

Youth in Arts®

Kristen Gurbach Jacobson is an arts leader, educator, and program designer dedicated to the accessibility of arts education for diverse populations. Recently, she was the Managing Director of Education at Alonzo King LINES Ballet where she led initiatives to expand LINES' programs that promote individuality, creativity and communication through dance and movement learning. Under her leadership, LINES education programs experienced significant expansion, growth, success, and impact. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Arts Educators Alliance of the Bay Area (AEABA) as well as San Francisco Unified School District's Arts Education Master Plan Advisory Committee.

Prior to her time at LINES and in the Bay Area, Kristen served as the Youth & Community Programs Manager for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago where she was responsible for developing and implementing Hubbard Street's Youth Dance Program from its inception. She was also instrumental in developing the Adaptive Dance Program, leading the Parkinson's Project, managing school partnerships and residency program, teaching artist development, family programming as well as community partnerships with the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Botanic Garden, Museum of Contemporary Art and cultural institutions across the city of Chicago.

With a long history as an arts educator, Kristen's experience prior to Hubbard Street includes work for Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, Free Street Theater, Chicago Human Rhythm Project and LABCO Dance Company in Pittsburgh. She also worked as a dancer and choreographer for a number of companies and organizations in Chicago, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

She holds a BA in Musical Theater and Dance from Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts and an MA in Arts in Youth and Community Development from Columbia College Chicago.