

**Cultural Equity Grants
Executive Committee–January 2014
Panelists for Approval**

**Raissa Simpson
Artistic Director
Push Dance Company**

Ms. Simpson began training in San Jose, California, at Dance Art Studio and later continued onto San Jose Dance Theatre, Cleveland Ballet, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and the Paul Taylor School. After receiving her BFA from the Conservatory of Dance at SUNY Purchase, Simpson had an extensive performance career in the San Francisco Bay Area dancing with Robert Moses' Kin and Joanna Haigood's Zaccho Dance Theatre, among others. As a freelance artist, she danced with Lucas Films, Tori Quinn at BAPC, Alleluia Panis Dance Theater, Capacitor, Flyaway Productions, Liberation Dance Theater, Michael Mayes, and Peninsula Ballet. Along with serving as Assistant to the Director at Zaccho Dance Theatre, she is featured as a dancer in the film "Never Stand Still," at Jacob's Pillow. Seamlessly integrating multimedia with cutting-edge choreography, Simpson's pieces do not reside merely on stage—they are also site-specific installations in public spaces like museums and city centers. Her work is sweeping, vibrant, multi-layered, and socially relevant, often involving multiple aspects such as video projection, live music, and Aerial Dance. She currently teaches and guest choreographs her unique style of movement to all types of movers.