

SANDRA SHIH PARKS, MFA
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EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, Dance and Choreography
Smith College, Northampton, MA, 2007

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Dance Performance
New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, 1999

ACADEMIC PROFILE

Educator, choreographer, arts leader, and filmmaker with more than twenty-five years of experience in higher education, arts education, and nonprofit leadership. Extensive experience teaching undergraduate dance technique, choreography, dance history, pedagogy, and interdisciplinary courses while leading academic programs and community partnerships. Committed to student success through embodied learning, curriculum innovation, and the integration of creative practice, teaching, and community engagement.

Areas of Teaching Expertise:

Ballet Technique • Modern Technique • Contemporary Technique • Dance History •
Dance Appreciation • Dance Pedagogy • Dance Composition • Dance, Race & Gender •
Chinese Dance & Culture • Arts in Society • Senior Seminar • Study Abroad Programs

Instructional Technologies:

Canvas • Blackboard • Moodle • Zoom • Microsoft Teams • Online & Hybrid Course
Design • Quality Matters Certified Online Educator

HIGHER EDUCATION APPOINTMENTS

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Director, Dance Program / Teaching Assistant Professor, 2017–2021

Courses:

Dance Appreciation (traditional and online)
Dance Composition
Dance History
Ballet Technique
Modern Technique
Senior Seminar and Project
Dance, Race and Gender (Honors)
Explore East Asian Cultures through Dance (Honors)

Nassau Community College

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2016-2017

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Head of Dance Program / Assistant Professor, 2013–2016

Courses:

Advanced Ballet/Contemporary Technique
Chinese Dance and Culture
Dance Composition
Dance Theater
Introduction to Dance (traditional and online)
Dance History
Study Abroad Programs (China, Spain, Taiwan)

Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

Assistant Professor, 2010–2013

Courses:

Dance History I & II
Dance Pedagogy
Arts in Society
Chinese Dance and Culture
Choreography
Senior Seminar
Senior Project
Ballet IV
Classical Repertoire
Pointe/Pas de Deux
Modern II–IV
Study Abroad Program (Taiwan)

Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2008–2010

Regis College, Weston, MA

Adjunct Faculty, 2009–2010

Colleges of the Fenway, Boston, MA

Instructor, 2008-2010

Boston University, MA

Instructor, 2007-2010

Smith College, Northampton, MA

Graduate Teaching Fellow, 2005–2007

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Colorado Conservatory of Dance

Executive & Artistic Director, 2023–2026

- Designed and revised curriculum
- Curated and directed artistic programming and productions
- Hired, supervised, evaluated, and mentored faculty
- Built partnerships with community organizations
- Communicated regularly with students and families
- Taught and mentored students

Choate Rosemary Hall

Director of Arts / Director of the Paul Mellon Arts Center, 2021–2023

- Directed curriculum planning and revision across the Arts Department
- Curated and directed programming for the Paul Mellon Arts Center and two professional performance venues
- Managed departmental and venue budgets
- Hired, recruited, evaluated, and mentored faculty and staff
- Established partnerships with community arts organizations and external collaborators
- Advised students and communicated regularly with families

Women in Dance

Founder & Executive Director, 2013–Present

- Directed strategic planning and programming of the biennial international conference
- Curated conference performances, screenings, and scholarly presentations
- Secured grants, sponsorships, and donor support
- Managed organizational budgeting, marketing, and strategic communications
- Developed partnerships with artists and institutions in more than 50 countries

Drexel University Dance Program

Program Director, 2019–2021

- Directed curriculum planning and revision
- Led online program development and implementation
- Managed program budgeting
- Recruited and advised undergraduate students
- Hired, recruited, evaluated, and mentored faculty
- Established partnerships with community organizations and external collaborators
- Supervised senior projects and mentored student research and creative work

Louisiana State University Dance Program

Head of Dance Program, 2013–2016

- Increased program enrollment from approximately 150 to more than 250 students per semester.
- Expanded course offerings by 50%.
- Directed curriculum planning and development.
- Managed program budgeting.
- Recruited faculty and students.
- Established partnerships with community organizations and external collaborators.
- Secured funding through fundraising initiatives and external partnerships.
- Directed annual dance concerts and departmental productions.

STUDENT ADVISING & MENTORSHIP

- Advised undergraduate dance majors and minors
- Mentored student choreographers and performers
- Supervised senior projects and capstone experiences
- Directed study abroad programs in Asia and Europe
- Mentored students pursuing graduate education, professional performance, arts administration, arts education, and interdisciplinary careers
- Directed and supervised student productions and performance projects.

SCHOLARSHIP & CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Research Interests

Dance History, Dance Pedagogy, Cross-Cultural Dance Studies, Chinese Dance and Culture, Embodied Learning, Arts Leadership, Women in Leadership, Interdisciplinary Performance, and Community Engagement Through Dance

Documentary Films

Taiwanese Aboriginal Dance and Culture (Tsou)

Producer, Director, Film Editor, Dance Specialist, and Interview Translator

Premiere: January 2019, Philadelphia, PA

The Heritage of Chinese Culture and Dance

Co-Producer, Co-Director, Film Editor, Dance Specialist, and Interview Translator

Premiere: January 2013, Kennesaw, GA

Interdisciplinary Projects & Initiatives

Women in Dance International Leadership Conference (2015–Present)

Founder & Executive Producer

Founded and produced five international conferences engaging artists, scholars, educators, filmmakers, and cultural leaders from more than 50 countries through performances, lectures, workshops, and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Women in Dance International Film Festival & Screening Series (2021–Present)

Founder & Executive Producer

Established an international dance film festival in collaboration with partners in Japan, Italy, and the United States, expanding interdisciplinary collaboration among filmmakers, choreographers, scholars, and public audiences.

Romeo & Juliet: The Choice (2018–Present)

Creator & Executive Producer

Created an interdisciplinary production integrating dance, live music, immersive visual design, audience participation, and educational programming in collaboration with concert pianist Frederic Chiu and a multidisciplinary creative team.

Interactive Media & Arts Performance (2015–2016)

Louisiana State University

Directed Louisiana State University's first interdisciplinary performance integrating dance, theatre, music, media arts, and technology, leading to a subsequent TEDx presentation.

Three-Dimensional Dance Education Platform (2020–2021)

Drexel University

Collaborated with faculty in dance, motion capture technology, and software development to create an innovative three-dimensional dance education platform integrating artistic practice and emerging technologies.

Selected Choreography

Home is in Me (2024)

Funded by National Endowment of Arts Challenge Grant

Funded by Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, Denver, Colorado

Artificial Reality (2022)

Invisible (2021, 2026)

Invited to 2025 Florence Biennale, Italy

Romeo & Juliet: The Choice (2018, 2022, 2025)
Funded by Rankin Scholar Fund, Westphal College, Drexel University
Presented at 2019 APAP, New York, NY

Life Behind the Palace Walls (2019)

Fo(u)r Women (2018)
Invited and presented by 2018 Beijing Dance Festival
Presented by 2019 Palm Springs Dance Festival

Us (2016)
Invited and presented by 2016 Beijing Dance Festival
Invited and presented by 2017 The Series, New York City

Music for Athletes (2016)
Commissioned by the 2016 International Prokofiev Symposium

Arranged Reality (2015)

Journey to Congo Square (2015)
2016 American College Dance Festival Gala Selection

My Hero, My Tragedy (2014)

Another Adventure (2014, 2015, 2016)
2014 Crossing Boundaries Performance, Curated by Marcia Monroe
2015 American College Dance Festival Gala Selection

Additional choreography available upon request

SELECTED PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

42nd World Dance Congress, Miami, FL Sandra Parks, Choreographer	2015
10 Tiny Dances, Baton Rouge, LA Mina Estrada, Choreographer	2015
Shared Choreographers' Concert, Cambridge, MA Sandra Parks, Choreographer	2008, 2009
"For Love of June", Northampton, MA Cathy Nicoli, Choreographer	2007

Dance Collective Dance Company, Boston, MA Micki Taylor-Pinney, Artistic Director	2003-2005
Impulse Dance Company, Boston, MA Adrienne Hawkins, Artistic Director	2004
Bosoma Dance Company, Boston, MA Hooper/Djelassi, Directors	2004
Producers Showcase, New York, NY Jonathan Cerullo, Choreographer	2000
<i>King and I</i> national/international tour Big League Theatricals	1999-2000

SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Westphal College Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
Westphal College Dean's Search Committee
Westphal College Faculty Affairs Committee
LSU International Committee
LSU Retention Committee
Kennesaw State General Education Council
Multiple Faculty Search Committees

SELECTED GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Taiwan Fellowship
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Project Grant
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Challenge Grant
Drexel University Rankin Scholarship Fund
Kennesaw State Faculty Incentive Fund
Kennesaw State Global Engagement Fund
Smith College Teaching Fellowship
Gretchen Moran Fellowship

SELECTED MASTER CLASSES & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Beijing Dance Festival
School of the Arts Singapore
National Taiwan University of Arts
Arts Schools Network Conference
ACM SIGGRAPH

Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts
La Manufacture Conservatory (France)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), Member
Journal of Performing Arts Leadership in Higher Education, Curator
Arts Schools Network, Board Member
International Dance Council CID