

# Ashley Lauren Hamilton, PhD

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## Formal Education & Certification

### **Ph.D. New York University: Educational Theatre, Colleges and Communities**

Honors: Awarded Outstanding Doctoral Teaching Award, multiple adjunct instructor positions and the sole program assistantship for the program in Educational Theatre for four years

Dissertation: *Toward Rehabilitation: Devised Theatre as Liminal Transformer in a Women's Maximum Security Prison*

### **M.A. New York University: Educational Theatre, Colleges and Communities**

Honors: Awarded the -ISM Scholarship from CMEP for Master's Thesis Project: *Disordered*

Culminating Thesis Project: *Disordered: An Interview-Based Play on Body and Beauty in America*

### **B.F.A. The University of Colorado at Boulder: Performance**

Honors: Dean's List in the College of Arts and Sciences and awarded four Irene Ryan awards for four outstanding performances

### **RDT (Registered Drama Therapist) The North American Drama Therapy Association**

In process of completion through the Alternative Training Program

## Professional Teaching & Academic Appointments

### **Associate Professor, Tenured at the University of Denver in the Department of Theatre**

Denver, CO: September 2017 - Current

As an associate professor of Theatre at the University of Denver (DU) my tenured appointment is split between teaching, service and creative work/research. I teach a range of undergraduate courses relating to theatre creation and analysis including; How to Read a Play, Page to Stage (emphasis on playwriting), Theatre Imagination, Theatre for Social Change, an Advanced Seminar in Interview-Based Theatre, other theatre based seminars and more. I also direct full-length productions with university students while fulfilling administrative duties such as mentorship and advisement of students, overseeing independent studies, supporting the department's season development, mentoring students in directing staged readings and creating community based experiences for students. My service to the University is completed in various forms on the department, college, university and public levels. Additionally, as part of my creative work and scholarship I work as the Executive Director of the DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI), which includes a spectrum of duties from administrative, managerial and fundraising to visioning and philosophizing to creating and producing.

### **Co-Founder and Executive Director, DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI)**

Denver, CO: September 2017 - Current

I co-founded and launched the DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI) in 2017 and act as Executive Director for this innovative organization which is embedded into the University of Denver, within in the College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS). On behalf of DU PAI I secured and managed an unprecedented multi-million-dollar, four-year

contract with the Colorado Department of Corrections (\$2.138 Million for 2019-2023) to bring arts-based, educational programming into every prison in the state of Colorado. DU PAI is a robust program that brings on-going, multilayered arts-based, educational and therapeutic programming — covering numerous artistic modalities — into every prison in Colorado and serves thousands of incarcerated people and their family members. As part of DU PAI's contract with the Colorado Department of Corrections we offer arts-based courses, group leadership programming and other on-going special projects from large scale theatre productions, podcasting, a newspaper and literary arts magazine, a radio station, a visual art show and more. At DU PAI we engage leadership of incarcerated people in the development, production and delivery of all of our programming. We also conduct rigorous research to examine the impact of the arts on personal and social narratives of crime, incarceration, harm, and healing.

**Adjunct Professor, New York University**

New York, NY: August 2014 - Current

As an adjunct professor in the graduate programs of Educational Theatre and Drama Therapy Programs at NYU I have taught a range of courses. In the Educational Theatre program I taught Master's level courses on Applied Theatre, Understanding Diversity and Teaching Pluralism and Exploring Social Issues through Drama — and I also taught the New Student Seminar course for first year undergraduate students for four years. For the Drama Therapy Program, I created and co-taught the graduate level course Cross-Cultural Awareness for Clinicians, Educators and Artists.

**Adjunct Professor, NYU's Prison Education Program**

New York, NY: March 2016 - August 2017

I was an instructor for NYU's Prison Education Program (PEP) at Wallkill Correctional Facility where I taught Intercultural Communication and Theatre for Social Change courses.

**Adjunct Professor, NYACK College's Prison Education Program**

Hudson Valley, NY: June 2016 - August 2017

As an adjunct professor for NYACK College I taught College Writing I and II, Public Speaking, Cross-Cultural Awareness and Art History courses at Taconic Correctional Facility, a women's medium-security prison and Fishkill Correctional Facility, a men's medium-security prison.

**Adjunct Professor, City University of New York (Baruch College, BMCC and BCC)**

New York, NY: January 2015 - August 2017

As an adjunct professor within the CUNY system I taught over fifteen Public Speaking and Intercultural Communication courses at Baruch College, Borough of Manhattan Community College and Bronx Community College.

**Faculty Affiliate, New York University**

New York, NY: August 2014 - August 2017

As adjunct faculty at NYU I was a faculty affiliate for first year students living in a dorm residence. As a faculty affiliate I planned artistic and cultural programming for the students in an assigned dorm in order to broaden experiences and fostering community.

**Program Assistant, The Department in Educational Theatre at New York University**

New York, NY: August 2014 - August 2017

During my Doctoral work in the Educational Theatre Program at NYU I was the program assistant for the program's chair, Dr. David Montgomery for four years. In addition to assisting Dr. Montgomery, and other full-time faculty, I also worked administratively to plan the annual forum/conference for our program and plan and execute various projects and programs.

**Facilitator, WRITE ON with the Abnormal Psychology Program at NYU**

Brooklyn, NY: May 2015-September 2015

As a facilitator for an NYU Applied Psychology workshop I led writing based groups over a twelve week period at a boys secure living facility that used expressive tools to assess therapeutic growth.

**Facilitator, Skills For Life with the Abnormal Psychology Program at NYU**

Queens, NY: August 2014-December 2014

As a facilitator for an NYU Applied Psychology workshop I facilitated groups at a girls secure living facility that used skills based curriculum to assess various aspects of wellness.

**Graduate Employee, Center for Multicultural Education and Programs at NYU**

New York, NY: January 2013 - August 2014

While at CMEP I worked to expand social justice and diversity initiatives at NYU. I assisted on several different programs that the office created and expanded for the NYU community, one of my various responsibilities included creating curriculum for CMEP's diversity trainings.

**Facilitator, Intergroup Dialogue at New York University**

New York, NY: December 2013 - May 2014

I co-facilitated an Intergroup Dialogue on Race for a group of twenty undergraduate students at New York University. The course lasted ten weeks and explored privilege, oppression, supremacy and ally ship as they relate to the social identity of race.

**Community-Based Artistic Work  
with DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI)**

**Director, Executive Producer, Lead Interviewer and Actor in *If Light Closed Its Eyes***

Colorado: December 2019 — May 2023

*If Light Closed Its Eyes* is a verbatim documentary play and film, created from 100 interviews, with an incarcerated team of over 60 — exploring the criminal justice system and shared humanity. Over the course of three and half years — and through the Covid19 pandemic — the *If Light Closed Its Eyes* creative team conducted over 100 interviews with incarcerated people, CDOC staff, victims/survivors of harm, family members of incarcerated people and victims, district attorneys, lawyers, senators, politicians, educators, spiritual leaders and more to understand their experiences within the criminal justice system. The creative team spent countless more hours crafting, designing and producing this unprecedented verbatim play from those interviews. Along the way the team discovered the power of collecting and holding other people's stories and how they connect us to our shared humanity and complex histories. *If Light Closed Its Eyes* is an exploration of the American criminal justice system in this moment in time as well as a vision of possibility for corrections in the future. After the creation process *If Light Closed Its Eyes* culminated as a historic, site-specific performances in a cell-house (a prison living unit) at Sterling Correctional Facility in July of 2022 for thousands of audience members of incarcerated residents, CDOC staff, public, victims and survivors of harm, family members of the incarcerated artists and more. The full play text was

published as a book in April of 2023. The production was also filmed as a movie, and was released in May of 2023. Since the films was released it has been accepted into several national film festivals, has had several film screenings and talkbacks at universities and community organizations and has also been awarded.

**Director of Community Development, *The Beacon at Skyline: A Correctional Community***  
Colorado: April 2022 — July 2023

I was charged by the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) to co-found and design a program for a low-level security prison within CDOC that would re-imagine traditional correctional practices, using arts and education, to function as a “correctional community” for 130 incarcerated people and over 30 CDOC staff. Over the course of fifteen months I worked to design and vision the facility — which became *The Beacon at Skyline* — as I supported the CDOC to staff and open the facility as one of the most innovative and progressive examples of correctional practices in the country, supported by arts-based, humanistic, educational practices.

**Director, Executive Producer and Actor in *One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest***  
Colorado: March 2019 — September 2019

*One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest* was produced in collaboration with over 40 incarcerated artists, at Sterling Correctional Facility in 2019. It was produced as a full-theatre production for audiences of incarcerated residents, CDOC staff, state public officials and family members of the artists and the public. The production also went on a historic tour to other Colorado prisons for more performances.

**Executive Producer of *A Christmas Carol***  
Colorado: June 2019 — December 2019

*A Christmas Carol* was fully produced by the Denver Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI) at Denver Women’s Correctional Facility with over thirty incarcerated women in 2019 for audiences of incarcerated residents, CDOC staff, state public officials, family members of the artists and the public. Then, the production went on a historic tour to the public at The University of Denver’s Newman Center for the Performing Arts where over 1,300 members of the public witnessed the production.

**Executive Producer and Host of *A/Live Inside***  
Colorado: August 2020 — November 2020

*A/Live Inside* was a a historic, live virtual event weaving together performances, song, music, dance, visual art and panoramic true-life stories of incarcerated artists from multiple prisons facilities across Colorado, which emerged from and through the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Executive Producer and Segment Host of *With(in)* Podcast**  
Colorado: March 2019 - July 2023

*With(in)* is an award winning podcast committed to shifting the conversation on who is in prison, specifically within the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC). Through meaningful, complex and enlightening conversations with incarcerated people and others in and around the criminal justice system we have been committed to revealing our shared humanity across the system. *With(in)* was a collaboration between the DU Prison Arts Initiative and the CDOC and was recorded across three correctional facilities in Colorado: Sterling Correctional Facility, Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center and Denver Women’s Correctional Facility. *With(in)* Season 1 was released in September of 2019 and Season 2 was

crafted virtually during the Covid-19 pandemic and was released in September of 2021. The full *With(in)* project consists of 23 episodes and each episode was also accompanied by a unique poem, piece of fine art and music — created by incarcerated artists on the team — that reflects each episodes themes.

### **Executive Manager on *Inside Wire: Colorado Prison Radio***

Colorado: December 2020 - July 2023

*Inside Wire: Colorado Prison Radio* beamed music, stories, information, and entertainment into prisons across Colorado and broadcasted its sounds to listeners outside facilities as well, across the U.S. and beyond. Its programs were created by incarcerated media producers for incarcerated listeners. *Inside Wire* was a program of the University of Denver Prison Arts Initiative, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Corrections. *Inside Wire* was the first statewide prison radio station in U.S. history.

### **Executive Manager on UnChained Voices Fine Art Show**

Colorado: June 2020 —Present

UnChained Voices is an advocacy & empowerment fine art show. The show is a collaborative effort created on behalf of incarcerated artists in Colorado. The UnChained Voices committee is comprised of community members, the DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI), forensic social workers, public and private defense attorneys, community organizers, and family members of incarcerated people. The UnChained Voices' events feature art and other works created by persons currently incarcerated at a jail or Colorado Department of Corrections facility.. DU PAI has partnered with Chained Voices since 2020 — for three annual shows — and in collaboration has produced multiple in-person gallery art shows and on-line gallery art shows, sharing and selling thousands of pieces of art for artists in every prison in the state of Colorado.

### **Executive Manager on *LuxLit Press***

Colorado: July 2019 — July 2023

*LuxLit Press* was the publication wing for The DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI). Through the publication of original materials created by people who are incarcerated, *LuxLit Press* sought to spark new understandings for people. We were an intentional collaboration inside and out of prisons in the state of Colorado. *LuxLit Press* was the publication press for *The Inside Report*, the only state-wide prison newspaper in the country, *Reverberations Magazine*, its companion literary arts magazine, and other anthologies (*Imagining Worlds* and *Tell it Slant*) and our arts-based journal (*Sojourn*) created by incarcerated artists throughout Colorado.

### **Executive Producer of *These Walls: A Short Film***

Colorado: May 2021-May 2020

*These Walls* is an original, short-film retrospective of Colorado's oldest prison, Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility. The film was devised, written, and performed by artists who were incarcerated there during the facility's 150th year. The film draws from historical accounts and contemporary personal narratives in order to investigate one man's search for humanity through an unexpected correspondence within the walls of a prison hewn from the canyon that became Cañon City. *These Walls* asks audiences to consider the ways care and accountability can create healing and hope in our criminal justice system. *These Walls* is produced and created by the DU Prison Arts Initiative in partnership with the Colorado Department of Corrections. The film was shared at film showings at Territorial Correctional Facility for incarcerated residents, CDOC staff and family members of the artists. Additionally,

the film debuted to the public with a sold-out showing at the Sie Film Center in Denver, Colorado — followed by a live and virtual talk back with the incarcerated artists from the film, DU PAI staff and CDOC staff.

## Community-Based Artistic Work with Other Partners

### **Facilitator, The Denver Dream Center**

Denver, CO: December 2023 - Current

In partnership with The Denver Dream Center (DDC) I am facilitating a 12-week long educational, arts-based workshop on *Storyteller as Community Weaver* with DDC staff and community members, specifically serving DDC's previously incarcerated population, as they re-enter society.

### **Co-Author, PEN America's *The Sentences That Create Us***

National: Spring 2022

In partnership with PEN America, I was able to contribute a chapter to *The Sentences That Create Us: Crafting a Writer's Life in Prison* on playwriting. The text was distributed by the thousands to incarcerated artists across the United States, including throughout the CDOC, in collaboration with DU PAI.

### **Facilitator and Director, Lighthouse Writers Workshop and the Denver Public Library**

Denver, CO: January 2019 - March 2019

As part of my course load at DU I crafted a new class, Theatre for Social Change, in which DU students and adults experiencing homelessness in the Hardtimes Writer's Workshop (through Lighthouse Writers Workshop) worked together to craft a devised piece of theatre over 10 weeks. The final product, *The Karmic Meter*, culminated in a performance for a large audience at Lighthouse Writers Workshop with a talk-back about community-engaged theatre.

### **Facilitator, New York State Department of Corrections with Rehabilitation through the Arts**

New York, NY: September 2013 – September 2018

As a teaching artist for RTA I have facilitated several different several month long, weekly workshops and devising experience in both Bedford Hills Maximum Security Prison for Women and Fishkill Men's Correctional Facility. My workshops often worked to create ensemble based, devised theatre pieces from the participant's movement and writing work based in personal narrative. Additionally, I directed full-length and short theatrical productions.

### **Facilitator, Denver Children's Home**

Denver, Colorado: January 2018 - April 2018

I led a weekly theatre and devising workshop at the Denver Children's Home with a group of young people experiencing mental health challenges, trauma, neglect and abuse.

### **Co-Founder and Managing Director, (Re)Emergent Theatre**

New York, NY: January 2016 - August 2017

(Re)Emergent Theatre was a theatre company for men and women who had recently been released from prison and were re-entering into society. We created new, devised work about life in prison and the realities of re-entering into society. As managing director for the

company I was responsible for organizing and communicating with all participants and the artistic team, facilitating rehearsals and meetings, producing all productions, networking and fundraising.

### **Teaching Artist and Director of GETUnited, Global Empowerment Theatre (GET)**

New York, NY: June 2012 - August 2018

Global Empowerment Theatre (GET) uses devised theatre techniques, playwriting and English education to empower and educate young people all around the globe. In June 2014 and June 2018 I taught for GET in Zanzibar, Africa and in January 2016 I traveled to Mumbai, India to facilitate a devised theatre experience for young people in slum communities. As the Director of GETUnited in New York, I worked to create educational programming in the United States, particularly in New York State public schools.

### **Teaching Artist, Girls Leadership**

New York, NY: June 2014 - August 2018

In the Summers of 2014, 2015 and 2016 I worked at Girls Leadership's arts intensive to create devised, social justice pieces of theatre with young people attending the camp. I also led weekly parent and daughter workshops, using theatre to explore socio-emotional growth and learning, for girls from kindergarten through high school for over three years.

### **Teaching Artist, Learning through an Expanded Arts Program (LEAP)**

New York, NY: August 2014 - August 2016

As a teaching artist for LEAP's OnStage program, I facilitated weekly play-writing classes at New York City high schools. I led the students through writing short plays during the Fall semester, and then in the Spring semester I chose one students play, became the director and produced it to be performed on Broadway.

### **Teaching Artist, NYC Public School System**

New York, NY: September 2011 - August 2016

As an Independent Contractor and teaching artist I taught workshops and classes for students age five through eighteen in theatre, creative writing, improvisation and comedy in the New York City public school system. Some of these workshops culminated in performances and others were more process oriented, depending on the needs of the school. The class aims and goals shifted depending on the need but I always created curriculum and experiences with the intention to create student-centered, artistic learning experiences for students.

### **Drama Therapy Facilitator, Jewish Board PROS Program**

Brooklyn, NY: August 2015 - January 2016

As a drama therapy intern I led various drama therapy groups at Jewish Board's PROS (Personalized Recovery Oriented Services) program for adults living with severe and persistent mental illness.

### **Drama Therapy Facilitator, Atria Assisted Living Facility**

Queens, NY: May 2015 - September 2015

As a drama therapy intern I led and facilitated drama groups at an assisted living facility, specifically working with folks with severe, advanced dementia and Alzheimers.

### **Teaching Artist, Brooklyn Acting Lab (BAL)**

Brooklyn, NY: May 2014 - August 2015

During the Summers of 2014 and 2015 I directed the BAL Early Childhood (ages 3-6) weekly theatre camp, this included devising weekly theatre pieces with these young people to share with their families.

**Teaching Artist, Jewish Community Center**

New York, NY: September 2013 – August 2014

At the Jewish Community Center of New York I facilitated a theatre workshop for children ages five to ten on the autism spectrum. I used the building blocks of theatre to explore expression, social engagement and creativity.

**Teaching Artist, NYC Juvenile Detention System with Voices UnBroken**

New York, NY: August 2011 – September 2012

Using theatre, poetry, writing, and hip-hop as a tool for expression, I worked with young people from ages fourteen to twenty in the New York City juvenile detention system, half-way homes and foster homes to create opportunities for expression, stronger communication, knowledge building and a therapeutic outlet.

**Teaching Artist, NYC Homeless Shelter System with Art-Start**

New York, NY: April 2011 - September 2011

I taught weekly theatre and fine art workshops at at LIFE homeless shelter with young people ages four to eighteen to explore their talents and voices while also creating a space for expression.

**Teaching Artist, Center for Alternative Sentencing with OneMic**

New York, NY: May 2011 - September 2011

I worked with CASES, a Center for Alternative Sentencing, in assisting with weekly workshops for young male offenders ages fifteen to twenty-one in writing spoken-work, poetry and music.

## Relevant National, Regional & Collegiate Theatre Work

**The University of Denver**

Denver, CO: September 2017- Current

Director and Deviser of *Cradle Two Grave* (February 2018)

Director of *Tick, Tick...Boom!* (February 2019)

Director of *Killer Joe* (March 2020)

Director of *Our Town: A Virtual/Live Staged Reading* with DU PAI (November 2021)

Director of *RENT* (March 2023)

**Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Off-Center**

Denver, CO: May 2018-November 2018

Director of *A Pocket Full of Dandelions*

**New York University**

New York, NY: August 2015 & August 2016

Producer and Curator of the 24-Hour Play Festival for the Program in Educational Theatre

**New York University**

New York, NY: November 2012 - April 2013

Producer and Performer in *(Dis)Ordered*



### **Tectonic Theatre Project**

New York, NY: November 2012 – July 2013

Production Assistant for *The Laramie Project* and *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* at Brooklyn Academic of Music (BAM) and for *Square Peg, Round Hole*

## **Research Grants, Contracts & Awards**

### **Artivism Award, International Social Change Film Festival**

November 2023

Awarded for the film *If Light Closed Its Eyes*

### **4 Gold Signal Awards**

October 2023

Awarded for DU PAI's audio work (*The With(in) Podcast* and *Inside Wire: Colorado Prison Radio*) in the categories of Documentary, Public Service and Activism, and Social Impact

### **DU Prison Arts Initiative Contract with the Colorado Department of Corrections**

September 2019 - July 2023, Total Award: \$2.138 Million

Contracted for DU Prison Arts Initiative programming and projects to be implemented into prisons across the state of Colorado

### **Creative Arts Materials Fund (CAMF), University of Denver**

November 2022, Total Award: \$5,000

Awarded to support DU PAI's theatrical productions and performances

### **Marsico Visiting Scholar Grant, University of Denver**

October 2022, Total Award: \$1,500

Awarded with Co-PI, Sarah Magnatta (CAHSS) to fund a virtual conversation and presentation with Nicole Fleetwood and six incarcerated artists from (DU PAI) to discuss our artistic and philosophical practices

### **Colorado Book Awards Nominee**

Summer 2022

The *LuxLit Press* text *Tell it Slant* was nominated for a Colorado Book Award. *Tell it Slant* is an Anthology of Creative NonFiction by writers from Colorado's Prisons, produced by DU PAI

### **True West Award from John Moore at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts**

December 2019, December 2020 and December 2021

Awarded to the DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI) and Dr. Ashley Hamilton

### **Public Good Fund BRIDGE Grant, University of Denver**

May 2021, Total Award: \$20,000

Awarded to support the film of DU PAI's interview-based theatre play production of *If Light Closed its Eyes*

### **Creative Arts Materials Fund (CAMF), University of Denver**

April 2021, Total Award: \$5,000

In support of the first state-wide prison radio station in the county — DU PAI's Inside Wire: Colorado Prison Radio

**Urban Institute's Prison Research and Innovation Network (PRIN) and Arnold Ventures**  
January 2020 - March 2021, Total Award: \$200,000

With Co-PI's Dr. Shannon Sliva (GSSW) and Dr. Jeffrey Lin (CAHSS) we were awarded the PRIN grant to create and test innovations at Sterling Correctional Facility with a goal of improving the wellbeing of incarcerated people and correctional staff

**Random Acts of Art Philanthropy Grant, The Affinity Group and The Denver Foundation**  
May 2020, Total Award: \$5,000

Awarded as a gift to the DU Prison Arts Initiative to support programming during the CoVid 19 pandemic

**Evident Change Award, Media for a Just Society**  
Summer 2020

Awarded for the podcast *With(in): Shifting the Conversation on Who is in Prison*

**RedLine's Arts in Society Grant**  
August 2020, Total Award \$12,000

Awarded to support the creation of DU PAI's *Sojourn: A Daily Art Journal* that was created by an incarcerated artist and DU PAI staff member, and distributed to 1000 incarcerated folks across the CDOC during the Covid19 pandemic

**Community Engaged Mini-Grant, University of Denver**  
January 2019, Total Award: \$2,000

Awarded with Dr. Apryl Alexander to fund the material costs for DU PAI's family event program through CCESE's Service Learning Fund

**Center for Innovation in the Liberal and Creative Arts (CILCA), Andrew Mellon Foundation**

January 2019: \$26,000 of Total Award of \$250,000

Total grant amount was awarded to PI Dr. Derigan Silver (CAHSS/CILCA) to support CILCA projects, which DU PAI was one of. A portion of the grant was awarded to myself, Dr. Apryl Alexander and Rachael Zafer, MPA as seed money to support DU PAI programming

**Professional Research Opportunities for Faculty (PROF) Grant, University of Denver**  
September 2018, Total Award: \$45,000

Awarded to fund the building and research of the DU Prison Arts Initiative with Dr. Apryl Alexander

**Community Engaged Mini-Grant, University of Denver**  
June 2018, Total Award: \$900

Awarded to fund the material costs for a course I created and taught titled Devising Social Justice Theatre in Zanzibar, Tanzania through CCESE's Service Learning Fund

**Deans Award for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Denver**  
April 2018, Total Award: \$5,000

Awarded with Dr. Apryl Alexander to support the creation of the DU Prison Arts Initiative through building a diverse steering committee of faculty from across the University of Denver

**Marsico Visiting Scholar Grant, University of Denver**

December 2017, Total Award: \$2,000

Awarded to fund guest and playwright Morgaine Gooding-Silverwood as I directed her play *Cradle Two Grave*

**The Steinhardt Outstanding Doctoral Teaching Award, New York University**

May 2017, Total Award: \$2,000

Awarded for outstanding teaching and service to my program and school during my Doctoral work

**Guest Lectures, Panels, Presentations & Conferences**

**New York University, Exploring Social Issues through Drama**

New York, NY: April 2024

Co-Leading a course intensive in collaboration with a previously incarcerated artist

**Museum of Art at Fort Collins**

Fort Collins, CO: February 2024

Panel: To See Inside: Art, Architecture and Incarceration and panel discussion with Sarah McKenzie and Sean Marshall

**New York University, Leaders in Educational Theatre Graduate Course**

New York, NY: January 2024, February 2023, January 2022, February 2021 and February 2020

Lecture: Artistic Justice — Co-lecturing with 2 previously incarcerated people

**Emerson College, Applied Theatre Course**

Boston, MA: November 2023

Lecture and Panel: Applied Theatre and *If Light Closed Its Eyes* — panel discussion with 2 previously incarcerated people

**University of Colorado at Boulder, Performance for Community Engagement Course**

Boulder, CO: November 2023

Film Screening Presentation and Panel: *If Light Closed Its Eyes* — panel discussion with 2 previously incarcerated people

**International Social Change Film Festival**

Los Angeles, CA: November 2023

Atlanta, GA: October 2023

Film Screening Presentation and Panel: *If Light Closed Its Eyes* — panel discussion with 2 previously incarcerated people

**Amherst College, The Center for Restorative Practices**

Amherst, MA: October 2023

Film Screening Presentation and Panel: *If Light Closed Its Eyes* — panel discussion with 2 previously incarcerated people

**Podcast Movement Conference**

Denver, CO: August 2023

Panel and Conference Session: Sound in Colorado Prisons: Audio as Artistic Justice; Radio as Restoration. A panel discussion and presentation with 5 previously incarcerated artists and DU PAI staff

**University of Denver, The Center for Community Engagement to Advance Scholarship and Learning (CCESL)**

Denver, CO: June 2023, July 2022

Panel: DU PAI and Community Engaged Teaching for CCESL

**The SIE Film Center**

Denver, CO: May 2023

Film Screening Presentation and Panel: *If Light Closed Its Eyes* Film Premier — including panel discussion with 10 currently incarcerated people, DU PAI staff and CDOC staff

**Pace University, Theatre and Social Change Course**

New York, NY: April 2023

Lecture: The DU Prison Arts Initiative and Artistic Justice —Co-lecturing with 6 incarcerated people

**University of Denver, Sturm College of Law**

Denver, CO: April 2023

Film Screening Presentation and Panel: *If Light Closed Its Eyes* — panel discussion with 8 currently and previously incarcerated people

**Western Association of College and University Business Officers Conference**

Arizona: April 2023

Panel and Conference Session: Carceral Education

**University of Denver, SPARK 2023 (Speech Protection in Academia: Reflection and Knowledge)**

Denver, CO: April 2023

Film Screening Presentation and Lecture: *If Light Closed Its Eyes* and experiences of being incarcerated — Co-lecturing with 7 currently and previously incarcerated people

**Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference**

Washington, D.C.: March 2023

Panel and Conference Session: Arts in Prisons —Artistic Justice and The University of Denver Prison Arts Initiative

**University of Denver, Marsico Lecture with Nicole Fleetwood and DU PAI**

Denver, CO: March 2023

Panel and Lecture: Art Behind and Beyond the Walls: A Discussion Between Nicole Fleetwood, 6 Incarcerated Artists, Sarah Magnatta and myself

**New York University, Ethnodrama Graduate Course**

New York, NY: March 2023, March 2022, March 2021

Lecture: *If Light Closed Its Eyes* — Co-lecturing with 6 Incarcerated people

**University of Colorado at Boulder, Performance for Community Engagement Course**

Boulder, CO: October 2022

Lecture: The DU Prison Arts Initiative and Artistic Justice —Co-lecturing with 6 Incarcerated people

**Correctional Leaders Association Conference**

New Orleans, LA: August 2022

Conference Session: The DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI): Art as Culture Changer  
Co-lecturing with Dean Williams (Director of CDOC) and 6 Incarcerated people

**The SIE Film Center**

Denver, CO: May 2022

Film Screening Presentation and Panel: *These Walls* Film Premier — including panel discussion with over 15 incarcerated people, DU PAI staff, CDOC staff and community

**Colorado Association of Community Corrections Board**

Denver, CO: February 2022

Lecture: The DU Prison Arts Initiative — Co-lecturing with 6 Incarcerated people

**National Conference on Higher Education in Prison**

Denver, CO: November 2021

Conference Session: Benefits and Challenges of Staff Programs

**Alternate Defense Council (ADC)**

Colorado: June 2021

Lecture: The DU Prison Arts Initiative — Co-lecturing with Eric Davis, previously incarcerated

**American Society of Criminology Conference**

Washington, D.C.: November 2020 (Cancelled due to CoVid 19)

Conference Session: Participatory Methods in Prison Research: Lessons Learned from the Prison Research and Innovation Initiative (Accepted)

**University of Denver, Listening Together: *With(in)* Podcast Episode Event and Panel Talk**

Denver, CO: July 2020

Panel: On *With(in)* podcast episode *A Dangerous Version of the Telephone Game*

***The Actor's Mind* Podcast**

Denver, CO: May 2020

Lecture: Actor's Mental Health and Emotional Intelligence (Eps. 4 of Season 3)

**University of Denver, Leadership of the Future Course in Daniels College of Business**

Denver, CO: April 2020

Lecture: Accessing Creativity through and in Leadership

**University of Denver, Prison Arts and Education Panel Discussion**

Denver, CO: March 2020

Panel: Prison Arts and Education Panel Discussion with Dr. Scott Berman (SLU)

**Faculty Lecture Series, University of Denver**

Denver, CO: March 2019

Panel: On the theme of “Rebuilding”

**Executive Education: Denver Leadership Program through Daniels College of Business**

Denver, CO: December 2017 & May 2018

Workshop: Activating Presence and Creativity in the Workplace

**University of Denver, MBA Program in Daniels College of Business**

Denver, CO: December 2017, February & May 2018

Workshop: Performance and Creativity in Business and Self

**NYU Forum on Ethnodrama: The Aesthetics of Research and Playmaking**

New York, NY: April 2017

Conference Manager by Invitation

**NYU Forum on Educational Theatre: 50th Anniversary**

New York, NY: April 2016

Conference Planning Committee by Invitation

**New York University, Applied Theatre Praxis Course**

New York, NY: July 2016

Lecture: Ethics in Prison Theatre

**The City College of New York, Theatre for Social Change Course**

New York, NY: March 2015

Lecture: The Aesthetics of Prison Theatre

**NYU Forum on Site-Specific Theatre**

New York, NY: April 2015

Conference Planning Committee by Invitation

**New York University, Introduction to Educational Theatre Course**

New York, NY: September 2015

Lecture: Bringing Theatre for Social Change into the Classroom

**New York Collective of Radical Educators Conference**

New York, NY: April 2015

Presentation: Devising Applied Theatre in the Classroom

**American Alliance for Theatre & Education Conference**

Milwaukee, WI: August 2015

Presentation: The Praxis of Theatre for Social Change in the Classroom

## Service

**Public Community Service**

Director of Community Development at The Beacon at Skyline: A Correctional Community  
(2022, 2023)

Board Member for the Culture Committee in the Colorado Department of Corrections

(2021, 2022)

Board Member for the Colorado Department of Corrections Normalization Committee  
(2019, 2020)

**University of Denver Service**

Faculty Senate, Departmental Representative  
(2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)

Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning (CCESL), DU Grand  
Challenge Collective Impact Cohort (Crime and Safety Cohort), Faculty Member and  
Project Lead (2019, 2020, 2021)

Center for Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning (CCESL), Faculty  
Champion (2018, 2019, 2020)

**College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Service**

CAHSS Faculty Lecture Series Panelist, by Dean's Invitation (2018)

**Department of Theatre Service**

Staged Reading Series, Coordinator and Faculty Mentor  
(2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024)

Season Planning Committee  
(2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

Tenure and Promotion Committee for Rick Barbour to Full Professor  
(2018, 2019)

Jack Nathan Award, Review Committee  
(2022)