



## **MIYA HISAKA SILVA:**

Dancer, teacher, choreographer, Executive Director, Producing Artistic Director, urban planner, national and international presenter/producer, fundraiser, with a 35-year commitment to diversity, social justice and excellence in the arts. One of nation's movers and shakers in the arts scene since 1984, Ms. Hisaka carries the legacy of some of the world's most renowned dance leaders as well as internationally recognized for her groundbreaking work in post war reconstruction and local municipal development in Latin America.

Founder/Artistic Director of 3 professional dance companies: DC Contemporary Dance Theatre (DC's first multicultural dance company who served as cultural ambassador representing the United States for a 10-year world tour sponsored by the State Department); El Teatro de Danza Contemporanea de El Salvador (first professional company in the history of El Salvador); and Classical Rep Dance Theatre (one of the East Coast's first adult ballet companies). Her work has been commissioned by the Kennedy Center, The Smithsonian Institution, Dance Place, the Central American Olympics, the Cleveland Clinic's Art & Medicine Institute, Ministry of Education in El Salvador, Cowell Theatre, Santa Clara, University of San Francisco, among others. She has worked at The White House as one of President Obama's Producers for Latino Programs, has maintained an annual season at The Kennedy Center for 3 decades, to bringing dance for a first time to 38 of the poorest Salvadoran rural pueblos after their 12 year civil war. She has worked with legendary music icons, Sting and Bobby McFerrin in the creation of original dance works, and been presented in international human rights festivals with Bill T Jones. Her groundbreaking internationally recognized outreach programs with dancers, musicians, and maras (youth gangs) has been funded by the World Bank, Inter-American Bank, and have become their global models.

Originally trained and/or danced with Alvin Ailey, Martha Graham, Eric Hawkins and Merce Cunningham, Gloria Contreras, Mary Day, Gene Hill Sagan and Kevin Jeff, among others. She has trained hundreds of dancers who are current members of prestigious companies such as, American Ballet Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, The Stuttgart Ballet, Alvin Ailey, and Alonzo King's LINES Ballet. A graduate of Columbia University with a BA in Urban Studies and an MPA from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs/Syracuse University. Former Director of dance programs at: Georgetown, Catholic University and The Central American University in San Salvador (home of the renown Jesuits). As a fundraiser, she has raised over 30 million dollars and created 4 major dance facilities at: Georgetown's Davis Center for the Performing Arts; La UCA; The 8<sup>th</sup> St. Studio in DC's Gallery Row Arts District; The Center for Leadership in the Arts in San Salvador (now part of the Ministry of El Salvador); and at StageDor, Sausalito, CA.

As an urban planner, she was integral in the redevelopment of DC's Gallery Row Arts, the 14<sup>th</sup> and U Arts Districts, where she served on DC's Mayor's Task Force for Arts/Economic Development and a Panelist for the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; a Public Service Fellow to the Maxwell School; an Arts Fellow at the National Endowment for the Arts; and recipient of numerous DC's Mayor's Arts Awards with a 30-year track record in funding from local to international funders. Former faculty at the Washington School of Ballet under the direction of Mary Day, Catholic, George Washington University, Joy of Motion Dance Center, and in El Salvador at the National School of Dance Morena Celarie. Founder of El Salvador's first professional dance company, El Teatro de Danza Contemporanea de El Salvador and the creator of their School and technical training institute, The Center for Leadership and the Arts, today a part of the Ministry of Education. A recent recipient of the University of San Francisco's Jesuit Fellowship Social Justice in the Arts Program, and former faculty at Alonzo King LINES the Marin Dance Theatre, Interim Director of Dance at San Domenico Prep School, and is a Somatics/Pilates Personal Trainer at the Claremont Hotel/Spa Fitness Center. Beyond Ms. Hisaka's international recognition for her commitment to excellence in the arts, she is known for her unique ability for starting up and creating successful businesses and arts institutions from ground zero.

She is thrilled to join forces with EBCPA. She truly believes in the power of dance and its ability to heal and inspire. She is currently Founder/Artistic Director of El Teatro de Danza Contemporanea de El Salvador: [www.teatrodedanza.org](http://www.teatrodedanza.org)