

Tracey Bonner

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Tracey Bonner is a consummate artist, cultural architect, and change-maker whose multi-decade career seamlessly bridges the worlds of elite artistic performance, higher education leadership, and high-impact arts administration. From the Broadway stage to the executive suite, her professional trajectory is defined by a singular, enduring constant: a profound dedication to dance and the performing arts as vehicles for community transformation, revenue optimization, and institutional equity. As a leader, strategist, and entrepreneur, she specializes in translating creative vision into sustainable operational infrastructure, ensuring that arts organizations survive, evolve, and thrive.

As a professional performer and member of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA), Ms. Bonner's artistic lineage is grounded in the highest echelons of the industry. She has performed on prestigious stages nationwide, including national touring productions of *A Chorus Line*, *Show Boat*, and *West Side Story*. Her extensive regional performance credits span landmark institutions such as City Center (NYC), Stages St. Louis (MO), Barter Theatre (VA), The Human Race Theatre (OH), and The Pirate Playhouse (FL). Transitioning her performance expertise into direction and choreography, she has staged commercial and concert works for the Radio City Rockettes (TX), Bank Street Theatre (NYC), Santa Rosa Theatre Association (CA), The Arts Center of Coastal Carolina (SC), and regional highlights across the Midwest. Her original concert choreography has been selected for adjudicated showcases and gala honors nationwide, including the Laguna Beach Dance Festival, San Diego Dance Festival, and the American College Dance Association (ACDA).

As an "Artistic Academic," Ms. Bonner has leveraged her creative authority to revolutionize higher education arts programs across North America. Her faculty and guest artist appointments include prestigious institutions such as the University of California, Irvine, the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), Wagner College, the American Musical & Dramatic Academy (AMDA), and the Universidad de Sonora-Hermosillo in Mexico, among many others. Most notably, during her eight-year tenure as a Tenured Associate Professor and BFA Dance Program Director at Northern Kentucky University (NKU), she engineered an extraordinary increase in program enrollment within five years. At NKU, she served as the primary arts sector consultant and strategic lead for a \$1.5 million capital facility campaign, authored the region's first BFA in Dance Education. Throughout her academic career, she has left institutions structurally stronger, intentionally implementing data-driven decision-making alongside robust frameworks for inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.

Ms. Bonner's unique capacity to fuse data analytics with systemic innovation has made her a highly sought-after executive administrator and consultant, where she has mastered the intersection of data architecture and operational discipline. Across multiple high-level arts organizations in the U.S., she has established valuable growth frameworks, including inventing a tiered ticketing architecture that permanently mitigated outdoor weather-revenue risks, completing comprehensive business audits that delivered a \$200,000+ earned income lift in a

single season, and standardizing donor benefits across legacy structures to grow the mid-level philanthropic pipeline by 10% in six months. She continues to scale the impact of female leadership for a national advocacy organization, aligning global data-driven research with large-scale industry reform.

A widely recognized thought leader, Ms. Bonner is an AI Smith Artistic Fellow for the Kentucky Arts Council, recognized for her boundary-pushing choreography intersecting dance and social justice. Her scholarly work includes the publication of *Those Dancing Feet! Musical Theatre Dance as an Ethnographic Identifier* in the *Journal of Dance Education* (2021). Demonstrating her deep commitment to societal advocacy, she conceived, developed, and produced the film *What Consent Means on a College Campus* (2020), funded by a prestigious U.S. Department of Justice grant to combat violence against international students.

Ms. Bonner holds a dual Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre and Dance Performance from Shenandoah Conservatory and a Master of Fine Arts in Dance and Arts Administration from the University of California, Irvine. She is a certified front-line fundraiser through The Veritus Group. Ultimately remaining a consummate artist at her core. Ms. Bonner is dedicated to building standard operating procedures that honor institutional history, providing a voice for the unheard human spirit, and creating artistic spaces where everyone has a place to belong.