



# BOARD MEMBERS

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## **Alisa MacKinnon**

(Board Chair)

Alisa MacKinnon (she/her) joined the board in 2019. She holds a BA in Dance from the University of Calgary, MBA, MA in Dance, and a Graduate Diploma in Arts and Media Management from York University. Alisa is the co-founder and consultant at PIVOT. Arts and Venue Consulting. She enjoyed getting to collaborate with DSW and the Board members and impacting the arts sector.

Photo by Melodic Imagery

## **Deanna Witwer**

(Vice Chair)

Deanna Witwer is a choreographer, performer, writer and director committed to facilitating rich, formative experiences for artists and audiences through intentional engagement of the whole person. She directed Corps Bara Dance Theatre for nine years and has been on the board of Dancers' Studio West since 2021.

Witwer holds a BA in Dance from the University of Calgary, collaborative with Kinesiology and specializing in performance and choreography.

## **Kevin Leiver**

(Treasurer)

*bio coming soon...*

## **Kourtney Pratt**

(Secretary)

Kourtney is a lawyer with Stikeman Elliott LLP, where she has worked since 2017. She maintains a commercial litigation practice. She holds a J.D. from the University of Windsor and a J.D. from the University of Detroit Mercy. Prior to obtaining her law degrees, she received a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in Dance from the University of Calgary.

Kourtney joined the Board of DSW in 2020 and currently is serving as Board Secretary. In her spare time, Kourtney enjoys travelling, yoga, trying new restaurants, and of course dancing.

## **Anastassiiia Alexander**

Anastassiiia Alexander is a Russian-born, Mexican flamenco dancer and choreographer, who has been part of the Canadian flamenco scene for 15 years.

She lived and trained in Madrid, Spain, before spending pivotal years in Mexico City. There, she intensified her training, performed in numerous tablaos, and created original works. Returning to Calgary in March 2023, Anastassiiia played a crucial role in establishing traditional flamenco nights at the Romero Distilling Co. Fueled by her passion, she co-founded Grado 108 Flamenco Fine Arts with Judith Romero, marking Calgary's inaugural flamenco space. Anastassiiia's cultural and dance experiences extend to her role on the DSW board of directors since 2023.

Picture credits: Tyler Baker Photography

## **Helen Cox**

Helen Cox M.A is an educator, choreographer, entrepreneur and mentor. She has worked in the UK for the past 10 years teaching for companies including: The Royal Ballet School, Royal Opera House, Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, ISTD, Trinity Laban, and Central School of Ballet. She is currently a delivering artist and ambassador for Rambert Grades Canada, teaching locally in Calgary and working freelance as a choreographer.

## **Jocelyn Leiver**

Jocelyn Leiver (she/her) is an alumna of the University of Calgary Dance and Music programs, and a company member of kloetzel&co. since 2015 (Just Breathe, Faust, MEN in Charge (film), It Began with Watching (stage/site/tour), Rooms). She is a multi-disciplinary artist who works across the country in theatre, musical theatre, film, choreography, and as a collaborative pianist. She is the co-founder and Artistic Director of EDJE Dance Theatre, whose work has been presented in Alberta and California thanks to the support of the CCA, CADA, DJD, UofC, and W&M. @hoovey

## **Heather Ware**

Canadian dancer/choreographer Heather Ware was a core dancer of LeineRoebana in Amsterdam (Netherlands) from 2003-2018. In 2010 Heather was awarded de Zwaan for most impressive dance performance of the year of the Netherlands. As both choreographer and performer, Heather is known for her in-depth collaborations with musical partners, as well as her fascination with how complex coordinations affect how we experience emotion. Since 2019 Heather has been affiliated with the University of Calgary, where she teaches contemporary technique, choreography, and Interdisciplinary studies. Heather was Artist in Residence with Dancers' Studio West from 2019-2021, and joined the board in 2021.

Photo: Alexander J. Slobodian, courtesy of Dancers' Studio West

