

DANCE/NYC ANNOUNCES STATE OF NYC DANCE: FINDINGS FROM THE DANCE INDUSTRY CENSUS

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

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By Dance/NYC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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An Opportunity to Share the Newly Published Report about the Dance Workforce in New York City Metropolitan Area – December 12, 2023 at Chelsea Factory

New York, NY – The dance service organization Dance/NYC today announced its upcoming research performance event, *State of NYC Dance: Findings from the Dance Industry Census*, in partnership with [Chelsea Factory](#), curated by Alejandra Duque Cifuentes, and in artistic partnership with [Sydnie L. Mosley Dances](#) and [Ladies of Hip Hop](#). The event will be held in-person on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. at Chelsea Factory, 547 W. 26th Street, New York, NY 10001, with some elements live streamed via [YouTube Live](#). To RSVP, visit [Dance.NYC/StateofNYCDanceEvent](#). Online registration will close on December 11, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. ET. On-site registration will also be available.

The evening is structured as a research performance event and community gathering that aims to share insights from the research report of the same name—a culmination of Dance/NYC's [Dance Industry Census](#) and [Roundtable Discussion Series](#). Using dance as a core storytelling tool, it will include performances and interpretations by Sydnie L. Mosley Dances and Ladies of Hip Hop, remarks by members of the [DWR Advisory Group](#), and a seated community meal.

Dance/NYC will unveil up-to-date data to equip individual dance workers, entities, and supporters with the resources and tools to advocate for meaningful change in policies and practices that directly impact the industry and its diverse set of workers, businesses, and organizations and a new vision for dance in the New York City metropolitan area.

"This is a sobering time for Dance/NYC, as we gather the dance field to dig deeper into conversations that have existed for decades around the economic realities of dance workers," said Candace Thompson-Zachery, Dance/NYC Director of Programming and Justice Initiatives. "We are eager to share the results of the Dance Industry Census through the soon-to-be-released report and offer clearly outlined actions that must be taken to get the industry closer to the equity that is often talked about in abstract terms. The timing of this could not be more crucial, as we are at a critical point in our industry here in the City and metro area, and nationally."

"We aim to uplift an inclusive and sustainable arts sector here at Chelsea Factory," says Donald Borrer, Managing Director of Chelsea Factory. "Dance/NYC is at the core of this work for the NYC dance community—we're thrilled to be a partner in the sharing of their timely research."

Led and authored by Strategy and Research Consultant Alejandra Duque Cifuentes and Research Consultant Carrie Blake, the report and its consequential analysis form a more comprehensive picture of the dance workforce—who they are, where they are, how they are making dance and what they need to thrive—and will be an important guide for [Dance/NYC's Dance Workforce Resilience \(DWR\) Initiative](#). The report will be available in full on December 12 on Dance/NYC's website.

"Too often research reports are released and they remain on shelves begging to be enlivened," offered Duque Cifuentes. "Through this event and our collaboration with two dance companies, dance and dance workers will be at the center of how this data is revealed to our community."

"It's fitting that the hip-hop and the street dance community—as spaces where social justice work has always existed—are taking their rightful place in this field-wide event. Our community has been at the forefront of the resistance movement," shared Michele Byrd-McPhee, Artistic Director of Ladies of Hip Hop.

Dance/NYC's hypothesis leading into this study and the larger initiative was that issues of financial inequality (low wages, inconsistent pay, unfair contracts, etc.) prevent dance workers from reaching their full creative potential. Stakeholders from across the field—including dancers, directors, administrators, funders and public officials—will consider the findings, what they mean for the future of the dance industry, and what actions they can take in support of a thriving dance ecology.

'Embodying economic justice for dancers on December 12th is our deepest honor as this is embedded in SLMDances' past works—namely [BodyBusiness](#)—and our ongoing artistic practice,' says Sydnie L. Mosley, Artistic Director of SLMDances.

Simultaneously, Dance/NYC will launch a new online portal, the DWR Hub, as a go-to resource for the dance industry and wider arts & culture sector in the NYC metropolitan area. The site will support individual workers and entities through accessible and relevant resources to foster inclusionary and equitable practices, leveraging Dance/NYC's identified role as a conduit, and collective voice for dance in the metropolitan area.

The research report, event, and hub are all components of Dance/NYC's current Justice, Equity and Inclusion initiative, Dance Workforce Resilience (DWR), focused on addressing economic inequity and strengthening the dance ecology. Through a number of activities, the DWR Initiative aims to directly serve the whole sector, including those communities not previously served through non-profit interventions in the field such as individual dance workers, fiscally sponsored groups and projects, and for-profit dance entities. The first phase of the Initiative focuses on the dissemination, collection, and analysis of research with the Dance Industry Census and subsequent release of the report. The second phase, beginning in 2024, will focus on the implementation of recommendations and actions based on research findings.

Con Edison is the event's Lead Corporate Sponsor. Dance/NYC's Dance Workforce Resilience Initiative is made possible, in part, by leadership support from the Mellon Foundation, New York Community Trust, Doris Duke Foundation, the Mertz Gilmore Foundation and a

coalition of general operating support funders, and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment of the Arts.

About [Dance/NYC](#):

Dance/NYC's mission is to promote and encourage the knowledge, appreciation, practice, and performance of dance in the metropolitan New York City area. It embeds core values of justice, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of its programs and operations. Dance/NYC remains committed to delivering programs that address disparities in the dance field by continuing to fill gaps in the availability of resources where they are most needed. It believes the dance ecology must itself be just, equitable, and inclusive to meaningfully contribute to social progress and envisions a dance ecology wherein power, funding, opportunities, conduct, and impacts are fair for all artists, cultural workers, and audiences.

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