

KIRAN RAJAGOPALAN

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Professional Summary

Visionary arts administrator, dancer, choreographer, educator, and notary public with 15 years of experience in arts education and non-profit organizations. Extensive background in senior project management, grants administration, and arts program development. Administrative and artistic work rooted in DEI, culturally responsive pedagogy, and social justice to bridge communities of color through art. Over 25 years of dance training and performance experience in several world dance forms.

Education

M.A. – Performance Studies – New York University (2015)

Institute of Performing Arts Student Council

M.A. – Bharatanatyam – University of Madras (2010)

First Class Outstanding

B.A. – Behavioral Neuroscience & Spanish – Boston University (2008)

Magna Cum Laude

Relevant Work Experience

2022-Present Senior Program Director – Arts Horizons (Englewood, NJ)

- Managed annual portfolio of over 200 arts programs through direct supervision of Arts Horizons New York, New York, & Assemblies departments (~90% of earned income revenue)
- Secured over \$400,000 in grant-based programs through city agencies & several corporations including: NYC Department of Education, Department of Cultural Affairs, City Council, Department of Youth & Cultural Development, & PNC Bank
- Developed innovative & customizable arts-in-education programming centering culturally responsive pedagogy, linguistic diversity, wellness, & social justice with robust evaluation protocols
- Part of senior management team to set yearly organizational budget, assess quarterly goals, & lead strategic planning for capacity building and expansion

2022 Interim Executive Director – Arts Horizons (Englewood, NJ)

- Successfully oversaw programmatic, financial, & organizational operations while maintaining Program Director responsibilities
- Bolstered board involvement with several ongoing initiatives for organizational restructuring, consultant contracting, & debt reduction
- Hired Consultant Office Assistant to build capacity & reduce staff burnout in response to major increase in program requests
- Initiated strategic planning, organizational budget, & departmental earned income goals with capacity-building, expansion, staff wellness, & fundraising as key priorities

2020-2022 Director of New York Programs – Arts Horizons (Englewood, NJ)

- Skillfully pivoted department through COVID-19 by developing innovative arts programs promoting community wellness, culturally-responsive pedagogy, & social-emotional learning
- Organized professional development series for teaching artists to transition to virtual/remote learning platforms based on artistic genre

- Launched pilot program for teaching artist training through artist-to-artist mentorship & co-teaching opportunities
 - Exceeded department earned income goal by \$200,000 through highly-customized artist residencies & family workshops centering DEI, Social Justice, & Social Emotional Learning
 - Secured & managed over \$200,000 in grant-based programs for early childhood students & students with special needs in NYC schools, hospitals, & community-based settings
- 2020-2021 Adjunct Faculty – Marymount Manhattan College (New York, NY)
- Introduced third-year dance majors to technical, aesthetic, & cultural aspects of Bharatanatyam applicable to their own practice
 - Developed novel exercises with composer Moira Lo Bianco to hone musicality through non-Western choreographic & musical structures
- 2019-2020 Business Operations Manager – Nritya Creations (Marlboro, NJ)
- Maintained accurate enrollment, registration, payment, & attendance logs in MindBody for Nritya Creations Academy of Dance
 - Secured 501(c)(3) status & three board members for Nritya Creations Performing Company (NCPC)
- 2016-2020 Program Coordinator – Arts Horizons (Englewood, NJ)
- Provided onsite and remote support to administrators, faculty, staff, & teaching artists engaged with arts education programs in New York community-based organizations (CBOs) and schools
 - Developed formal evaluation protocols & drafted site visit reports to assess impact & efficacy of arts programs
 - Drafted teaching artist contracts & assisted with budgets, reports, proposals, & marketing
 - Conducted professional development (PD) sessions on blogging in the classroom & created online lesson plans for boosting literacy through poetry & dance.
- 2015-Present Teaching Artist – Independent Contractor (NY/NJ)
- Specialized in arts education residencies integrating science, reading comprehension, poetry, & Indian classical dance

Languages

English (Native/Bilingual Fluency) *Tamil* (Native/Bilingual Fluency)
Spanish (Full Professional Proficiency) *French* (Professional Working Proficiency)

Skills

Adobe Creative Suite: Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, & Acrobat DC
Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, & Access
Industry-Specific Apps: Blackboard, Canva, OpenTable, MindBody, & SPSS

Affiliations & Certifications

- *Notary Public*, State of New Jersey (Valid until 2027)
- *Advisory Board Member*, Berrie Center @ Ramapo College of NJ (2023-Present)
- *Affirming LGBTQIA+ Identities in Schools*, NJ Division of Civil Rights (2023)
- *Non-Profit Organizational Capacity Building*, NY City Council (2023)
- *Incubator for Arts & Culture Leaders of Color*, NYFA (2022)
- *Board Member*, Nritya Creations Performing Company (2020-Present)
- *Committee Member*, DEI Working Group –Kennedy Center (2019-2022)