



Ashlee Dawne McKinnon

Biography

Ashlee McKinnon started her teaching career in independent schools in Maryland in 2011. She has taught middle and high school dance curriculum at Sandy Spring Friends, Capital City Public Charter School, and St. Andrew's Episcopal School. A graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park and Princeton Theological Seminary, she has channeled her passion for arts advocacy, creative expression, and enriching youth into an impactful career. Currently, Ashlee is the Director of Education Programs at the DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative. Ashlee remains active in Maryland's arts scene as a teaching artist with Story Tapestries and Imagination Stage, and as a grant reviewer and ambassador for Maryland State Arts Council and Arts Education in Maryland Schools. Ashlee has been blessed to be featured on *CBS This Morning* as a teacher, dance at The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, and be published in *Black Dance Magazine* as an arts advocate.

Statement of interest and intent

My interest in serving on the General Board - Community Organization of the MDEA Board of Directors stems from my passion for education and arts advocacy. Being a dance educator in the classroom for 10 years demonstrated the need for enriching arts experiences, not only among the student body but also, among the administration and local community. The impact of dance education can be felt beyond the classroom and in community spaces when there is adequate, consistent, and engaging advocacy taking place. My goal as a dance educator, administrator, and advocate is to bring each community opportunities to engage in dance experiences ranging from taking technique classes, attending performances, engaging in dance for health purposes, and bringing different communities together through the power of movement. I believe that community organization around dance education is vital for elevating the diversity found within a community, and the schools that connect with it.