



WACO

Where Art Can Occur

Theater Center

COMPANY OVERVIEW



“The artist's role is to raise the consciousness of the people. To make them understand life, the world and themselves more completely.”

- Amiri Baraka

ABOUT US

WACO (Where Art Can Occur) Theater Center is a performing and visual arts organization dedicated to the empowerment of Los Angeles artists and stories of the African diaspora. WACO provides emerging and established artists and young people a platform and voice to showcase their creativity, in order to connect and inspire others.

We believe that theater and art is a powerful, important part of Los Angeles' culture and community and it should be accessible to all.

COMPANY INFO

WACO Theater Center

5144 Lankershim Boulevard, North Hollywood, CA 91601
(818) 400-1151 | info@wacothatercenter.com



facebook.com/wacothater



[@wacothater](https://www.instagram.com/wacothater)



[@waco_theater](https://twitter.com/waco_theater)



OUR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

City Council District 2
County Supervisor District 3
State Congressional District 29

OUR WORK

Serving over 15,000 community members annually, we offer a variety of events, programs and initiatives that serve audience members across Los Angeles County.

Performing Arts

With a 99-seat theater and cutting edge tech and equipment, performance is at the heart of our work. Through both local and national collaborations, we present performance work across theater, dance, music and the literary arts.

Past performances include: [The Evolution of African Dance](#), [I Got the Mic: Poetic Experience](#), [50 in 50](#)

Visual Arts

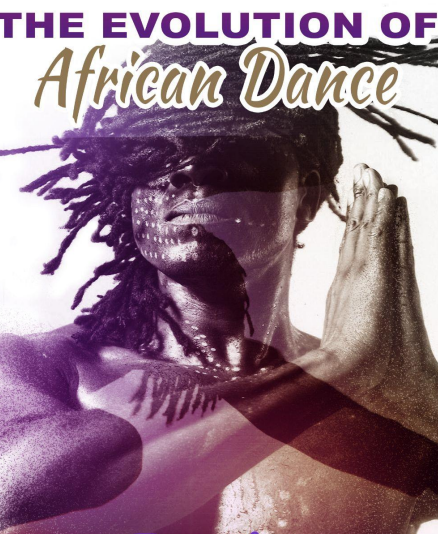
Through our gallery exhibition space, and the annual Wearable Art Gala we present the work of a number of visual artists from the African Diaspora, representing a number of artistic mediums and practices. These works have the power to provoke, inspire, inform, and force new ways of thinking - particularly in times of crisis.

Past featured artists include: [Jamal Hasef](#), [Samuel Levi Jones](#), [Tiffanie Anderson](#)

Education

In collaboration with the KIPP public charter school network, our signature mentoring programs, Tina's Angels and Richard's Warriors, annually provide students with year round arts enrichment, college prep and skills building opportunities.





WORK SAMPLES

The Evolution of African Dance explores the origins of dance choreography from their cultural beginnings in Africa and connects them to their cultural prominence and significance in the US and throughout the African Diaspora.

Watch [here](#).

I Got the Mic: Poetic Experience is a virtual performance featuring a Poetry Jam that showcases poets, spoken word artists, and wordsmiths from Los Angeles and around the world.

Watch [here](#).

The Wearable Art Gala is an annual fundraising event, showcasing local and national artists raising support for WACO performing arts, visual arts and education programs.

Watch [here](#).

Films for Teens by Teens is a Los Angeles youth film festival featuring work of young filmmakers ages 15-21, providing mentorship, equipment and training in the arts.

Watch [here](#).



WACO'S COMMUNITY IMPACT FROM 2020

6



36,000 audience members

reached throughout Los Angeles County and virtual programs

215 artists supported to

showcase and share their work with our audiences

100 young people mentored and

served through our partnership with KIPP Public Charter Schools

WACO IN THE PRESS

PLAYBILL

**LOS ANGELES
SENTINEL**

ESSENCE

WACO TEAM

7

WACO BOARD

Richard Lawson, Founder & President

Tina Knowles-Lawson, Founder & Vice President

Melba Farquhar, Treasurer

Angeliki G. Jack, Secretary

Ralph Farquhar, Board Member

Glynn Turman, Board Member

John Wiseman, Board Member

Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, Advisory Board

Solange Knowles, Advisory Board

Kelly Rowland, Advisory Board

WACO STAFF

Tina Knowles Lawson, Co-Artistic Director

Richard Lawson, Co-Artistic Director

Shay Wafer, Executive Director

Ariel Reyes, Director of Finance & HR

Carolyn Gage, Technical Manager

Cicley Gay, Development

Cornelius Humphries, Executive Assistant

Eli Bevins, Digital Designer

Erica Tucker, Publicity Ascend PR

Kobe Lamaur, Administrative Assistant

Lu Bevins, Digital Designer

Nia Miranda, Executive Assistant

Nijeul X, Director of Communications and Strategy

Shanae Sharon, Program Director

Steven Foley, Director of Operations and Production

Tocarra Cash, Program Manager

We work with a number of local, national and international program partners and sponsors to bring work to our Los Angeles and online audiences. Here are a few partners we've worked with in the past.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Billie Holiday Theater
Charles H. Wright Museum
Ebony Repertory Theater
Eli Lu Entertainment
KIPP Public Charter Schools
NessaB Productions
Newark Symphony Hall
MPACT
Pan African Film Festival
Richard Lawson Studios
St. Louis Black Repertory
Theatre

FOUNDATIONS

AIDS Healthcare
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Bazemore Family
Doris Duke
Horowitz Family
Shawn Carter

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with over 350 individuals and families including

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Mark Bradford
Tony and Vanessa Bell Calloway
Antoine and Lela Fuqua
Tiffany Haddish
Felicia Horowitz
Sam and Latanya Jackson
Greg and Linda Mathis
Magic and Cookie Johnson
Rod and Holly Peete
Octavia Spencer
Denzel and Pauletta Washington

THANK YOU



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