



Welcome, DIAL Class of 2017!

In 2017, the *Diversity in Arts Leadership internship program (DIAL)* celebrates 25 years of promoting diversity in the arts management field and providing college students who have a career interest in either the arts or business with a hands-on introduction to working in the business fields of the nonprofit arts sector. Interns are paired with an arts host organization and a business mentor to guide them in their pursuits. Students participate in cultural activities, professional development and site visits throughout the summer and stay connected through our alumni network. This program creates a pipeline of diverse future arts and business leaders in NYC. Hundreds of alumni have gone on to successful arts and business careers and have returned as DIAL mentors and hosts.



Doreen Devasia (American Federation of Arts) is a third-year Echols Scholar at the University of Virginia studying Art History and Foreign Affairs and has been passionate about the arts from a young age. She attended The Governor's School for the Arts in high school and was inspired by a teacher (now a close friend and mentor) whose love for art and teaching inspired her to pursue ceramics and photography. Doreen has continued her involvement with the visual arts by serving as treasurer for Ceramics Club and as a representative on the Studio Arts Board. She is especially fascinated by the intersection between art, politics, and healing and hopes to return to India in the future to promote awareness and exploration of the arts. In addition to spending time in the ceramics studio, she loves to read, travel, take yoga classes, and be outside with friends and family.



Noah Ezer (New York Public Radio/WNYC) is a rising junior at Brown University where he studies Interdisciplinary art and Africana Studies. His art and research focus on the ways technology, race, and identity influence aesthetic traditions, and on campus he works in numerous capacities to facilitate wider engagement with the arts and technology. When he's not in class, Noah co-runs artisan cookie company Toothsome Cookies, writes articles for *The College Hill Independent*, a weekly newspaper, and co-organizes community galleries.



Mellanee Goodman (FreeArts NYC) is a senior majoring in Art Management at Appalachian State University located in the mountains of Boone, North Carolina. She works as the Special Events Assistant and Receptionist for the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts. Additionally, as the assistant to the Outreach Coordinator, she instructs children's workshops and assists with therapeutic art classes for disabled adults. Mellanee has a serious passion for the arts, and firmly believes the arts play a vital role in strengthening cultures and communities. She is eager to continue developing her skills and gaining valuable work experience. Mellanee is beyond excited to be in New York City for the summer working with the Diversity in Arts Leadership internship program, she knows this will be a life changing experience.



Nadia Halim (Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation) is a rising junior at Barnard College double majoring in Dance and Sociology with a minor in Psychology. Nadia was raised in Houston, Texas where she attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and discovered her passion for dance, community engagement, and activism through the arts. Currently, she is the Chair of Orchesis: A Dance Group, Columbia University's largest student-run performing arts group. She has served on the general board for Columbia University Performing Arts League and on the research team for the nathantrice/RITUALS: Recognizing Women Project. She is excited to have been chosen to participate in the DIAL internship program and to continue exploring the intersection of arts leadership and social change in New York City this summer!



Shannon Lee (Asian American Arts Alliance) is a rising sophomore at Tufts University from Queens, NY. She is a prospective Political Science and Economics double major, and is interested in the ways public service can create meaningful social change. At Tufts, Shannon is a Class of 2020 Senator on the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate and a Strong Women Strong Girls mentor. Some of the projects she has been involved in as a TCU Senator involve combatting food insecurity on campus and reforming university exam policies. She is excited to be a part of the 2017 DIAL Program and learn new ways nonprofits support the arts and provide opportunities for engagement with the community.



Rebecca Ho (Kaufman Music Center) is a first-generation Malaysian and Taiwanese American and in her third year at Binghamton University where she studies business administration with a concentration in management information systems. In addition, she takes classes at the Harpur College of Liberal Arts, studying art history and drawing. Using her knowledge of finance and data management, she was one of the original founders of the organization Creativity+ helping to raise over \$5,000 for the *Broome County Urban League*. Next year, she'll serve as the Chief Financial Officer of Binghamton University's self-run student government. Rebecca is constantly striving to find creative solutions to today's complex problems, through continuous learning and relentless effort.



Justin Jiménez (The Moth) is a Junior at Oberlin College majoring in Sociology and Creative Writing with a minor in Africana Studies. He grew up in Boston, MA where he cultivated his passion for the arts through writing, recording and performing Hip-Hop, Poetry and Spoken Word. On campus, he is a member of OSLAM, Oberlin's competitive slam poetry team, a live sound engineer, and an active member of the local music scene performing in bands and as a solo act. Through his involvement in the DIAL Internship Program, Justin plans to further develop his skills as a leader in the arts and to work toward his goal of combining the arts with community organizing.



Salwa Meghjee (Lincoln Center) is a rising sophomore and intended English major at the University of California, Berkeley. Salwa is originally from Orlando, Florida, where she produced and directed an original play, *The Mysterious Mystery of the Lost Letters*, published by Brooklyn Publishers last year. Over the past year, Salwa has worked with the Educational Theatre Association to advocate for diversity in the arts and arts education, presenting in several cities throughout the United States and lobbying in Congress at Arts Advocacy Day 2015. Salwa co-founded Berkeley's first women's theatre company, focused on empowering women and fostering community. She also spends her Monday afternoons teaching theatre to rambunctious fifth graders. She is excited to intern in New York City and learn more about leadership and inclusivity in arts organizations.



Asaiah Puente (Green-Wood Historic Fund) will receive her Bachelor's in Public Administration in Fall of 2018 from The University of Texas at San Antonio. Asaiah began as a participant in a local youth arts organization in San Antonio, Texas called SAY Si. She was able to thrive through media arts, community outreach and portfolio development. After high school graduation, she started work as an after-school arts teacher at SAY Si. In her time working for SAY Si, she saw a need firsthand for more youth arts programs throughout the United States. Asaiah has worked with the public sector, nonprofit sector, and at a local public relations firm to obtain the tools she needs to one day run her own non-profit, much like the arts organization she participated in throughout her youth.



Ahmad Saeed (Bronx Museum) is a native of Chicago's South Side and will be graduating in 2017 as an Art History major at Syracuse University. He is invested in creatively representing the stories of queer & trans people of color (QTPOC) through captivating visuals. His background includes print and digital media, youth development through visual arts, and video production for organizations including the Community Folk Art Center, Chicago Park District, Storyographers, and the Black Artist League at Syracuse. From design, film, photography, and curation Ahmad has always found a way to express a unique view of our world.



Mikaila Ware (Dance/NYC) recently graduated from Florida State University with a B.F.A in Dance. She is a movement artist from Ellenwood, Georgia and has studied and performed works by master teachers and choreographers. In addition, Mikaila has performed at festivals like The American College Dance National Festival at the Kennedy Center and Boston Contemporary Dance Festival at Boston University. Mikaila's training ranges from Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Metropolitan Ballet Theater, and Price Performing Arts Center. Through the mediums of multidisciplinary collaborations and community engagement projects, Mikaila continues to develop her skills in arts non-profits as a commitment to the equitable access to ideas and resources for the creative liberation of all people.



Yidan Zeng (TADA! Youth Theater) is a graduate of the Brown-RISD Dual Degree in Computer Science and Glass and is fascinated by liminal spaces. Her studio work explores intimacy between people and within places through performance, installation, and situational happenings. An avid member of Gendo Taiko, a Japanese drumming group, she also enjoys making/eating good food and finding the perfect nooks for tiny things.

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