

VIVER **BRASIL** ANNUAL REPORT

2017



VIVER BRASIL 2017 AT A GLANCE



1,200
Tickets sold

48 + 14
Dancers Musicians employed



3,412
Facebook likes



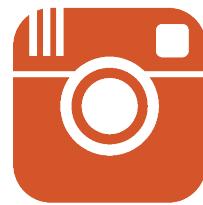
2,094
Email subscribers



1,500
Students served



50
Community Classes hosted



1,806
Instagram likes



395
Twitter likes

VIVER BRASIL ANNUAL REPORT

In this report, we reflect on where we began and our life leading up to our 20th year as well as imagine our future of preserving the legacy of Afro-Brazilian dance, music and culture in Los Angeles and around the world.

our YEAR

In 2017, we have expanded and redefined how we engage community in Los Angeles and around the nation.

We enlivened **the sold-out Ford Amphitheatre** with two world premieres by choreographers Marina Magalhães and Vera Passos and **provided over 300 free tickets to the performance**. Our Cooking Samba shows have been performed throughout LA County at unique venues such as the Brand Library, the Fowler Museum, and the Getty Center. We have also directly impacted over **1,500 youth and families** through our arts education partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District. We are proud to have maintained strong connections to the master artists who inspire our work. In addition, we hosted Afro-Brazilian cultural authority and elder, Dona Cici and choreographer, Vera Passos, both from Salvador, Bahia.

We've continued our **Samba in the Streets** program and have engaged both youth and adults in Leimert Park for the past 3 years with our unique art form. We are pleased to announce that in 2018, Viver Brasil will be bringing Samba in the Streets to Birmingham, Selma and Lowndes County, Alabama, the birthplaces of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. Our commitment to engaging communities has been recognized through a national grant from Dance/USA and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Con Cariño



Natalie Marrero, Executive Director



Linda Yudin, Founder and Artistic Director



Luiz Badaró, Founder and Artistic Director

Dança

Cultura

Música



Photographer Jorge Vismara

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OUR HISTORY

Viver Brasil was founded in 1997 by Artistic Directors Linda Yudin and Luiz Badaró. Viver Brasil was created with the goal of honoring Brazil's African legacy through bold contemporary dance theatre that increases awareness of the rich history and culture from which Afro-Brazilian dance and music emerged. Through performances, arts education, community engagement and cultural exchange programs to Bahia, Brazil, the company establishes a portal through which people can experience and share in the beautiful, mythic and vibrant stories of Afro-Brazilian culture.

"I felt that one of the most passionate ways to be able to bring to life all of the research and teachings was to form a professional dance company where we could be creative, where we could innovate, where we could honor the ancestral heritage of Afro-Brazilian culture"

-Linda Yudin

2

Founders

14

Premieres

30+

Cities toured nationally

5

Countries toured



Photographer Gennia Cui



Photographer Kia LaBeija



Photographer Ivan Kashinsky



Photographer Genna Cui

"Irrepressible... Spirited performance... Brazilian to the core."

-Los Angeles Times

"Ancestral spirits come whirling, rippling, and pulsating to life in the works of Viver Brasil."

-Dance Magazine

OUR PERFORMANCES

48

Dancers

Based in Los Angeles, Viver Brasil reflects the vitality of its global home with members hailing, in addition to Los Angeles, from Knoxville TN, Washington DC, Salvador Bahia and Rio de Janeiro Brazil. Diverse origins aside, Viver Brasil company members embody profound mastery of Brazil's dance and music traditions; for example, traditional orixa dance and music vocabulary, samba, contemporary Afro-Brazilian styles that include dança afro, Bloco Afro, capoeira and the social dance, forró. The company is also steeped in Silvestre and Dunham modern dance techniques. In addition, choreographers Rosangela Silvestre and Luiz Badaró have paved the way to cultivate company members as emerging choreographers. Company musicians assert skills in and mastery of African Diaspora music traditions that include, but are not limited to, Brazilian and West African forms. Some are also accomplished orchestral musicians.

14

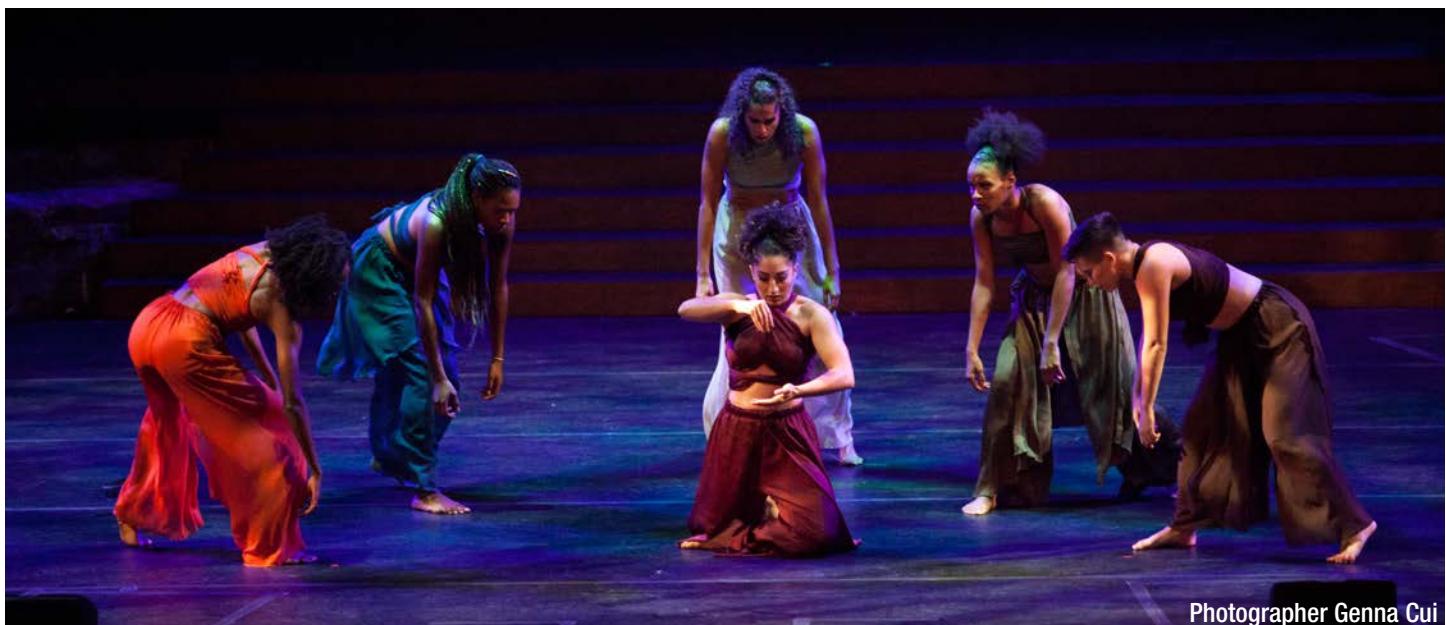
Musicians

5

Choreographers

4

Composers



Photographer Genna Cui



Photographer Linda Yudin



Photographer Linda Yudin



Photographer Linda Yudin

OUR OUTREACH

Cooking Samba

Our signature family program takes audiences on a cultural journey with electrifying Afro Brazilian dance and music to venues where audiences experience joyful color, thrilling rhythms, and communal celebration. This performance is a narrated 45 minute show that includes the royal orixá dances, riveting capoeira, joyful samba and Bahian carnival with live music and an interactive dance workshop.

Arts education programs

Programs offered include residencies for K-12 in partnership with LA's Best and has served at least 1,500 students through a 20 week residency throughout 36 LA Best partner sites. In addition, we facilitate community workshops through the Ford's JAM Series and residencies and master classes upon request.

Samba in the Streets

Our free community engagement program is modeled on Salvador, Bahia's Bloco Afro parading organizations and teaches Afro-Brazilian dance, drumming, and song. Through support from Dance/USA and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, this program was refined by offering separate youth and adult classes in Leimert Park in partnership with KAOS Network. Since the inception of this program, Viver Brasil has served over 500 youth and adults from 51 unique LA County zip codes.



6

Programs

1,500

Students served

269

Communities served
nationally

Photographer Fowler Museum

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Photographer Susan Goines

OUR OUTREACH

Community Class

Classes have met every Tuesday since 2000 at Dance Arts Academy, teaching Afro-Brazilian technique dance classes for 1,000 participants each year led by founding artistic directors Linda Yudin and Luiz Badaró with special guest from Bahia through the Viver Brasil Institute.

Dancing at the Source

Our 15 day cultural immersion to Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, began in 1997. This program has provided over 500 travelers with daily dance, music, and curated cultural tours as well as Afro-Brazilian culture classes taught by experienced faculty.

Viver Brasil Institute

We have hosted at least 12 pioneering masters and contemporary virtuosos from Bahia who join Co-Artistic Directors Yudin and Badaró and provide scholarly Afro-Brazilian history, dance, music and culture workshops. This program began through the support of the Brazilian Ministry of External Relations to develop robust economic opportunities for these artist to share their practice with Bahia's sister city, Los Angeles.

1,000
Participants

500+
Travelers

12
Masters



Photographer Linda Yudin



Irrepressible

Photographer Genna Cui



Spirited

Photographed Denise Leitner



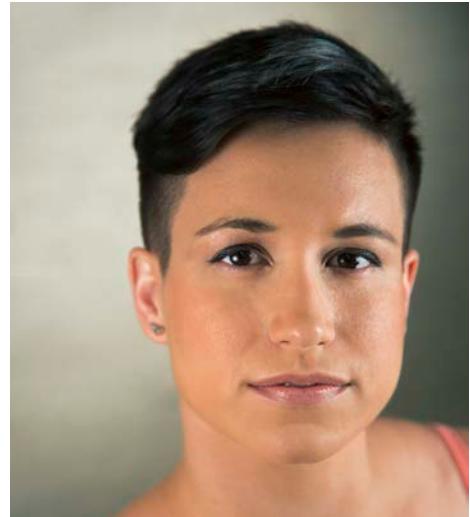
Outspoken

Photographer Genna Cui

2017 SPOTLIGHT

Marina Magalhães Choreographer

a Brazilian-born dance maker, researcher, and educator, earned her MFA from UCLA's World Arts and Cultures program and has performed with Victoria Marks, Maria Bauman, CONTRA-TIEMPO (Assistant Artistic Director 2009-2014), and most recently with Viver Brasil. Her work has been performed at REDCAT, CounterPulse, Matisong Festival (Botswana), and The Wits Theatre (South Africa). She received the LA Weekly Theater Award for Best Choreography. She's been Guest Artist at Cal State LA and Duke University, and her article, "You Dance Good For A White Girl!: Musings on Race, (De)Colonization, and Belonging from a Light-Skinned Latina," is forthcoming in Contact Quarterly.



Cor Da Pele [Skin Color] is a new dance theater piece set on Viver Brasil Dance Company by Magalhães for the company's 20th Anniversary event at the Ford Amphitheatre in Los Angeles on September 2017. Magalhães draws from her unique background in Afro-Latin and contemporary dance practices to create dance theater grounded in subversive politics and deeply personal storytelling. In line with Magalhães's artistic approach, Cor Da Pele is a direct response to the charged racial tensions currently surfacing within both Brazil and the United States.

"That is, in many ways, my relationship to black dance—learning this embodied knowledge of radical joy and playful resistance, through the dances of my African ancestors."

-Marina Magalhães



Photographer Jorge Vismara



Photographer Kia Labeija

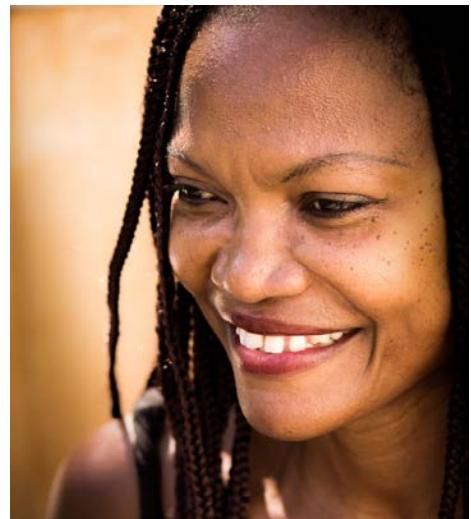
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2017 SPOTLIGHT

Vera Passos

Choreographer

is considered one of Salvador Bahia's most elegant and eloquent contemporary Afro-Brazilian dancers. The Los Angeles Times called Passos, "exotic, strong but sylphlike." Passos has danced for Jorge Silva Dance Company and the acclaimed Balé Folclórico da Bahia touring throughout Brazil, Europe, Asia, the US and South America for ten years. Passos began her dance training at the age of 14 at the State of Bahia's Escola de Dança subsequently training in the Silvestre Technique in 1992 with Rosangela Silvestre. Silvestre's protégé, Passos has taught the technique since 2002 in Salvador and throughout South America, Europe and the US. Vera performed with jazzman Steve Coleman throughout Europe in 2002 and 2003. Passos choreographs for Tocandomblé and in 2010, participated in the first annual Viver Brasil Institute in Los Angeles as a technical trainer and visiting artist. In 2015, she premiered her first full-length work for Viver Brasil, Peace Transcends, at the Aratani Theatre in Los Angeles. In 2016 she choreographed and performed in the company's Motumbaxé for the Olympic Celebration at the Hollywood Bowl.



Photographer Marguerite de Bourgoing

Pra Onde O Samba Me Leva [Where Samba May Take Me], a world premiere in 2017, pays homage to the great sambadeira, Joselita Moreira da Cruz Silva, affectionately known as Zelita, whose life was dedicated to the preservation and continuity of samba from the Recôncavo (interior) region of Bahia. Bahian choreographer Vera Passos explores the steps and rhythms of the samba chula style with the intensity in which the late Zelita lived her life—with joy, playfulness and a deep corporeal connection to her African ancestry.



Photographer Gia Trovela



Photographer Gia Trovela



Photographer Gia Trovela



Photographer Unknown

2017 SPOTLIGHT

Shelby Williams-Gonzalez

Choreographer

has danced with LA-based groups such as Diana MacNeil and the Posthouse Dance Group and with Christine Suarez. She has a Bachelor in Dance and Anthropology from UC Berkeley. While in Berkeley she was a member of the Kendra Kimbrough Dance Ensemble, Patricia Reedy Dancers and Robert Moses' Kin. Shelby completed the Silvestre Technique certificate program in Salvador, Bahia. As an arts administrator, Shelby is the Development Director of artworxLA. As an artist, she draws from her diverse foundation in contemporary dance, martial arts, and traditional and contemporary Afro-Brazilian movement. Shelby has choreographed 3 works for Viver Brasil, Para Xaxa (2013), Ajé (2014) and in 2016 she received rave reviews by the Los Angeles Times for Revealed which debuted at the Music Center's Moves After Dark Series. Shelby joined Viver Brasil in 2004.



Revealed In this timely mythical narrative, the three all-powerful wives of Xangô step beyond the archetype: Oiá-lansã, warrior goddess of the winds and ancestral world who is able to sever the lifeline; Oxum, queen of the sweet waters, protector of children, beauty and the essence of self-love; and Obá, robust hunter goddess of the earth, symbol of renewal and independence, remove their crowns and test their powers as mothers and activists responding to the issue of senseless dying of black and brown youth. What of a goddess's fragility? Where does her strength live? And what of the divine queen, Nanã, who cares for the fallen spirits, and Iemanjá, the ever-present mother nurturer? The vitality of ancient wisdom is revealed in this story of strength, truth, courage and humanity.

“... power
and passion...
laughter
and joy from
a different
dimension.”

— Taos News / New Mexico



Photographer Genna Cui

OUR ARCHIVE

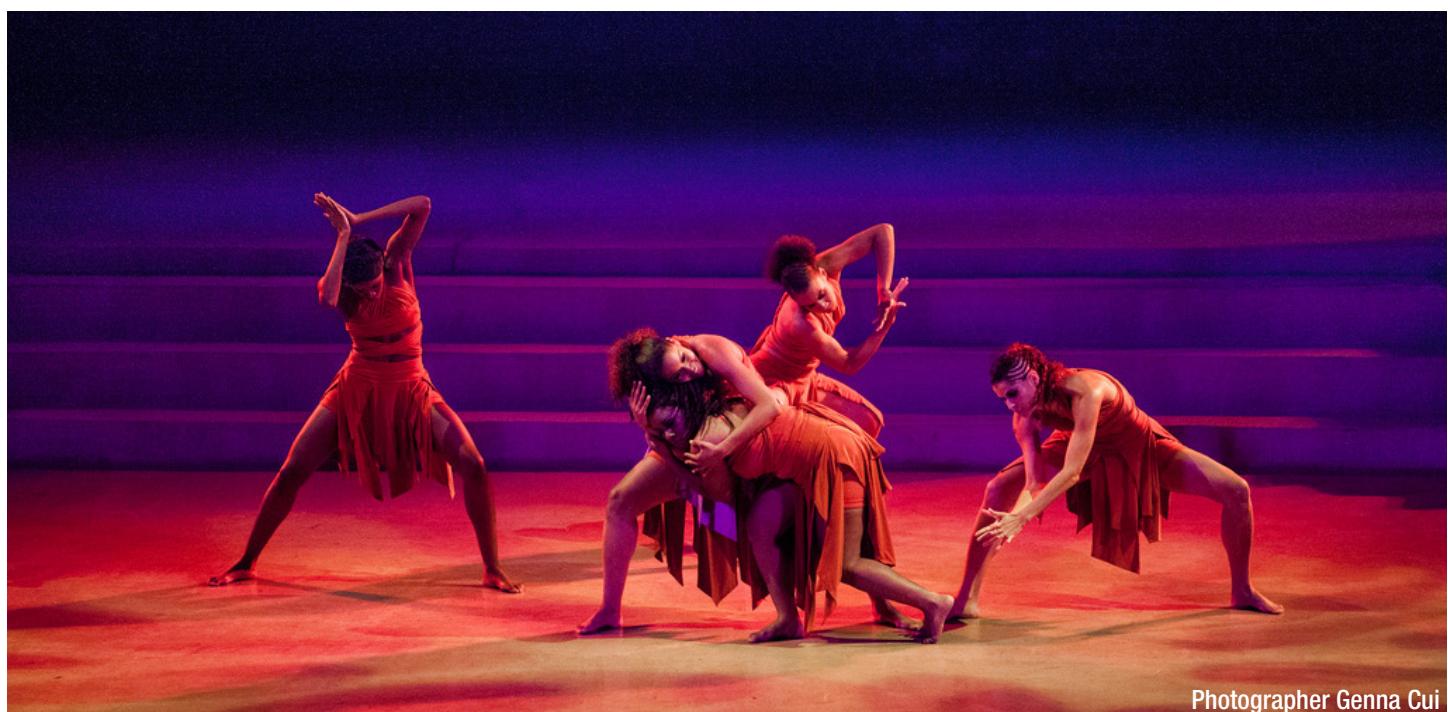
This year we've begun to develop our historical documentation which includes old contracts, grant applications, photographs, and videos. In November of 2016, we started to organize and archive all of our costumes dating back to some of our first performances. In May of this year, we finished the now Costume Room with over 100 boxes of organized and inventoried costumes, props and accessories serving as one of Viver Brasil's largest assets.

We have a lot of archiving to continue and the interns that worked with us this year developed and implemented an archive database to begin the process of documentation. Although there is more organizing and recording left to do, these interns developed the structure to further archive our assets. We understand the importance of this archive for it serves as one of the only Afro-Brazilian dance, music and culture archives in the county.

20+
Years of history

40+
Original costumes

33,000+
Archived images



Photographer Genna Cui

OUR FINANCIALS

2017 Revenue

\$325,769

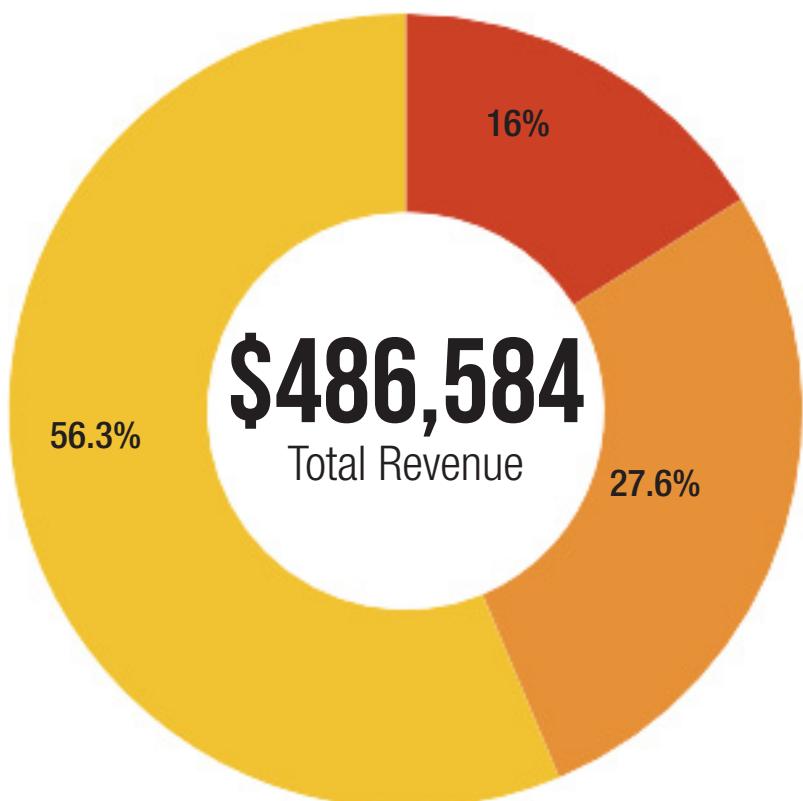
Earned Income

\$159,863

Contributed Income

\$92,834

Grant Income



OUR FINANCIALS

2017 Expenses

\$397,039

Artistic Salaries and
Wages

\$77,786

Administrative

\$29,004

Production

\$24,566

Operational

\$5,625

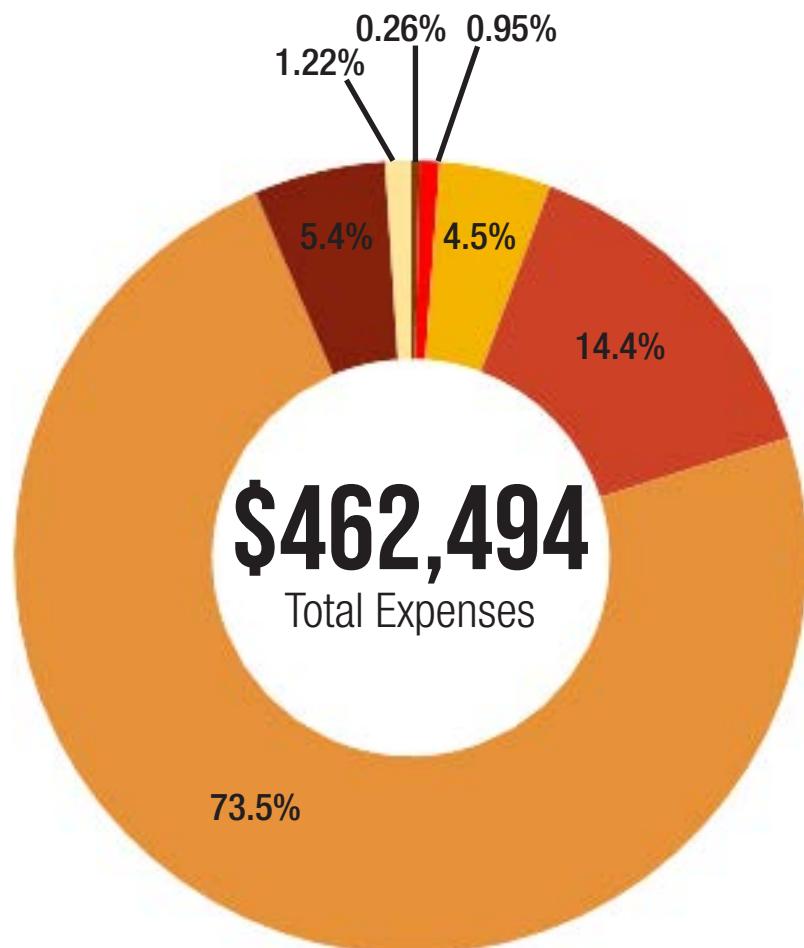
Travel and Transportation

\$4,379

Marketing

\$1,881

Fundraising





Photographer Genna Cui

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OUR FUTURE

In 2018, we have ambitious goals about how we will continue to share our work.

- Funding and maintaining full-time employee status for the Executive Director position and growing the administrative staff to support the demand for national and global programming and touring opportunities.
- Provide equitable salaries to Viver Brasil artists (dancers and musicians) that meet California's State Minimum Wage and Employment Law and to expand performance and repertory, which includes systematic training with both dancers and musicians.
- Expand Samba in the Streets from a seasonal free program to an annual free program and expand across Los Angeles County.

A full-time Executive Director currently works with the Artistic Directors and Founders, and as the sole administrator increasing the organization's efforts toward crafting a robust, productive working environment. Viver Brasil has, as a goal, established equitable opportunities for Afro Brazilian dance, music and culture to thrive in Los Angeles County, around the nation and worldwide.



Photographer Tim Agler



*“Brazilian Gold: troupe taps
into nation’s rich vein of dance.”*

-Albuquerque Journal

Photographer Kia LaBeija

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OUR SUPPORTERS

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Dance Arts Academy
The Gabriella's Foundation-
Everybody Dance
KAOS Network
LA's BEST

CULTURAL PARTNERS

Brand Library & Arts Center
California African American Museum
City of Hope
The Ford Theatres
The Fowler Museum at UCLA
Pitzer College
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Southern California
University of California, Irvine
The Village School
Lula Washington Dance Theatre
Ebony Repertory Theatre at the Nate
Holden Performing Arts Complex

SEASONAL SPONSORS

By the Way Catering
Consulate General of Brazil
Fusicology

FUNDERS

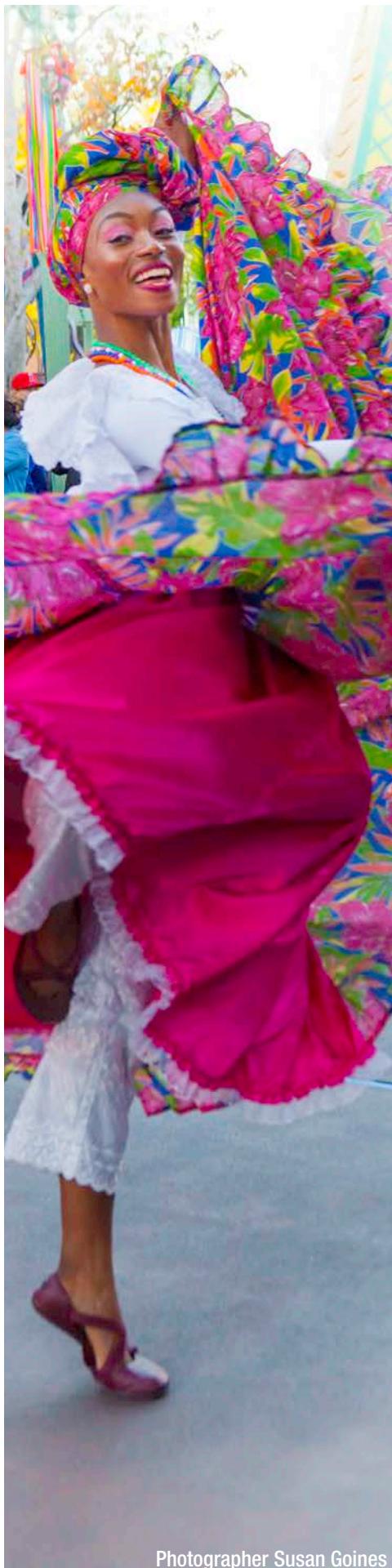
Foundations
The Durfee Foundation
The Herb Alpert Foundation
The Flourish Foundation
New England Foundation for the Arts
California Community Foundation
Dance/USA & Engaging Dance
Audiences through generous support
from the Doris Duke Charitable
Foundation

Corporations
Turkish Airlines
TAM Airlines
JetBlue Airways
Aero Mexico
Remo

Government
Los Angeles County Arts
Commission
Department of Cultural Affairs, City of
Los Angeles
California Arts Council
National Endowment for the Arts



Photographer Genna Cui



Photographer Susan Goines

OUR TEAM

FOUNDERS & ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Linda Yudin

Luiz Badaró

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Natalie Marrero

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bobi Lott, *Board Chair*

Angela Gulliver

Saundra Lang

Linda Yudin, *Ex-officio member*

Roxanne S. Alessandro, *Secretary*

James Nash

Erika Hirugami

Suzy Foster

DANCERS

Concert Company

Vera Passos, *Choreographer*

Shelby Williams-Gonzalez,
Choreographer

Marina Magalhães, *Choreographer*

Rachel Hernandez, *Rehearsal
Director*

Ajah Hays Muhammad

Ashley Blanchard

Bianca Medina

Laila Abdullah

Samad Raheem Guerra

Special Project Dancers

Adama Ideozu

Adebola Bola Afolabi

Analecia Guthrie

Andrea Rodriguez

Anita Akhavan

Emeka Simmons

Haniyyah Muhammad

Indira Leneman

Jade Schuster

Jahanna Blunt

Joseph Reynolds

Jordyn Wheeler Louis

Julie Malinsky

Kara Mack

Lauren McMillan

Myeisha Hall

Natali Micciche

Nicolea Pettis

Rachael Wong

Rosalie Tucker

Samantha Goodman

Sarah Marsh

MUSICIANS

Alberto Lopez

Avila Santo

Drew Love

Emina Shimanuki, *Singer*

Fabio S. de Souza

Felicia "Onyi" Richards

Jose Ricardo Sousa

Kahlil Cummings, *Co-Music Director*

Kana Shimanuki, *Singer*

Katia Moraes, *Singer*

Marco Gibi dos Santos

Mario Pallais

Robert Easton

Simon Carroll, *Co-Music Director*

Tyler Hunt

COSTUMES

Rosalba Gama, *Costume Designer*

Rosalinda Medina, *Costume
Designer*

Maria de Lourdes Silvestre dos

Santos, *Costume Designer*

Elida Berry-Donat, *Costume
Coordinator*

Angelica Flores, *Seamstress*

Pat Guillem, *Seamstress*

PUBLICIST

Allison Van Etten

CONSULTANT

Anna B. Scott

OUR GROWTH

This year we welcomed the following people to our team.

SUMMER INTERNS

Larry Li
LA County Arts Commission
Arts Intern
Marketing and Archive

Isabella Kestermann
Volunteer
Marketing and Archive

Arianna Rivera
Volunteer
Development and Archive

DANCERS

Tiffany Caldas
Indira Leneman
Andrea Rodriguez
Adama Ideozu

MUSICIANS

Alberto Lopez
Emina Shimanuki
Felicia "Onyi" Richards
Denys Cardoso
Tyler Hunt



Photographer Jorge Vismara



THANK YOU

Photographer Jorge Vismara

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