

Artists in the Studio **a component of Dance Makers in the Schools**

Movement Research's *Dance Makers in the Schools* (DM) offers *Artists in the Studio*, an opportunity for partner school students to engage with the professional field by visiting the studios in Movement Research's new home at 122 Community Center (located at 9th Street and 1st Avenue in the Lower East Side). At each event, a Dance Makers in the Schools Teaching Artist shares their professional practice through a participatory performance/discussion/workshop format. The featured artist, in dialogue with DM program staff, creates their event tailored to the targeted students and class communities.

Prior to 2018-19, all DM programming took place during the school day. Until now, our work has been limited to what we could do inside the school building. Artists in the Studio is deepening the impact of DM by helping students make connections between what they are learning inside the classroom and what happens beyond the school walls. The program shows students a real-world context for creative problem solving and critical viewing.

Dance Makers in the Schools

Movement Research has served the Lower East Side and East Village communities for 40 years. The 2018-19 school year marked both the 25th Anniversary of Dance Makers in the Schools as well as Movement Research's move into its new home, at the 122 Community Center in the Lower East Side, NYC. The congruence of events allowed us to enhance Dance Makers in the Schools by piloting Artists in the Studio.

Dance Makers in the Schools (DM) aims to increase student learning in the arts, develop the work of classroom teachers, and build community in local neighborhoods. Artists in the Studio is a response to feedback from teachers that students need opportunities to learn outside of the school building and engage with the rich cultural landscape of NYC.

2018-19 Events

On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, DM Teaching Artist Angie Pittman presented work and engaged with dance students, grades 9-12, in a 90 minute event, from 1:00-2:30pm. She shared excerpts of her current performance practice, drawing on social dances and identities. Students learned line dances and created one together. They then took time to quietly reflect and notice the relationship between their states of mind and the environment. Angie closed the event by performing a solo for students. At the end, as students left, they were able to casually speak with one another, Angie and their teachers.

Angie Pittman is a New York based Bessie award-winning dance artist, dance maker, and dance educator. Her work has been performed at The Kitchen, Gibney Dance (Invocation, Proclamation, Manifesto), BAAD! (BlaktinX Performance Series), Movement Research at Judson Church, Triskelion Arts, STooPS, The Domestic Performance Agency, The KnockDown Center (Sunday Service), The Invisible Dog (Catch 73), Danspace Project (Food for Thought, Draftworks, Platform 2018), and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts (Illinois). Angie has had the pleasure of dancing in work by Ralph Lemon, Tere O'Connor, Jennifer Monson, Kim Brandt, Antonio Ramos, Jasmine Hearn, and many others. She holds a MFA in Dance and Choreography from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a graduate minor in African American Studies. She was a 2015 DanceWEB scholar for Impulstanz Dance Festival in Vienna, Austria and was a 2016-2018 Artist-in-Residence with Movement Research. Angie is a

founding member of Skeleton Architecture, a vessel of Black womyn and gender nonconforming artists rooted in the rigor and power of the collective in practice. Angie's work resides in a space that investigates how the body moves through ballad, groove, sparkle, spirit, spirituals, ancestry, vulnerability, and power.

On March 12, 2019, DM Teaching Artist Jonathan Gonzalez worked with 75 students from Girls Prep Middle School from 10:30am-12pm. Gonzalez began by engaging students in discussion. He then introduced his work by performing an excerpt, answering questions from students, and showing video. He and the students talked about race, climate change, and social justice. Following, he led the students in movement tasks that asked them to reflect on and explore presence. They ended by working with partners, taking turns dancing and writing. The event prepared the students and Gonzalez to engage in a 10-week creative process in the school. During the in-school residency, students will create a new work with Gonzalez and perform it at the school's end of year meeting.

Jonathan Gonzalez is a choreographer and Bessie-nominated performer based in his native New York City. He has been a New York Live Arts Fresh Tracks Artist in collaboration with EmmaGrace Skove-Epes, BAX/Dancing While Black Fellow under the direction of Paloma McGregor, Diebold Award recipient for Distinction in Choreography & Performance, Rema Hort Mann Foundation nominee, as well as a POSSE Leadership and Bessie Schonberg Scholar. He is currently a BAX/SUBMERGE! artist under the curation of Ali Rosa-Salas's season, *Break Time*. He has performed in the works of Ligia Lewis, Cynthia Oliver, Alex Baczyinski-Jenkins, Isabel Lewis, Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, Ni'Ja Whitson, Marjani Forté, Jomama Jones, among others. He is a graduate of Trinity College, Trinity Laban Conservatoire, and holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College.