

Aloha! I just wanted to say, you're amazing, you're so talented, and you belong here.

We all want to be accepted and not tolerated. We all come from different backgrounds, speak different languages, hold different values and experiences— but isn't that just beautiful? That we're here at the same time, same place, training together?

For many of us, we were told all our lives that being different is not ideal, that we have to fit into some sort of box and expectation. And yet, at Laban we all embrace each others differences, that the only expectation we'd have to meet, is your own.

I'm running as your TLSU Vice-President, as I hope to be a microphone to amplify your voices, regardless, if your international or local, regardless of what course you're on— each and every one of your unique voices holds value. I believe we're all in the business of growing one another. One of my goals is to continue to push for more opportunities for different courses and year groups to meet, socialize, and develop their artistic network. I hope to promote more ways for us to expand outside of Laban and our comfort zone, providing more community services, and ways for us to share our gifts to the community, to society. I'd like to shine light on different cultures and sharing languages— this allows all of us to be global artists, and give us an international perspective on the arts, and not only to the extent of where we're from and what were used to. What makes each and every one of you special, is that you all carry life stories that no one else can exactly replicate, you carry your own passions, dreams, hopes, there's only one of you— and how fortunate am I to have the honor of you reading this.

I want to emphasize the importance of you, and this community, because our best work is when we collaborate, and bring different perspectives, it's when you're here with us. To see you all smile and laugh at the Laban café and on campus, brings true internal joy to me, it is a gift to see. I wish to be your Vice-President, as I want to truly take the time to hear every individual's story, concerns, and to be someone you could trust, and give you the best experience here at Trinity Laban. I was born in New York City and spent most of my life in Hawai'i— we have a word we use in Hawai'i, and that's "Ohana," which means "family." At Trinity Laban, we ARE an Ohana. I dream for us to reach a point where we all can easily say, "Hi," and acknowledge each other, outside of class, and outside of different courses. Because at the end of the day, we all want to be accepted, seen and acknowledged, not tolerated. We're just little humans doing what we love. Mahalo! — Issac-Chase Liu