

For Immediate Release



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URBANITY DANCE LAUNCHES NEW URBANITY X RESIDENCY PROGRAM



Program to Support Five Choreographic Residences from February to June 2022

Applications Due December 10, 2021

November 11, 2021, Boston, MA — [Urbanity Dance](#) is launching a new residency program, [Urbanity X](#), in celebration of its past decade of experimental artistic placemaking. The program will support **five**

choreographic residencies from February to June 2022, serving as an incubator and career launching pad for talented Boston-based artists.

Urbanity X will provide mentorship, dedicated rehearsal space, fair pay, access to performance space and technical support to the five choreographers, including an upfront \$1,000 stipend, 30 hours of dedicated studio space, access to Urbanity's office space, supplies, and technology, the ability to create on Urbanity's [Creative Class](#) dancers, if desired, and mentorship from leading Boston-based dance artists.

Resident artists will also be able to show their work at Urbanity's Central location, if they wish to have a public performance and receive marketing and technical support, in addition to access to costumes. If the artists choose to charge admission to their performance, they will receive 100% of the box office proceeds.

All choreographers are encouraged to apply; Urbanity welcomes movement artists from all dance backgrounds. Artists who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, or living with a disability will be prioritized, as well as dance artists who have not yet been able to have a residency experience. Urbanity will work with a diverse panel of Boston-based dance leaders to determine the five resident choreographers. The selected artists will be chosen based on strength of artistic vision and future career goals. Applications are due on December 10, 2021 and can be submitted [here](#).

Urbanity X is possible due to the generous support of the Garth Family Foundation who said, "The Garth Foundation is thrilled to support Urbanity X! We know that there are too few opportunities for up-and-coming artists in Boston. We congratulate the artists that will be part of this new program. We wish you all much success!"

"Choreographers who are starting to explore their artistic process often have limited access to the space and resources necessary to truly focus on their work and on developing their artistic voice," said Stacy Handler, Managing Director of Urbanity Dance. "As an arts institution with space and built-in infrastructure, it is our responsibility to make these assets available to the wider community. We hope that through Urbanity X, we can provide foundational support to budding talent that will take them to the next step in their careers. We are grateful that the Garth Family Foundation shares in our vision of building a more holistically supported dance community in Boston."

About Urbanity Dance

Urbanity Dance was founded as a non-profit arts organization in 2011 by Director Betsi Graves with the mission to engage, inspire, and empower individuals and communities through the art of dance and movement. This mission is manifested through Urbanity's organizational pillars of Company, School, and Community, which strive to achieve three objectives: to propel contemporary dance to the forefront of Boston's cultural landscape; fill an unmet demand for access to training in diverse dance forms; and use dance as a tool for fostering bodily autonomy and creativity in local schools and community spaces. Through its three South End studios and work in the community, Urbanity is proud to provide high-quality dance experiences to over 10,000 dance-lovers of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities every year.

Urbanity's Professional Company offers challenging, entertaining, and visionary experiences that leverage excellence to activate space, engage art, and build connection. With its blend of disciplines ranging from modern jazz to breakdance, it embodies Urbanity's commitment to community by celebrating the collective tapestry of lived experiences and training of its dancers. Company performances, workshops, and classes promote empathy and harness the collaborative spirit and energy of Boston residents and its multidisciplinary arts network. Through these efforts, the Company has been recognized as one of Boston's Best by *Improper Bostonian*, a "Best of Boston" winner by *Boston Magazine*, and a Top Ten Critics' Pick by *The Boston Globe*. To date, it has presented work at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater, The Institute of Contemporary Art, and venues across New England, New York, New Mexico, Virginia, Texas, and Florida.

The School at Urbanity Dance offers high-quality dance training in several styles and genres for over 500 students of all ages and experience levels each year through its three South End studios. The faculty, all

from diverse cultural and dance backgrounds, supports each student in their training through a structured, nurturing classroom environment that fosters growth, discipline, and fun. The School's teaching philosophy aims to teach to the whole dancer and develop students' emotional, social, and physical well being to become fully empowered individuals.

Urbanity's commitment to Community encompasses a diverse range of partnerships with schools, health centers, local arts institutions, enrichment camps, and juvenile detention centers through its three flagship programs: Urbanity in the Community, which provides dance curriculum to Boston Public School students who otherwise would not have access; Dance with Parkinson's, which uses movement to improve the mobility, balance, and coordination of those with Parkinson's Disease and other neurodegenerative disorders; and Movement Mends, which uses movement to empower and inspire those who have experienced incarceration, homelessness, or violence.

Together, the Company, School, and Community programs create an interwoven network that provides high-quality art experiences to students of all ages and backgrounds, as well as paid opportunities for all professional dancers, dancemakers, artistic collaborators and teachers, that serve Urbanity's mission, its South End neighborhood in Boston, and the city at large.

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Image at top of release by Ryan Smith Visuals