for Research on African and African Diaspora Dance*. Monograph. (Routledge).
- 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).
- 2018 *The Africana Theatre and Dance Collection*. Director. Established a digital archival collection in Howard University's Founders Library. Awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant for the project. Washington, DC.
- 2012 *Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts*. Created the first archives for the nation's only federal performing arts park. United States Department of the Interior, Vienna, VA.

### *ARTICLES / JOURNALS / CHAPTERS / WEBSITES / DIGITAL WORKS*

- 2023 "The Performance of Identity and the Disruption of Colonial Ideological Hegemony." Book review. *Performance Research* Vol. 27 Issue 4 (April 10, 2023).
- 2023 [www.africanadancehistory.org](http://www.africanadancehistory.org). Website. Published the pedagogy website to facilitate students in African and African Diaspora dance history courses.
- 2021 *Nankama African Dance Conference Recap*. Documentary (short form). Director, wrote the script, 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 Publishers).

- 2018 *Evoke: A Historical, Theoretical, and Cultural Analysis of Africana Dance and Theatre*. Peer-reviewed digital journal. Founding Editor-in-Chief. Digital Howard: Howard University.
- 2017 “Bury Me Towards Africa: Nineteenth-Century African American Cemetery Rituals.” Chapter in the government white paper report, *The Last Thing That Tells Our Story: A Cultural History of the Mt Pleasant Plains Cemetery, An Historic African American Burial Ground in Washington, DC*. National Park Service (NPS), Washington, DC.
- 2016-2022 Dance History Pedagogy. Website. Published the website to provide support for students in African and African Diaspora dance history courses.
- 2016 *Grave Revelations: Cultural and Historical Narratives from the Colored Union Benevolent Association Burial Ground*. Documentary discussing the performance of Africanisms in 19<sup>th</sup> century African American funerary rituals. Directed, researched, wrote the script, and narrated the documentary. Produced, by Aryzen Pictures.
- 2016 *History Dances: African Dance Systems as Methodology*. Documentary (short form). Directed, researched, wrote the script, and narrated the documentary. Produced by, Aryzen Pictures. Visual supplement for my monograph *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance*.
- 2014 "It Fits Like a Glove: Women and Black Consciousness in South Africa, 1901-1989." Article. *Africological Perspectives: Historical and Contemporary Analysis of Race and Africana Studies*, Spring Issue, 2014, pp. 77-92.
- 2012 *Meet the Rain at the Clouds*. Digital Story. Director, researcher, writer. Presented at “Women’s History Month,” National Park Service (NPS), Washington, DC.
- 2012 *From Strength to Liberation*. Documentary. Director, researcher, writer. Presented as part of the city-wide Sesquicentennial Celebrations. Published by Anacostia Library, Washington, DC.

#### *BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS*

*Unwitting Witnesses, Pre-Colonial Accounts, and the Invisible Field of African Dance History*. Monograph. \*Awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowship and a Council of American Overseas Research Center (CAORC) fellowship to travel to Africa to conduct research for the book.

*At the Cutting Edge*. Peer-reviewed international digital journal. Founding Editor-in-Chief. Digital Howard: Howard University.

*For Every Thought There's A Dance: Histories, Techniques, and Frameworks on African and African Diaspora Dance.* Monograph.

*Voiceless Shouts: Danced Conversations on Women, Identity, and Activism in Africa and her Diaspora.* Monograph.

## **AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2022            AWARD, *Outstanding National Dance Researcher Award*, National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), Washington, DC.
- 2022            AWARD, *Deans Cabinet Award*, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2021            FELLOWSHIP, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), \$15,000.00, Washington, DC.
- 2020            FELLOWSHIP, Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), \$11,000.00, Washington, DC.
- 2020            AWARD, *Mary Ellen Lane Multi-Country Travel Grant Award*, \$1,000.00, Washington, DC. \*Awarded for top-ranked research proposal.
- 2019            GRANT, U.S. Department of Education/Center for African Studies, Howard University, \$3,000.00, Washington, DC.
- 2018            GRANT, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Humanities Initiatives, \$99,948.00, Washington, DC.
- 2018            AWARD, *Outstanding Assistant Professor* in the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University, 2017-2018. Washington, DC.
- 2018            AWARD, *Outstanding Student Advisement*, Office on Research Development, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017            GRANT, Summer Faculty Research Grant, \$10,000.00, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2012            AWARD, *Special Commendation*, Office of the Mayor, Washington, DC.
- 2012            AWARD, *Special Commendation*, Public History Lecture Series, District of Columbia Archives, Washington, DC.
- 2011-2016      FELLOWSHIP, Frederick Douglas Doctoral Fellowship, \$96,000.00, Howard University, Washington, DC.

2011 FULBRIGHT, The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship, Morocco, North Africa.

2011 SCHOLARSHIP, US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, Arabic.

2010-2011 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$20,800.00.

2010 FELLOWSHIP, George H. Bennett Fellowship, Petersburg, VA, \$1,000.00.

2009-2010 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$20,800.00.

2008-2009 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$18,000.00.

2008 AWARD, *Unity Award*, for innovatively utilizing African dance to facilitate conversation between diverse groups. Hampton City Council, Hampton, VA.

2007 GRANT, Newport News Arts Council Grant, Newport News, VA, \$2,500.00.

2006-2008 GRANT, Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Norfolk, VA, rehearsal space grant, \$41,600.00.

2006 AWARD, *Excellence in the Arts Award*, Southeast Virginia Arts Association, Norfolk, VA.

2005-2006 GRANT. Grant to teach an apprentice the art of traditional African dance and culture. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH), Charlottesville, VA. \$3,000.00.

2005 AWARD, *Master Folk Artist Award*, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

2005 AWARD, *Outstanding Contribution to Music in the Commonwealth*, The Virginia Music Educators' Association, Norfolk, VA.

2004 GRANT, Friends of the Arts, Inc., Richmond, VA, \$2,700.00.

2003 GRANT, Hampton Arts Council, Hampton, VA, \$4,700.00.

2000 AWARD, *Main Stay Award*, for a performance above and beyond. Department of the Navy, Pentagon, Arlington, VA. (Newport News, VA branch).

1998 GRANT, The Links, Newport News, VA, \$500.00.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOUNDED/INITIATIVES

- 2023 *Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts Honors Program.* The inaugural honors program for the newly established fine arts college (work in progress).
- 2022 *Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts Grant Writing Series.* Created the first grant writing workshop series to inspire and support grant writing efforts of Fine Arts faculty and staff. (5 workshops, September-November).
- 2022 “Submitting Your Grant Proposal for the National Endowment for the Humanities,” seminar. Organized a seminar for all humanities faculty at Howard University to support grant proposal submissions. Invited presenter, Dr. Mary Macklem, Senior Program Officer for Research, NEH. October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 2022 *Candid Conversations on Arts and Research.* Conference Panel. Organized the college’s first arts research conference panel consisting entirely of Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts faculty, Howard University Research Month, April 26.
- 2022 *Reimagining Research 2022-2024, Strategic Plan for Research.* Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. Spearheaded the college’s first strategic plan for research.
- 2021 *R.I.S.E. (Revitalize. Innovate. Sustain. Emerge) Proposal for Strategic Investment in the Department of Theatre Arts.* Successfully submitted a \$2.2-million-dollar proposal to Howard University to increase investment in the Department of Theatre Arts. The proposal was fully funded.
- 2021 *Professional Pipeline Program.* Created the program to foster official partnerships between the Department of Theatre Arts and theatre/dance companies of regional and national renown to provide industry experience for students. Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 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, Washington, DC.
- 2020 *Nankama African Dance Conference, Director.* International Two-day Scholarly Conference on African and African Diaspora dance and performance research. Panelists and scholars from Africa, the US, Europe, and the Caribbean attended. Ralph J. Bunch International Affairs Center, Washington DC, February 8-9.
- 2019 *Nankama African Dance Conference, Founding Director.* International Two-day Scholarly Conference on African and African Diaspora dance and performance research. Panelists and scholars from Africa, the US, Europe, and the Caribbean

attended. Ralph J. Bunch International Affairs Center, Washington DC, February 9-10.

## **ARTISTIC WORKS**

(Abridged list)

- 2020 *RITES*, Choreography (African dance ballet). Invited to present my choreographic work *RITES* in Recife, Brazil, with 5 of my students. U.S. State Department – Smithsonian Museum joint project. March 23-29, 2020. (Postponed due to Coronavirus)
- 2016 “Lamban.” Ceremonial reception director, and choreographer for the reception African dance and the processional. *African American Women and the Law (AAWL) Conference*. Theme: “Black Women Still Rising: Ending Structural Racism, Patriarchy and Violence.” National Education Association (NEA), Washington, DC.
- 2010 “Umoja” *Suwabi African Ballet’s 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert*. Director, producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2010 Cultural Continuities II: African Dance & Culture in the Diaspora Conference, Founder/Director. Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2009 Cultural Continuities: African Dance & Culture in the Diaspora Conference, Founder/Director. Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2009 *Once on This Island* (Musical), choreographer. Hampton Roads Academy Newport News, VA.
- 2009 “Faju,” choreography. *A Choreographer’s Showcase*. Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA.
- 2008 *Imani*. Suwabi African Ballet’s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2007 *Nia*. Suwabi African Ballet’s 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director, producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.
- 2006 *Bena*. Choreographer. The Governor’s School for the Arts, Norfolk, VA.
- 2006 Choreographer/Director. *Suwabi African Ballet*. Elizabeth State University, NC.
- 2006 *Kuumba*. Suwabi African Ballet’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Kwanzaa Concert. Director producer, choreographer. The Attucks Theatre, Norfolk, VA.

2004-2009 *First Night at Colonial Williamsburg*, Suwabi African Ballet was commissioned annually to perform. College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2022-Present Historian/Humanities Specialist/Researcher: Non-profit organizations, cultural agencies, etc.; Faculty Development: academic grant writing, dissertation development, humanities research methodologies, monograph/book proposals.

2014-2016 Cultural Historian/Researcher. National Park Service (NPS). Washington, DC.

2014 Project Curator and Research Associate for the exhibit, "Polyrhythm: The Evolution of African American Dance and its African Roots." Museum exhibit. The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, Ohio.

2013-2014 Co-Investigator. Ethnographic and Historical Project, National Park Service (NPS), Washington, DC.

1996-2011 Artistic Director/Founder. Suwabi African Ballet. \*Directed/managed a company of 50 dancers and drummers, operated the dance school, conducted research and choreographed African dance ballets based on findings, wrote grants, curated seasons, created and managed budget, etc. Norfolk and Newport News, VA.

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.

## **INVITED SPEAKER/LECTURER/SPECIALIST**

2024 Invited Scholar. "Afrikinesis: A Research Paradigm for African Dance." University of California-Irvine's, Claire Trevor School of the Arts | Dance. January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

2023 Invited scholar. *Grovin' Griot: The Role of Dance in African Diasporic Storytelling*. Podcast. Media & Social Change Lab, Columbia University. December 7<sup>th</sup>.

2022 Keynote speaker. Mellon Center for Faculty Excellence/Prairie View A&M University, Faculty Conference. "Leveraging Your Scholarship Currency: Writing



Proposals for Fellowships and Grants.” Prairie View A & M University, Prairie View, Texas, August 15.

- 2021 Invited panelist. The Atlantic Council, Africa Center, *High-Level International Summit on the African Creative and Cultural Industries*. Hosted by Ambassador Rama Yade. Panelists included, Nana Addo-Akufo (President of Ghana), and other high-level officials. Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC, October 15.
- 2021 Invited panelist. *HBCUx Focus Group, Black Seed Fund* (a \$10 million national strategic plan to facilitate HBCU theatre and dance Programs). Occurred digitally in diverse cities including Washington, DC, California, New York, Florida, among others. October 9.
- 2021 Invited speaker. Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. *Spotlight Series: Arts Education & Leadership*. The Spotlight Series is in collaboration with Howard University’s Theatre Arts Department. Washington, DC, October 25.
- 2020 Invited speaker. U.S. State Department, “African Dance in the Diaspora.” Recife, Brazil, March 23-29, 2020. (Postponed due to Coronavirus).
- 2014 Invited panelist. “Africa, the Ring Shout, and Hand Dancing: Exposing the Ancient Foundations of DC Hand Dancing,” in the panel, “Hand Dance Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” the Annual Conference of the National Hand Dance Association, Arena Stage, Washington, DC.
- 2012 Invited speaker. “Fortitude and the Embodiment of a Movement,” DC National Archives’ Commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Emancipation in Washington, DC.
- 2013 “Research and the Arts,” invited lecturer for the course, Dance History I, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2011 Invited speaker (and performance and choreographer). “African Dance and the Utility of Tradition,” The International Arts Festival, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA.
- 2011 Invited speaker (and workshop). “Historic Vistas of African Dance,” Norfolk State University Annual Dance Conference, Norfolk, VA.
- 2011 Invited speaker (and performance and choreographer). “History, Traditional African Dance, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Thomas Nelson Community College Annual Black History Month Conference, Hampton, VA.
- 2010 Invited speaker (and choreographer). “Moving Forward: African American Dance,” Norfolk State University Annual Dance Conference, Norfolk, VA.

2010 Invited speaker. “Manjani: Conceptualizing the Rite of Passage in Mandinka Dance,” The Office of International and Intercultural Programs, Wesleyan College, Norfolk, VA.

## FEATURED SCHOLAR

2022 Featured in, *Southern Theatre*, “Opening Doors: Professional Theatres Partner with HBCUs to Help Develop Black Leaders.” Vol. LXII no. 1 (Winter 2022), p. 32-34.

2019 Interviewed on ABC’s *Good Morning Washington* (February 7, 2019).

2019 *History Dances: Chronicling the History of Traditional Mandinka Dance*, featured on Howard University’s “Hot 15” Books for Black History Month.

2018 *Afro-American Newspaper*, “Howard Fine Arts Professor Shows How African Dance Chronicled History.” (December 15, 2018).

2018 *Perspectives on History*, Spotlight Scholar. American Historical Association (AHA). (December 6, 2018).

2018 *Dance Spirit*, “Step By Step,” article. Interviewed and provided historical content for article on African American Step Dancing (April 2018 issue), p. 44-45.

## CONFERENCES

2024 15<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Stigma. “Traditional African Dance Praxis: Discrediting Stigma, Elevating Honor.” African dance workshop. Washington DC. November 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.

2022 Roundtable Discussion with Hon. Railia A. Odinga, African Union High Representative and former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya. Exclusive invitation from Ambassador Rama Yade, Director of the Africa Center, Atlantic Council, Washington DC. April 25.

2022 Summit, *Africa Fast Forward: Building A Pathway to an Emerging Continent*. The Visionary Leaders’ Summit, GE7 Initiative, and The George Washington University Institute for African Studies. Exclusive invitation. December 11<sup>th</sup>. Washington DC.

2022 Summit, *Investing in Africa’s Creative Industries*. Exclusive invitation from Ambassador Rama Yade, Director of the Africa Center, Atlantic Council, Washington DC. December 15<sup>th</sup>.

2019 “Les Ballets Africains and the Restoration of Black Identity in Africa and the Diaspora,” presentation. Paper accepted in Association for the Study of the

Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) conference. November 5-9, Williamsburg, VA.

- 2018 “Dance, Performance, African Rock Art, and the History of the Earth,” paper accepted in the panel “Making People of African Origins Visible in the STEM Curriculum.” Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) International Conference. January 4-6, 2018, Baltimore, MD.
- 2018 “Dancing Off Blackface: Vaudeville and the Construction of Black Identity in the World War I Era.” Paper accepted in Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALAH) annual meeting and conference. October 3-7. Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 2017 “Jondon/Wolosodon,” featured artist, Master Class. Lecture and workshop, Wazee African Dance and Culture, The Hampton Performing and Creative Arts Center, Hampton, VA.
- 2016 “Nangadef: August Wilson, Dance and Ritual,” discussion. The August Wilson Society, Armour J. Blackburn Center, Washington, DC.
- 2014 “When They Stood Up: 19<sup>th</sup>-Century African American Cemetery Ritual,” paper. Organization of American Historians (OAH), Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2013 “Revelations of Africanisms: The History of Washington DC's Emancipation,” paper. District of Columbia City Council Emancipation Conference, Washington, DC.
- 2010 “A Separate Space: Historical Highlights of Gnawa Dance, Arts and Culture in Contemporary Morocco,” paper. Cross Cultural Solutions, Morocco, North Africa.
- 2009 “The State of Black Dance in America,” invited speaker and workshop. Office of Student Affairs Black History Program, Hampton University, Hampton, VA.
- 2008 “Diversifying Dance Venues,” invited speaker (and performance). National Folk Festival, National Council for the Traditional Arts, Richmond, VA.
- 2007 “Africa, America, the Arts and Inclusion,” invited speaker (and performance and choreography). America’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Jamestown Settlement, Jamestown, VA.
- 2006 “Incorporating The Arts in the Homeschool Curriculum,” invited lecturer. Department of Education, Hampton University, Hampton, VA.

2005 “Kasa: Celebration through Traditional Jola Drumming,” invited speaker (and workshop). The Virginia Music Educator’s Association Annual Meeting, Norfolk, VA.

### **JUDGE / ADJUDICATOR / REVIEWER**

2024-2025 **Research Evaluator**, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), HBCU Research Study Technical Working Group Specialist. Washington, DC.

2024 **External Reviewer**, Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure application, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.

2023 **Judge**, Ruth Lovell Murray Book Awards, *National Dance Education Organization* (NDEO).

2022 **Grant Reviewer**, *Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education*. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Washington, DC.

2022 **Accreditation Site Evaluator**, *National Association of Schools of Theatre* (NAST), Reston, VA.

2022 **Reviewer**, *Dance Research Journal*. Peer-reviewed journal of the national organization, *Dance Studies Association* (DSA).

2021 **Adjudicator and Grant Reviewer**, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, *FY21 Arts and Humanities Fellowship in Dance*, Washington, DC.

2021 **Reviewer**, Tenure and Promotion Application, University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

2021 **Reviewer**, *Arts and Humanities Research Support Program*, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

2020 **Reviewer**, *Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa*. Peer-reviewed journal of the South African College of Music, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

2020 **Grant Reader**, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), *Grants for Arts Projects*, Washington, DC.

2020 **Judge**, NAACP *ACT-SO* (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) National Competitions.

2019 **Adjudicator**, John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, *Kennedy Center Dance Lab*, Washington, DC.

- 2019 **Adjudicator and Grant Reviewer**, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, *FY20 Arts and Humanities Fellowship in Dance*, Washington, DC.
- 2019 **Reviewer**, *Arts*. Peer reviewed international journal, Basel, Switzerland.
- 2019 **Reviewer**, *The Griot: The Journal of African American Studies*. Peer-reviewed academic journal.
- 2016-2019 **Judge**, National Park Service (NPS), *Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest*, Washington, DC.
- 2009-2011 **Judge**, *Attucks Theater*, *CampRize*, Dance Auditions, Norfolk, VA.
- 2006-2008 **Judge**, NAACP *ACT-SO* (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) Regional Competitions, Newport News, VA.

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION & COMMUNITY**

- 2022 Keynote Speaker, *Celebrating Life in Harmony*, Kwanzaa Program. Cramton Auditorium, Washington DC, Dance Institute of Washington.
- 2022 Consultant, Spirit of Kwanzaa. Program planning, Dance Institute of Washington (DIW), Washington DC.
- 2022 Humanities Specialist, “Reflections on Justice” *Dance Institute of Washington* (DIW), DC Arts and Humanities grant project. Washington DC.
- 2019 Consultant, *BREathe Dance Project*, Fort Washington, Maryland.
- 2018 Dance Dramaturge, “Trials to Freedom,” *Seals Dance Project*, Washington, DC.
- 2019 Host, talkback for the D.C. screening of the web series, *Black Enough*, Landmark’s E Street Cinema, Washington, DC, November 13.
- 2017-2022 Consultant, *Wazee African Dance and Culture*, Hampton, VA.
- 2016-2017 Humanities Specialist, *National Hand Dance Association* (NHDA) Washington, DC.
- 2016 Panel Evaluator, Panel discussion, National Hand Dance Association (NHDA). 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth and Young Adult Symposium, R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center, Washington, DC.
- 2016 Member, Planning Committee. Director and choreographer for the opening reception. *African American Policy Forum: Center for Intersectionality and*

*Social Policy Studies*. African American Women and the Law Conference, National Education Association (NEA) Washington, DC.

- 2014 Assistant Administrator, American Historical Association (AHA), Annual meeting, Washington, DC.
- 2007 Travel Coordinator, ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics) Gold medal finalists' travel to final competition in Detroit, MI.
- 2004 Suwabi In Gambia, organized an African dance conference for US dance artists to travel to The Gambia, West Africa, to study traditional African dance, history, and culture for three weeks, March-April, 2004.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE: HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

(WAC, Writing Across the Curriculum course)

(WRTG, Writing Intensive course)

#### ***Academic Courses***

Dance History I (WRTG): Africa, Antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Dance History I (WRTG): World Dance

Dance History II: (WRTG) Engaging the African Diaspora, 1600 to Present

Theatre History I (WRTG): World Theatre to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

Introduction to Theatre

Performance and Identity

Honors Thesis I, II

Honors Directed Research I, II

Arts, Libraries, and Archives

Research Methods in Dance, Theatre, and Performance

African History I

#### ***Dance Technique Courses***

African Dance I

African Dance II (intermediate)

African Dance III (advanced)

African Dance Performance Workshop

#### ***Digital Pedagogy***

2021-Present Pedagogy Website: *The History of Africana Dance*. Published website to enhance student engagement in the undergraduate courses: Dance History I; Dance History II; and Performance and Identity.

2020-Present 100% Online Course: Dance History I: Africa, Antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

2020-Present 100% Online Course: Dance History II: African Diaspora

2017-2020 Pedagogy Website: *Africana Cultural History*. Published website to enhance student engagement in the undergraduate courses: Theatre History; Dance History; Performance and Identity; and Arts, Libraries, and Archives.

### ***Undergraduate College Courses Created***

2020 Arts, Libraries, and Archives  
2018 Research Methods in Dance, Theatre, and Performance  
2017 Performance and Identity

### ***Faculty Advisor***

2023-Present Omoge African Dance Ensemble. Student-led African dance company. Howard University.  
  
2023 DeFine Talk. College of Fine Arts Student Council hosted event. Students from the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, and the College of Fine Arts discussed systemic racism and student mental health.

### **OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*African Dance Technique & Culture* (abridged list)

Concordia University (Montreal, Canada) | Hampton University | Norfolk State University | Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (ME) | Old Dominion University | Christopher Newport University | Thomas Nelson Community College | Governor's School for the Arts | Dance Institute of Washington | Pacifica Graduate Institute (CA)

### **EXTERNAL PH.D. DISSERTATION COMMITTEES**

2022-Present *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, Portland, ME.  
  
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, Portland, ME. Successfully defended, December 8<sup>th</sup>.  
  
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, Santa Barbara, CA. Successfully defended, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **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." Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University. Selected to present at Howard University Research Week, April 2019.  
  
2017-2018 *Thesis Director*: Adanna Paul, "Bound to Post-Black: Examining and Redefining Tenets of the Post-Black Arts Movement." Department of Theatre Arts, Howard

University. \*Won award for best presentation in Arts and Design, Howard University Research Week, April 2018.

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.” Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University. Selected to present at Howard University Research Week, April 2018.

### **SERVICE: HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

2022-Present **Member**, New Building Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.

2023 **Member**, Bylaws Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. Worked as a team member to continue the creation of the bylaws after the initial format and initial draft was completed.

2022-2023 **Chair**, Bylaws Committee, Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. Created and directed the initial process for writing the bylaws that is to govern the newly established college.

2022 **Judge** for presentations, Howard University Annual Research Month, April 2022.

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 (IFC), Howard University Office of Research.

2020-2021 **Fine Arts Representative**, Howard University Faculty Senate.

2020 **Acting Chair**, Transition Team, College of Fine Arts (CoFA).

2019-2020 **Member**, Transitional Team Executive Committee, College of Fine Arts (CoFA).

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.

2019-2020 **Supervisor**, Experiential Learning and On-Campus Placement, Howard University Student Employment Program (HUSEP), Office of Career Services.



- 2019 **Judge** for poster and paper presentations, Howard University Annual Research Week.
- 2019 **Reviewer** for abstract submissions to Howard University Annual Research Week.
- 2018-2019 **Member**, CoFA 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** for 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 (APSAGE) 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.
- 2017-2018 **Coordinator**, Theatre Arts Minor Program, Department of Theatre Arts, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2016-2019 **Member**, Executive Committee, Department of Theater Arts.
- 2015-2019 **Chair**, Library Committee, Department of Theater Arts.
- 2014-2017 **Member**, Curriculum Committee, Department of Theater Arts.

## **CONTINUED EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 2023 **WORKSHOP**, *Navigation Excellence: Exploring the Federal Peer Review Ecosystem & Peer Review Fair*. White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity Through HBCUs. September 26, Arlington, VA.
- 2023 **WORKSHOP**, Pre-Meeting Workshop for Seasoned Theatre Administrators in Higher Education, NAST 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Retreat for Administrators of Theatre Programs in Higher Education, March 14-18, St. Louis, MO.
- 2022 **TRAINING**, Cybersecurity Awareness Training, Office of Enterprise Technology Services, Howard University. (2022, 2023, 2024)

- 2022            WORKSHOP, Workshop for New and Aspiring Theatre Administrators in Higher Education. NAST 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Retreat for Administrators of Theatre Programs in Higher Education, March 23, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021            WORKSHOP, NAST Training Workshop for Visiting Evaluators. National Association for Schools of Theatre, Reston, VA.
- 2020-2021      CERTIFICATION, Chairs Leadership Academy (CLA), Office of Faculty Development, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2020            CONFERENCE, “Specific Procedures for NAST Evaluation,” National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST), Reston, VA.
- 2019            CERTIFICATION, HU-Teach/Quality Matters Online Course Design Standards workshops to convert face-to-face courses to 100% online format. Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2020            CERTIFICATION, Blackboard Certified, Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CETLA), Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017            CERTIFICATION, Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (CETLA), Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2017            CERTIFICATE, Faculty Writing & Creative Works Summer Academy, Office of Faculty Development, Howard University, Washington, DC.
- 2015            CERTIFICATE, Preparing Future Faculty (PFF), Howard University, Washington, DC.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

The Center for HBCU Research, Leadership, and Policy  
 African Studies Association (ASA)  
 National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)  
 National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST)  
 Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)  
 West African Research Association (WARA)  
 International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD)

## **FIELD WORK AND ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**

Senegal, West Africa | The Gambia, West Africa | Morocco, Northwest Africa | Nassau, Bahamas | Freeport, Bahamas | United States

## LANGUAGES

French (Reading) | Wolof (Basic) | Spanish (Basic) | Arabic (Basic)

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

(Original Full-Length African Ballets, Abridged list)

*Choreographer, wrote the script, director, drumming arrangements, designed and made costumes*

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 (Abridged list)

Choreographer

*Rainbow Park, 2007*  
*Outliers II, 2006*  
*Outliers, 2005*  
*Once On This Island, 2004*  
*The Wiz, 2000*

## COMMISSIONED TO CHOREOGRAPH SITE-SPECIFIC WORKS

(Abridged list, 2000-2011)

America's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Jamestown, VA (Commissioned by the US Government)  
The Chrysler Museum  
The Norfolk Botanical Garden  
The Mariner's Museum  
The SS Rotterdam (Holland/America cruise ship)  
The Spirit of Norfolk (cruise ship)  
Norfolk Zoological Museum  
The Peninsula Fine Arts Center  
Hampton University Museum

## FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES & PRESENTATIONS

(Abridged list)

2010            Gnawa Arts, Rabat, Morocco, Northwest, Africa.  
2006            Lyceum Series for Cultural Engagement, Elizabeth City, NC.  
2004            Corichow Dance Company, Kololi, The Gambia, West Africa.  
1997-2011    Newport News Folk Arts Festival, City Government, Newport News, VA.  
1997-2007    African American Arts Festival (Afr-Am Festival), Norfolk, VA.

2005 National Arts Festival, Richmond, VA. (The festival toured the US)  
2000-2005 Umoja Festival, Portsmouth Parks and Recreation, Portsmouth, VA.  
1999 African American Festival of the Arts, Charles City, VA.

## **FEATURED ARTIST**

(Abridged list)

VFH Radio VFH Radio Productions Program, “Suwabi African Ballet.” I was featured as the Founding Artistic Director of my dance company. Interview by Connie Stevens, 2007.

NBC WAVY 10 Performance at the NTELOS Pavilion, *Suwabi African Ballet*. I was featured with my dance company, 2007.

Book *In Good Keeping: Virginia’s Folklife Apprenticeships*. Featured as a Master Artist, pp. 114-117. Published by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA, 2007.

WOWI “The Morning Show.” Interviewed by Cheryl Wilkerson (Radio) 2006.

PBS “Interview with Master Folk Artist Ofosuwa Abiola.” Interviewed on PBS, aired in all US states including Hawaii, 2005.

CBS “A Day with Suwabi African Ballet.” I was featured with my dance company on the “Ester Pierre is Everywhere” show, 2002.

CBS “Live at Nine.” Performance, 1999.

## **OTHER OVERSEAS PERFORMANCES & PRESENTATIONS**

(Abridge list)

The Gambia | Senegal | Morocco | Bermuda | Bahamas | Puerto Rico | St. Thomas

## **KWANZAA DANCE CONCERTS**

1997-2011 Choreographed, Directed, and produced, 14 annual Kwanzaa concerts which opened on the second day of Kwanzaa, Kugichagulia (Self-determination), from 1997 to 2005, and on the first day of Kwanzaa, Umoja (Unity), from 2006 to 2011.