

# Matthew Cumbie, M.F.A.

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## EDUCATION

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- M.F.A.      Dance                      Texas Woman's University/ Denton, TX      2011  
Professional Paper & Research: *Queer Identity in Improvisational Dance Performance: Exploring Gender, Self-fashioning and an Other*
- B.S.              Dance                      Texas State University/ San Marcos, TX      2007
- B.A.              Communication Studies Texas Lutheran University/ Seguin, TX      2005  
Minor: *English*

Professional Certification, Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process, in progress

*Additional Professional Training: Texas Dance Improvisation Festival (2010, 2011, 2018), People's Institute for Survival and Beyond Understanding & Undoing Racism Training (2018), Movement Research Winter MELT (2012, 2016), Move the Crowd Anti-Bias Training (2015), Dance Improvisation & Performance Intensive with Chris Aiken & Angie Hauser (2014), Bates Dance Festival (2012, 2013), Dance Exchange Summer Institute (2011), The Alvin Ailey Summer Program (2007)*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### *In the field*

2019-present                      Christopher K. Morgan & Artists/ Washington, DC  
*Performer*

2011-2019                      Dance Exchange/Takoma Park, MD  
*Associate Artistic Director & Director of Communications/Programming (2016-2019)*  
*Resident Artist & Education Coordinator (2012-2016)*  
*Adjunct Artist (2011-2012)*

Dance Exchange, an intergenerational dance organization founded by Liz Lerman in 1976, collaborates across generations, disciplines, and difference to channel the power of

performance as a means for dialogue, a source of critical reflection, and a creative engine for thought and action. I was the first full-time artistic appointment following the transition of Liz Lerman, and became an integral part in advancing the vision and articulation of the organization post-founder. My role was part artistic and part administrative; my duties ranged from creating and supporting artistic outcomes; visioning and implementing local programming opportunities; creating and managing program and project budgets; securing additional support for projects and programs through earned and contributed income sources; leading organizational efforts for marketing and communications; stewarding organizational archival efforts; and collaborating with other staff on daily administrative duties.

2015-present                      Matthew Cumbie Projects/Washington, DC  
*Founder*

Matthew Cumbie Projects is the centralizing body for the creative works of collaborative dancemaker and artist educator Matthew Cumbie. Seeking the transformative, and guided by a queer sensibility, his artistic work and research is situated between dancemaking and engagement, process and product(s), known and unknown. Matthew Cumbie Projects is fiscally-sponsored by Fractured Atlas.

2015-present                      Annie Kloppenberg & Company/Portland, ME  
*Collaborator*

2011-2012                         danceTactics Performance Group/ New York, NY  
*Collaborator, Company Member*

Jill Sigman/ThinkDance  
*Collaborator*

Von Howard Project/ New York, NY  
*Performing Artist*

2010-2011                         Big Rig Dance Collective/ Denton, TX  
*Co-founder/Collaborator*

2009-2011                         Dancelab/ Denton, TX  
*Collaborator*

2009                                 Ovation Ballet Company/ Austin, TX  
*Guest Artist*

2008-2011                         Danceworks Repertory Company/ Denton, TX  
*Performing Artist*

2007                                 Tri Coastal Ballet Theatre/ Kyle, TX  
*Soloist/Choreographer*

Alamo City Dance Company/ San Antonio, TX  
*Guest Artist*

***Academic Appointments***

- 2019 American University/ Washington, DC  
*Adjunct Professor, Undergraduate Dance program*
- 2015 Colby College/ Waterville, ME  
*Visiting Lecturer, Undergraduate Dance program*
- 2012 Queensborough Community College/ Bayside, NY  
*Adjunct Professor, Undergraduate Dance program*
- 2008-2011 Texas Woman's University/ Denton, TX  
*Graduate Teaching Assistant, Graduate and Undergraduate Dance program*  
  
*Graduate Assistant- Production Coordinator, Graduate and Undergraduate Dance program*
- 2008 Northwest Vista Community College/ San Antonio, TX  
*Adjunct Instructor, Undergraduate Dance program*

**RELATED EXPERIENCE**

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- 2019 Towson University, Guest faculty  
University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Guest faculty  
On-going dance class, Whitman Walker Health, Faculty  
Big Rig Dance Co-Op (Arlington, TX), Featured artist  
Jacob's Pillow Arts Integration Teacher Training, Lead artist and faculty  
Jacob's Pillow STEAM Camp, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Summer Institute, Lead artist and faculty  
Christopher K. Morgan & Artists Summer Intensive, Faculty  
Dance Exchange Audubon Naturalist Training (DC), Lead artist  
Dance Exchange St. Elizabeth's Hospital Engagement, Lead artist and performer  
National Association of Poetry Therapy National Conference, Featured presenter  
Live Out Loud LGBTQIA Conference (Adams, MA), Featured presenter  
Dance Exchange Texas Christian University residency, Project Director and lead artist  
Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion, Artist Educator

Dance Exchange Winter Institute, Faculty  
Dance Exchange Friday CLASS series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Takoma Park MOVES series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Foundation in Contemporary DANCE series, Lead artist and faculty

2018

Virginia Tech Advancing the Human Condition Symposium, Featured presenter  
Colby College residency, Lead artist and faculty  
Texas Dance Improvisation Festival, Invited faculty and performer  
National Guild for Community Arts Education National Conference, Invited presenter and featured performer  
Dance Exchange Moving Field Guide Camps, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Moving Field Guide Teacher Training, Lead artist and faculty  
Jacob's Pillow STEAM Camps, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Summer Institute, Lead artist and faculty  
NEA Creative Forces Summit, Invited participant  
Dance Exchange Texas Christian University residency, Project Director and lead artist  
Dance Exchange PG County schools residency, Lead artist and faculty  
Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion, Artist educator  
Dance Exchange Winter Institute, Faculty  
Dance Exchange Friday CLASS series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Takoma Park MOVES series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Foundation in Contemporary DANCE series, Lead artist and faculty

2017

National Dance Education Organization National Conference, Invited Presenter  
National Parks Total Solar Eclipse Dance Exchange residency, Lead artist and performer  
Dance Exchange Summer Institute, Faculty & Director  
Bates Dance Festival, Presented Choreographer  
SomDance Festival (Somerville, MA), Presented Choreographer  
Deep Dance Series (Cambridge, MA), Faculty  
Moving Target/Boston, Faculty  
Brown University, Guest faculty  
Towson University, Guest faculty

Dance Exchange University of Virginia residency, Lead artist and faculty  
Maryland State Arts Council, Grant Panelist  
Dance Exchange Texas Christian University residency, Project director and lead artist  
Dance Exchange Winter Institute, Lead Faculty  
APAP Artist Cohort  
Dance Exchange Friday CLASS series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Takoma Park MOVES series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Foundation in Contemporary DANCE series, Lead artist and faculty

2016

Brown University, Guest faculty  
Towson University, Guest faculty  
Dance Exchange Friday CLASS series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Takoma Park MOVES series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Foundations in Contemporary DANCE series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Youth Programs, Co-Director  
Dance Exchange 40th Anniversary Summer Institute, Lead artist/Project Manager  
Christopher K. Morgan & Artists Summer Intensive, Faculty  
Dance Exchange National Parks Ranger Trainings, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Rutgers University residency, Artist  
Princeton University, Guest faculty  
Moving Target/Boston, Guest teacher  
Moving Target/Portland, Guest Teacher  
The School of the Washington Ballet, Guest teacher  
Maryland State Arts Council, Dance Grants Panelist  
AKIMBO Festival (Baltimore, MD), Adjudicator  
Dance Complex CATALYST (Cambridge), Guest Teacher  
Modern Movements Festival (Providence), Presented choreographer  
Dance/USA National Conference, Invited presenter

2015

Dance Complex CATALYST (Cambridge, MA), Guest teacher  
AS220 Saturday Switch Series (Providence, RI), Guest teacher  
Towson University, Guest faculty  
George Washington University, Guest faculty/advisor  
University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Guest faculty  
Dance Exchange Friday CLASS series, Lead artist and faculty

Dance Exchange Takoma Park MOVES series, Lead artist and faculty  
Houston Met Dance Company Class, Guest teacher  
Frame Dance Intergenerational Class (Houston), Guest teacher  
Dance Exchange Summer Institute, Faculty  
Dance Exchange Moving Field Guide (Rockland, ME), Lead artist  
Christopher K. Morgan & Artists Summer Intensive, Faculty  
The Collective Sunday Class Series (Baltimore), Guest artist  
AKIMBO Site-Specific Dance Making (Baltimore), Guest artist  
Dance Exchange Warren Wilson College Residency, Lead artist  
Moving Field Guide Teacher Training (Asheville), Lead artist  
Dance Exchange Georgia College & State University residency, Lead artist  
New York City Arts in Education Roundtable National Conference, Invited speaker  
Bates College, Guest faculty  
Dance Exchange Winter Institute, Faculty

2014

Texas Christian University, Guest faculty  
Dance Exchange Washington College residency, Lead artist/Project Manager  
Move The Crowd Trainings (Dallas), Lead artist  
Facing Race National Conference (Dallas), Invited performer and presenter  
Dance Exchange Summer Institute, Faculty  
Texas State University, Guest faculty/choreographer  
Dance Exchange Teen Leadership Institute, Lead artist/faculty  
Christopher K. Morgan & Artists Summer Intensive, Faculty  
Dance Exchange Saint Elizabeth's Hospital engagement (DC), Lead artist  
LGBT Health and Artmaking National Conference (DC), Invited presenter  
Dance Exchange The Philadelphia School residency, Lead artist  
Oxon Hill Master Class (Takoma Park), DX Faculty  
DeSales University, Guest faculty  
New York University, Guest faculty  
Dance Exchange Winter Institute, Faculty  
Dance Exchange Friday CLASS series, Lead artist and faculty  
Dance Exchange Takoma Park MOVES series, Lead artist and faculty

- 2013
- University of Maryland-College Park, Guest faculty
  - Dance Exchange Girl Scouts Environmental Leadership training, Lead artist
  - Trillium Performing Arts Dance Exchange residency (WV), Lead artist
  - Texas State University, Guest faculty
  - Boston Public Schools Dance Exchange residency, Artist
  - National Building Museum Dance Exchange Summer Camp (DC), Lead artist educator
  - Dance Exchange Summer Institute, Faculty
  - Dance Exchange Takoma Park MOVES series, Lead artist and faculty
  - Dance Exchange Friday CLASS series, Lead artist and faculty
  - Dance Exchange Sonoma State Residency, Lead artist/choreographer
- 2012
- Dance Exchange University of Maryland (College Park) Residency, Lead artist
  - Dance New Amsterdam (NYC), Guest faculty
  - Boston Public Schools Dance Exchange residency, Artist
  - Dance Exchange Takoma Park MOVES series, Lead artist and faculty
  - Dance Exchange Friday CLASS series, Faculty
  - Ross Body Senior Center Dance Exchange workshop, Lead artist
  - St. Elizabeth's Hospital Dance Exchange engagement, Lead artist
  - Transitions Network Dance Exchange class (DC), Lead artist
  - Takoma Park Recreation Center Dance Exchange workshop, Lead artist
  - Dance Exchange Girl Scouts Environmental Leadership Institute training (VA), Lead artist
  - Rockville Jewish Community Center Dance Exchange workshop, Lead artist
  - Dance Exchange Summer Institute, Faculty
  - Dance Exchange 500 miles/500 stories workshop: Pearisburg, VA, Lead artist
  - Dance Exchange 500 miles/500 stories workshop: Knoxville, WV, Lead artist
  - Dance Exchange Syracuse University Residency, Lead artist
- 2011
- ACDFA, South Central: New Mexico State University, Invited teacher

2010	around/about Contemporary Dance Festival (CA), Performing artist/teacher
2009	ACDFA, South Central: Texas A&M University, Invited teacher Texas State University, Guest faculty
2008	North Central School of Ballet Summer Program (TX), Guest teacher
2005-2008	Suzi Hughson School of Dance (TX), Teacher

## TEACHING

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### *Courses taught in Higher Education*

(Undergraduate) Advanced Dance Making: Dance in Community; Dance as an Art Form (hybrid and 100% face to face); Introduction to Ballet; Introduction to Modern; World Dance Forms (100% online), Jazz I/II

(Undergraduate & Graduate) Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Contemporary and Modern Technique; Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Ballet; Ballroom/Popular Club Dance

### *MFA Thesis Advisement*

Served on the MFA Thesis Committee for Daniel Bodiford (Jacksonville University; Jacksonville, FL)

### *Interdisciplinary collaboration & curriculum development*

Arts Integration

- While I was with Dance Exchange (2011-2019), I helped further develop and grow Cassie Meador's Moving Field Guide program. Created in partnership with the US Forest Service, these workshops, artist and teacher trainings, and residencies bring together dance artists and environmental educators to help people learn more about the places (and science) around them. I developed camps, the artist and teacher training, and contributed to the written curriculum for grade levels 3-5.
- As an artist educator with Jacob's Pillow, I have been involved in their Curriculum in Motion program- which brings choreographers into the classrooms to partner with teachers to animate and integrate movement with curriculum. I have led arts integration trainings with Berkshire-based educators, and I have helped create and lead summer STEAM camps for elementary-aged children- bringing together different artistic practices, science learning, and outdoor survivalist skills to learn about Berkshire ecology.

## LGBT Community Health and Wellness workshops

- Through my body of work, Growing Our Own Gardens, I have been cultivating partnerships with arts and LGBTQ+ organizations to use performance and engagements as platforms for community reflection and community building. In DC, I have partnered with the Rainbow History Project to animate their guided walking tours, leading Queer History Walks that share historical moments and personal stories connected to specific neighborhoods in DC and that we end in small dances made from our discoveries; I have also partnered with Dance Exchange, Dance Place, the DC Center and the Human Rights Commission of the City of Rockville to create and lead a series of workshops on intergenerational LGBTQ+ community building. I carry these experiences into continued work with the DC Center; the Rainbow Seniors of Berkshire County and the Live Out Loud Conference; and into north Texas and the Dallas Way.
- Starting in fall 2019, I am continuing the work of dance artist Tony Johnson and taking over Sacred Bodies, Sacred Spaces: a dance class held at the Whitman Walker Health Center (the local LGBTQ+ health center) to connect people (particularly patients and caregivers) to different approaches to health and wellness and deepen relationships between those who are a part of this vital community center.

## Campus and Community Connections

- Through my work with Texas Christian University, I have direct experience in collaboratively co-creating an informal, experiential curriculum for training artists and individuals interested in dance and community engagement. Over the span of two and a half years, I created points of intersection between the departments of Classical and Contemporary Dance, Women & Gender Studies, Theater, Anthropology, and the Office of Community Engagement; I deepened relationships between TCU, the Refugee Services of Texas, Artes de la Rosa, FurtherDance Fort Worth, and a number of local community members. These experiences catalyzed cross-campus collaborations that extended beyond the funding period of the project, engaged hundreds of people in dancing, and helped create an on-going internship and dance program between the School for Classical and Contemporary Dance and Refugee Services of Texas.

## ARTISTIC BODY OF WORK

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*As most of the work that I find myself in involves a more non-traditional, horizontally structured format for making, in which performers are also makers and visa versa, I have organized this section of work chronologically and delineated what role(s) I have assumed in the project.*

### **Current Projects**

*Growing Our Own Gardens: Reminisce on Roots (Director, Choreographer, Performer)*

An iterative performance project rooted in queer world-making, this body of work surfaces and celebrates the stories, struggles, and possibilities of intergenerational queer communities through dance, spoken word, drag, queer club culture, and local community participation. As the director and choreographer, I am currently in conversation with partners in north Texas

about future work. Already a work-in-progress, this solo-then-duet was originally performed at the AIDS Outreach Center Benefit concert at Texas Christian University. Original lighting design by Roma Flowers; original sound score and text developed by Matthew Cumbie. February 2019, Texas Christian University; Fort Worth, TX. The duet version was performed with Darryl Pilate at the Big Rig Dance Co-Op. August 2019, University of Texas-Arlington; Arlington, TX. ***Commissioned by Texas Christian University, with support from the Embrey Family Foundation.***

*What is Held Here (Co-Director, Choreographer)*

Co-directed with Jessica Hale, this work-in-progress combines dance, film, photography, and spoken word to celebrate the brilliance and resilience of LGBTQ+ life in Washington, DC. At a time when DC is losing LGBTQ+-specific spaces at an alarming rate, *What is Held Here* gathers local LGBTQ+ leaders, history holders, and knowledge keepers to document queer lives and experiences in the district and to create a dance film of intergenerational duets. ***Created with support from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.***

*Untitled (Co-Director, Choreographer, Performer)*

Co-directed, created and performed with Tom Truss, this work-in-progress explores the lives, the work, and the relationship between literary figures (and queer icons?) Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Recent research suggests that these two were intimate- if not lovers- at a time with homosexuality was punishable by law; yet their their work- and their little-explored-influence on each other- have become part of the English fiction canon.

*Native Intelligence|Innate Intelligence (Performer)*

Choreographed by Christopher K. Morgan for Christopher K. Morgan & Artists, *Native Intelligence|Innate Intelligence* is a two-part dance performance incorporating contemporary dance, hula, Hawaiian chant, and original live music. In solo work, *Native Intelligence*, Morgan investigates how he maintains his root cultural identity when separated from ancestral land. *Innate Intelligence* is an ensemble work that uses movement, scenery and music to examine the human instinct to connect to one another. The two parts create a comprehensive picture of the complexities contemporary Native people navigate and move fluidly between, and invites audiences to reflect on their own identity, perception of Native people, and instinct.

2019

*Untitled (Choreographer)*

Ensemble work for Moving Body Company. Performance information forthcoming. November 2019, Columbia College; Columbia, SC. ***Commissioned by Moving Body Company.***

*...in the most generous way (Director)*

Improvisational performance created for varying number of performers, with long-distance rehearsal process. Performance information forthcoming. August 2019, University of Texas-Arlington; Arlington, TX. ***Commissioned by Big Rig Dance.***

*Ferocious Beauty: Genome (excerpt)(Performer)*

A multi-year collaboration directed by Liz Lerman with geneticists that explores the science of our beginnings- from origin stories to how genes carry information over time. This excerpt was performed by Dance Exchange. June 2019, Dance Place; Washington, DC.

*Still Crossing | OAC: Texas (Co-Director, Repetiteur)*

Originally choreographed by Liz Lerman and commissioned as part of the BiCentennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty in 1986, this iteration was reset and recontextualized with students at Texas Christian University and local community members through *Organizing Artists for Change: Texas*, an initiative partnering with TCU, Refugee Services of Texas and Artes de la Rosa to co-create an informal, experiential curriculum for training socially-engaged artists and strengthening the network of artists and individuals in north Texas advancing change initiatives through artmaking. Original sound score. March 2019, Texas Christian University; Fort Worth, TX. **Funded, in part, by the Embrey Family Foundation.**

*Consent + Coffee, Curriculum in Motion (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

A duet choreographed and performed through Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion- a two-week residency program of Jacob's Pillow in partnership with local schools to bring dance into classrooms to animate and support other subject areas. Performed as part of the Pause-in-the-Process, a works-in-progress showing of student work and work from artist educators. February 2019, Monument Mountain Regional High School; Great Barrington, MA.

2018

*Entrances and Echoes (excerpts)(Performer)*

An improvisational evening-length work, distilled down to a 12-minute excerpt, that closely examines the relationship between shared experiences and shared spaces. Directed by Annie Kloppenberg. Performed by Annie Kloppenberg, Matthew Cumbie, and Rachel Boggia. Sound score by Jordin Chiolis. Performed as part of Maine Moves, November 2018. Portland Ballet Theater; Portland, ME.

*Not Yet Arrived (redux)(Director, Performer)*

An improvisational duet that explores embodied generational memory and intimacy. Scored and performed by Matthew Cumbie and Sam Horning. Original sound score by Matthew Cumbie. Texas Dance Improvisation Festival, October 2018. Texas Woman's University; Denton, TX. **Commissioned by the Texas Dance Improvisation Festival**

*The (still perfectly fine) adventures of Unicorn Hair + Dragon Heartstring (Co-Choreographer, Performer)*

A collaborative improvisational duet, both poignantly sad and delightfully whimsical, that travels backwards and forwards in time to look at the devices from our childhood that help us make sense of our place in the world and grapple with the things we lose along the way. Site-adaptive iteration as part of *Art on the Square*. Original sound design and text design by

Betsy Miller and Matthew Cumbie. Created and performed by Matthew Cumbie and Betsy Miller. August 2018, Derby Square; Salem, MA. **Commissioned by the Salem Arts Council**

*Last Dance (Co-director, Performer)*

A dance film that honors and marks the closing of Town Danceboutique, a premiere LGBTQ+ night club and community space. Performed by Matthew Cumbie and Sam Horning, and co-directed and choreographed by Matthew Cumbie and filmmaker Ben Carver. June 2018, Town Danceboutique; Washington, DC. [Link here](#).

*Celebrating 20 years (Co-director)*

A constellation of performances and activities to engage local communities and animate the Dance Exchange building, inside and out, to mark and celebrate Dance Exchange's presence in Takoma Park for 20 years. Co-organized and directed by Matthew Cumbie and Sam Horning. June 2018, Dance Exchange; Takoma Park, MD.

*Dog Dances (Co-facilitator)*

An iterative excerpt from Dance Exchange's *Hallelujah: In Praise of Pets and their People*, by Liz Lerman, that brings people together with their dogs to co-create and perform a social dance. Choreographed by Elizabeth Johnson; co-facilitated by Sam Horning and Matthew Cumbie. Commissioned by and performed at the Moss Center for Arts, October 2017. Virginia Tech University; Blacksburg, VA.

*Growing Our Own Gardens: a queer world, unfolding (Director, Performer)*

An iterative performance project rooted in queer world-making, this body of work surfaces and celebrates the stories, struggles, and possibilities of intergenerational queer communities through dance, spoken word, drag, queer club culture, and local community participation. This DC-iteration partnered with Dance Place, the Rainbow History Project, the DC Center, and the Human Rights Commission of the City of Rockville. Original sound score by Stowe Nelson and Micah Salkind. February 2018, Dance Place; Washington, DC. **Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arcus Foundation, and Dance Exchange.**

*Untitled, Curriculum in Motion (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

An improvisational duet scored and performed by Matthew Cumbie and Margot Greenlee, supported by and through Jacob's Pillow Curriculum in Motion- a two-week residency program of Jacob's Pillow in partnership with local schools to bring dance into classrooms to animate and support other subject areas. Performed as part of the Pause-in-the-Process, a works-in-progress showing of student work and work from artist-educators. February 2018, Monument Mountain High School; Great Barrington, MA.

2017

*What Brings Us Home (Choreographer)*

Connecting to the campus' common theme and explore issues of justice within the dance department study body. Choreographed by Matthew Cumbie, collaboratively created with and performed by students from Texas State University. October 2017, Opening Door Dance Theater. Texas State University; San Marcos, TX. **Commissioned by Texas State University**

*Untitled (Co-director, Co-choreographer, Performer)*

Inspired by the total solar eclipse that travels across the United States in 2017, and included in a program of arts, cultural and sciences by the National Park Service to celebrate and reflect on the total solar eclipse as it happens in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Sound design by Matthew Cumbie. August 2017, Total Solar Eclipse; Clingman's Dome, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, NC. **Commissioned by the National Parks Service with NASA; funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts**

*Growing Our Own Gardens: a solo experiment (Choreographer, Performer)*

Building on years of research connected to embodied LGBTQ+ histories, this solo juxtaposes personal queer experiences alongside national moments and movements to engage audiences on a personal and literal journey through a salon-performance. Choreographed and performed by Matthew Cumbie; curated by Courtney Harris and Charli Brissey as part of 20 Rue Jacob, a mobile performance series that engages local queer-identified artists in site-responsive performance. July 2017; Mount Rainier, MD.

*The (still perfectly fine) adventures of Unicorn Hair + Dragon Heartstring (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

A collaborative improvisational duet, both poignantly sad and delightfully whimsical, that travels backwards and forwards in time to look at the devices from our childhood that help us make sense of our place in the world and grapple with the things we lose along the way. Original sound design and text design by Betsy Miller and Matthew Cumbie. Created and performed by Matthew Cumbie and Betsy Miller. July 2017, Bates Dance Festival; Lewiston, ME. Also included as part of the Somerville SomDance Fest, June 2017, SomDance Fest; Somerville, MA. **Commissioned for the Bates Dance Festival, with support from the New England Foundation for the Arts, and commissioned by the Somerville Arts Council**

*Bricks and Bones: A performance series in response to the erasure of Black lives and communities in Dallas, Texas, and the movements to recover, rebuild and honor those lost histories (excerpts): a sermonic movement (Co-director, Performer)*

Excerpts from a multi-year project co-directed by Cassie Meador and Paloma McGregor, and performed by Dance Exchange artists and local community members. An intergenerational investigation of how race shapes the landscape around us, and included as part of programming at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church to spark conversations on racial equity and personal and organizational responsibility and accountability. Original sound score designed by Stowe Nelson. June 2017, Old Cambridge Baptist Church; Cambridge, MA.

*From Burning to Telling (Co-director, Performer)*

Explores ideas of legibility, both from a scientific perspective and from an improvisational movement and storytelling practice. This work-in-progress was incubated at Dance Exchange, and shared informally in partnership with the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies at the University of Maryland-College Park. February 2017, University of Maryland-College Park, College Park, MD.

2016

*Dream Within a Dream: Madness (Choreographer)*

An immersive theatre/dance performance that explores the life and writings of Edgar Allen Poe. Directed by Doug Bradshaw and Jennifer Schwed. September and October 2016, Torpedo Factory Arts Center, Alexandria, VA.

*I, or 6, Moments in our Garden (Choreographer, Performer)*

An exploration on distillation and fragmentation, based on the work in progress *Growing Our Own Gardens*. July 2016, Dance Place, Washington, DC. **Commissioned for the Kitchen Sink Fest.**

*Glacial Drift (Performer)*

An improvisational exploration of physical site and figurative place, as part of an installation at the National Building Museum. Directed by Maida Withers. July 2016, National Building Museum, Washington, DC.

*Growing Our Own Gardens (Director, Performer)*

This work-in-progress brings together dance, poetry, and drag to explore the LGBTQ movements that have brought us to present day, questioning the role of intergenerational collaboration, and positioning us to look at where we are headed. Original sound design by Stowe Nelson. June 2016, Dance Complex, Cambridge, MA. **Commissioned by the Queer Voices Festival and Dance Complex.**

*Ritual Cycle #3: In Good Company (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

A deepening into the collaborative process between Jessie Laurita-Spanglet and Matthew Cumbie, this iteration builds on our exploration of the choreographic process as ritual. Sound score by Mike Wall. Created and performed by Matthew Cumbie and Jessie Laurita-Spanglet as part of a larger work, *Alongside*, by Jessie Laurita-Spanglet. April 2016, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Washington, DC.

*The (still perfectly fine) adventures of Unicorn hair + Dragon heartstring (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

A collaborative improvisational duet, both poignantly sad and delightfully whimsical, that travels backwards and forwards in time to look at the devices from our childhood that help us make sense of our place in the world and grapple with the things we lose along the way. Original sound design and text design by Betsy Miller and Matthew Cumbie. April 2016, AS220, Providence, RI. **Commissioned for the Modern Movements Festival at AS220**

*Selfie (Choreographer, Performer)*

A dance film choreographed and performed by Matthew Cumbie, collaboratively created with filmmaker Ben Carver. March 2016, ULine Arena; Washington, DC.

*Not Yet Here (work in progress)(Director, Performer)*

A part of a larger work in progress directed by Matthew Cumbie, this improvisational trio weaves together dance, poetry, and story telling to explore what Jose Esteban Muñoz refers

to as queer futurity, and was selected to be presented in the *Never Before, Never Again* festival at Triskellion Arts. Original sound score by Stowe Nelson. Performed by Matthew Cumbie, Tyler French, Danté Brown, Jessica Hale. January 2016, Triskellion Arts, Brooklyn, NY.

2015

*Bricks and Bones: A performance series in response to the erasure of Black lives and communities in Dallas, Texas, and the movements to recover, rebuild and honor those lost histories. (Project lead, Performer)*

A multi-year project co-directed by Cassie Meador and Paloma McGregor, we collaboratively weave dance, song, and storytelling into an intergenerational investigation of how race shapes the landscape around us. Original sound score designed by Stowe Nelson. Performed by Dance Exchange and Dallas community members. Site-based performances at: Southern Methodist University, the African American Museum, and Saint Paul's United Methodist Church. Premiere November 2015 at South Dallas Cultural Center, Dallas, TX.  
**Funded by the Embrey Family Foundation**

*Still Crossing (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

An iconic work that explores migration and journeys choreographed by Liz Lerman that integrates community engagement throughout process and performance. Originally commissioned as part of the BiCentennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty. Reset as part of *New Hampshire Ave: This Is a Place To...*, directed by Cassie Meador, as a site-adaptive work. Reset and performed by Dance Exchange artists Cassie Meador, MK Abadoo, Matthew Cumbie, Shula Strassfeld and Amanda Newman; performed by Summer Institute participants and community members. Original sound score. July 2015, New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, MD. **Funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts**

*Journey (Performer)*

A solo work made by Liz Lerman, and reset as a duet on Thomas Dwyer and Matthew Cumbie. Performed by Thomas Dwyer and Matthew Cumbie. No sound design; entire duet is done as an accumulation of movement and text. May 2015, *National Endowment for the Arts Creative Aging conference*, Constitution Center, Washington, DC.

*WaterLines:RiverBank (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

An installation/performance that activates an abandoned bank and connects the nearby river and the community using dance, multimedia, sound, and objects to question what we value and how we protect what we want to pass on. Directed by Ronit Eisenbach. Original sound score. April 2015, Washington College. Chestertown, MD.

*The tree falls. The dust settles. And we line up. (Co-choreographer)*

An ensemble work that looks at the carrying capacity of individuals, cultures, and our world. Performed by Dance Exchange and Dance Exchange's Co-Lab participants. Original sound score design by Matthew Cumbie. March 2015. *Christopher K. Morgan & Artists Dance & Dessert series*, Rockville, MD.

*Entrances and Echoes (Performer)*

An improvisational evening-length work that closely examines the relationship between shared experiences and shared spaces. Directed by Annie Kloppenberg. Performed by Annie Kloppenberg & Company. Sound score by Jordin Chiolis. February 2015. Colby College, Waterville, ME.

*Ritual Cycle #1: Do this for the remembrance of me (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

An improvisational duet that looks at the ritual of religion, and its changing relationship over time within the lives of these people. Original sound score by Matthew Cumbie and Jessie Laurita-Spanglet. February 2015. Baltimore Dance Project, Baltimore, MD.

2014

*A Dream Within A Dream (Performer)*

An installation performance of a devised physical theater work based on the life and writings of Edgar Allen Poe, directed by Jen Schwed and Doug Bradshaw. Performed the role of William LeGrande; improvised with text and movement as an interactive experience for audience members. October 2014, Arlington, VA.

*Improvisational Exploration #1 (Performer)*

An ensemble improvisational performance shaped and performed collaboratively by Angie Hauser, Chris Aiken, and participants in the Dance Improvisation & Performance intensive, held at Earthdance. Performed by Angie Hauser, Chris Aiken, and participants. Live music by Rob Flax. August 2014, Smith College, Northampton, MA.

*A Sky Full of Stars (Choreographer)*

An ensemble work for students at Texas State University- San Marcos. Sound design by Matthew Cumbie. September 2014, *Opening Door Dance Theatre*, Texas State University- San Marcos, San Marcos, TX. **Commissioned by Texas State University**

*Journey (Performer)*

A solo work by Liz Lerman, and reset as a duet on Thomas Dwyer and Matthew Cumbie. No sound design; entire duet is done as an accumulation of movement and text. June 2014, *National Center for Creative Aging conference*, Arena Stage, Washington, DC.

*Same River, Twice (Performer)*

A collaborative work directed by Jessie Laurita-Spanglet. Music design by Jessie Laurita-Spanglet. April 2014, *Shared Grad Concert*, University of Maryland Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park, MD.

*Dissolving (Co-choreographer)*

A collaborative work choreographed with Christopher K. Morgan and performed by Christopher K. Morgan & Artists. Live music designed by and performed by Jonathan Kolm. March 2014, the Alden Theater, McLean, VA.

*From the Desk of Rachel Carson (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

A collaborative work that explores the relationship between the historical writings of Rachel Carson and the current state of our waterways, with multiple performative and place-based outcomes. Performed by Dance Exchange. Sound design by Stowe Nelson. January 2014, Dance Place's *Modern Moves Festival*, Washington, DC.

2013

*Performance in the Clouds (Performer)*

A piece commissioned by Artisphere, made in response to and performed with Andy Warhol's *Silver Clouds*. Collaboratively created by Cassie Meador with Dance Exchange artists and performed by Dance Exchange. Live music by David Schulman. October 2013, Artisphere, Rosslyn, VA.

*The Red House, an excerpt from The Hendrix Project (Performer)*

A resetting of a piece choreographed by Bebe Miller, originally premiering in 1991. Revised by Bebe Miller, Darrell Jones, Angie Hauser, and the cast. July 2013, Bates Dance Festival, Lewiston, ME.

*To the Edge (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

Co-choreographed by Cassie Meador, Sarah Levitt, Matthew Cumbie and Shula Strassfeld during a Dance Exchange Summer Institute that grew from explorations at the Anacostia River and reflections on personal experiences with waterways. Collaboratively made and performed with Summer Institute participants. Original sound score by Stowe Nelson. June 2013, American Dance Institute, Washington, DC.

*How to Lose a Mountain (Performer)*

A multidisciplinary dance theater work that addresses mountaintop removal and questions our relationship to place and the resources we use. Choreographed by Cassie Meador with Dance Exchange artists and performed by Dance Exchange artists. Original music and sound score by Stowe Nelson and Zeke Leonard. March 2013, Dance Place, Washington, DC. April 2013, Kohler Center for the Arts, Sheboygan, WI. May 2013, Trillium Performing Arts (excerpt), Lewisburg, WV. **Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and Dance Exchange**

*Where I Will Turn (Co-choreographer)*

A multidisciplinary piece that explores the shoreline as a place of memory and healing. Collaboratively made with Cassie Meador and Sonoma State University students and performed by the students. Original music by Jesse Olsen Bay. April 2013, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA.

*Small Dances about Big Ideas, excerpt (Performer)*

Originally made by Liz Lerman in collaboration with Dance Exchange artists. *Covenant National conference*. February 2013, Newark, NJ.

2012

*Ground Loss (Performer)*

A dance theater work that explores shifting roles of identity and the boundaries between dance and theater. Collaboratively choreographed by Sarah Levitt with Dance Exchange artists and performed by Dance Exchange artists. An excerpt shown at *Spiraling*, October 2012, City Studio at Strathmore, Bethesda, MD; also at *Straight to the Source*. December 2012, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

*These islands are perfectly fine (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

An improvisational duet exploring the shifting nature of relationships. Collaboratively made and performed with Betsy Miller. Music by Polmo Polpo. August 2012, *Bates Dance Festival*, Lewiston, ME.

*Language from the Land (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

Co-directed and choreographed by Dance Exchange artists and with Dance Exchange Summer Institute participants. July 2012, *Capital Fringe Festival*, GALA Theater, Washington, D.C.

*Building a Better Fishtrap (Performer)*

An improvisational installation performance directed by Paloma McGregor that explores lived/embodied memory and the act of making. Commissioned for *No Longer Empty* and curated by Christal Brown. April 2012, Andrew Freedman House, Bronx, NY.

*How To Lose a Mountain: an interactive performance (Performer)*

An interactive performance of Cassie Meador's work-in-progress that includes the launch of the project website and fundraiser preceding in-depth research in the field (in the form of a 500 mile hike) and the studio. April 2012, *Take 5*, University of Maryland-College Park, MD. April 2012, John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

*Beginnings forever lost (Performer)*

An evening length work exploring immigration and new beginnings through movement and text. Collaboratively choreographed by Keith Thompson with danceTactics company and performed by company. January 2012, *FLICFest*, Irondale Arts Center, Brooklyn, NY. Performed in department spring showcase, May 2012, Queensborough Community College, Queens, NY.

*a little bill of fare (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

An improvisational duet created and performed with Nicole Touzien. Sound score and set design collaboratively created with Nicole Touzien. Premier 2012, *The Loom's First Friday Series*, The Living Gallery, Brooklyn, NY.

2011

*Sewing Process #1 (Performer)*

An improvisational exploration of task-oriented gestures and transcendancy. Collaboratively created by Jill Sigman with performers. December 2011, *Crossing Boundaries*, Dixon Place, New York, NY.

*Tryptych (Performer)*

Choreographed by Christian von Howard, performed by Von Howard Project. July 2011, *Guest Artist Series*, Dance Theater Workshop, New York, NY. I also performed a solo excerpt for *Fall for Dance*. November 2011, Dogtown Dance Theater, Richmond, VA.

*thinking seeing standing feeling object of attention (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

An improvisational duet collaboratively created and performed with Amanda Jackson. Music by Trentmoller. Premier 2010. Selected to represent Texas Woman's University at South-Central ACDFFA 2011, at New Mexico State University, where it was performed in the Gala concert. Performed at *Educational Bodies: The Performance of Gender and Sexuality in Academia*, April 2011, at Harvard University. Performed at *Big Range Festival*, June 2011, at Barnevelder Space in Houston, TX.

2010

*love and incarceration Chapter 11: the bankruptcy of righteousness + wrongdoing (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

A work that explores ideas of love, incarceration, and 'doing' from a queer perspective. Collaboratively made and performed with jhon r. stronks. Music compilation by dj chicken flava. July 2010, *BEHOLD: A Queer Performance Festival*, Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica, CA. Also performed at the *around/about contemporary dance festival*, September 2010, in the Garfield Theater, La Jolla, CA.

*Curios y Serpentinias (Performer)*

Choreographed for Cholorock Dance Theater by founder and director Jose Zamora. Premier 2009 at Texas Woman's University. Performed at *PILOT: Choreographer's Take Flight*, February 2010, The Hub Theater, Dallas, TX. Also selected to represent Texas Woman's University at South-Central ACDFFA and National ACDFFA 2010, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

2009

*Would You Please Restate Your Answer in the Form of a Question? (Performer)*

A site specific piece choreographed by Mark Dendy to inaugurate the new Durham Performing Arts Center and ADF's 75th season. I was invited as a guest artist to perform. June 2009, Durham Performing Arts Center, Durham, NC. ***Commissioned by the American Dance Festival***

*Las Malandrines (Performer)*

Choreographed for Cholorock Dance Theater by founder and director Jose Zamora. Performed at *Performatica*, March 2009, La Universidad de las Américas, Puebla, Mexico.

*Crowded Action (Performer)*

A site specific improvisational work choreographed by the SHUA Group. No sound score. March 2009, Arts Triangle Walking Tour, Texas Woman's University.

*From Out of Nowhere (Performer)*

Choreographed by Mark Dendy. Music by Apocalyptica. Premier 2008 at Texas Woman's University. Selected to represent TWU at South Central ACDFFA 2009, and selected for the gala concert.

*Rate Per Mile (Co-choreographer, Performer)*

A site-specific work combining live performance with film, collaboratively created with Crysta Caulkins-Clouse. Music by *Volcano, I'm still excited*. Arts Triangle Walking Tour, Texas Woman's University (March 2009). **Commissioned for Opening Door Dance Theater at Texas State University (October 2009).**

## REVIEWS OF SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

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"*1, or 6, Moments From Our Gardens*, concept and performance by Matthew Cumbie and Sam Horning, began as a vivid retelling of distinct memories for numbers one through three, and as the piece progressed the memories for the higher numbers became less specific. The balancing, headstands, and pedestrian feel to the piece was refreshing. The sixth moment, "we arrived but just for a minute," felt poetic without being saccharine, and suited the performance of the two men."

- Rick Westerkemp, <http://dcmetrotheaterarts.com>, 01.08.2016

"I arrived early to see their (Dance Exchange Summer Institute participants) morning class taught by resident artist *Matthew Cumbie*: lush movement phrases warmed up the dancers' joints in improvisatory exercises, both individually and in trios. In class together the dancers appeared like morphing and swirling clay figures, supple and pliable, that spoke and laughed and touched one another. Cues from *Cumbie* ranged from those that sounded like a yoga lesson- "the more you release into the earth the more the earth gives back to you"- to those that could have been spoken by a science teacher: "this is your own research." The dancing that appeared was a blend of risk-taking with reliability, a combination of uncertainty and wisdom that was fascinating to watch. Phrases became kinetic statements about spontaneity and interactivity, dependence and competence."

- Kate Mattingly, <http://pinklineproject.com>, 14.07.2012

"[About *thinking seeing standing feeling object of attention*] Crashing into each other with a sassy finesse, the pair employed turbulent partnering, overt sexual gestures and an eye-locking connection to create a terse but steamy climate. Captivating movers both, their raw but slick styles exudes a 'downtown, aesthetic, but they hark from Texas Woman's University. Let's hope we see more of them."

-Nancy Wozny, <http://dancehunter.com>, 06.2011

## PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

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### *Publications*

Meador, Cassie, et al. Moving Field Guide: A Teacher Training Toolkit for Grades 3-5. School Yard ed., Dance Exchange, 2015.

Cumbie, Matthew. (2011). Queer Identity in Improvisational Dance Performance: Exploring Gender, Self-Fashioning, and an Other. Unpublished Professional Paper, Texas Woman's University, May 2011.

### *Presentations*

“Conference Weaver.” Intersecting with the conference at key moments, I co-facilitated moments of synthesis and reflection using embodied and poetic approaches. At the end, these reflections were shared back in a movement phrase and collaboratively created poem. National Association of Poetry Therapy National Conference; Baltimore, MD, April 2019. I played a similar role at the Advancing the Human Condition symposium, sponsored by and held at Virginia Tech; Blacksburg, VA, November 2018.

“Moving Memories, Creative Communities.” A workshop that explores LGBTQ+ community building by bringing ideas into action through dancemaking and movement. Invited as part of Live Out Loud LGBTQIA Conference. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; Adams, MA, March 2019.

“Intergenerational Arts Programs and the Older Adult Learner.” A deep dive session that explored multigenerational and intergenerational programming, co-facilitated with Lifetime Arts as part of the National Guild for Community Arts Education National Conference. Baltimore, MD, November 2018.

“Organizing Artists for Change: moving through the work of Dance Exchange.” An animated keynote that shares the work of Dance Exchange-- current and legacy-- through performance excerpts, video samples, storytelling, and interactive audience engagement. Originally a part of the Dance Exchange residency at the University of Virginia. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, March 2017. Another iteration included in the Dance Exchange residency at Colby College. Colby College, Waterville, ME, November 2018.

“Race, Erasure, Resistance: creative practices and performances for advancing racial equity.” A share-out session about the creative process Dance Exchange and Dallas community partners co-created, emphasizing creative tools and practices that were generated in this project. I was one of three facilitators leading this breakout session at the National Dance Education Organization National Conference. San Antonio, TX, October 2017.

“Race, Erasure, Resistance: A multiyear collaborative process between Dance Exchange and Dallas community members.” A share-out session about the creative process Dance Exchange and Dallas community partners co-created; I was one of four partners who led this panel and embodied conversation at the Dance|USA National Conference. Austin, TX, June 2016.

“Current practices and movements in art education for social change.” A panel-conversation about the role that specific art education initiatives play in social change and justice movements, as part of the annual *Face to Face Conference* hosted by the New York City Roundtable in Arts Education. Panelists were invited, and I was brought in to speak about the work that Dance Exchange is doing at the local and national levels. The City College of New York, New York, NY, April 2015.

“Storytelling as a tool for engagement and exploring the intersections of dance making and healthy living.” A presentation given by invitation at a conference co-sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign and the graduate certificate program in LGBT Health Policy & Practice at George Washington University, called *Art, Creativity, and LGBT Health and Well-Being*. Human Rights Campaign Headquarters, Washington, DC, January 2014.

“thinking seeing standing feeling object of attention.” Duet collaboratively choreographed and performed by Matthew Cumbie and Amanda Jackson selected to perform at *Educational Bodies: The Performance of Gender and Sexuality in Academia*. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 2011.

## PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

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2018	Dance Grant Panelist Maryland State Arts Council
	Festival Adjudicator, Barnstorm Dance Festival Dance Source Houston; Houston, TX
2017	Touring Roster Grant Panelist Maryland State Arts Council
2016	Adjudication Panel AKIMBO Dance Festival; Baltimore, MD
2015-2016	Dance Grant Panelist Maryland State Arts Council
2015	Adjudication Panel Ohio Dance Festival; Columbus, OH
2009-2011	Technique Committee, Department of Dance Texas Woman’s University; Denton, TX

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- 2019      FY20 Arts & Humanities Fellowship Grant Program  
DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; Washington, DC  
\$6,750
- FY20 Project, Events, Festivals Grant  
DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; Washington, DC  
To support of the development of *What Is Held Here*  
\$8,500
- 2018      FY19 Arts & Humanities Fellowship Grant Program  
DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; Washington, DC  
\$3,500
- Project Grant  
Arcus Foundation; New York, NY  
To support the presentation of *Growing Our Own Gardens*  
\$5,000
- 2017      FY18 Arts & Humanities Fellowship Grant Program  
DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; Washington, DC  
\$7,000
- FY18 Artworks Grant (with Dance Exchange)  
National Endowment for the Arts; Washington, DC  
To support the creation of performance work and leading engagements  
through *Growing Our Own Gardens*  
\$10,000
- FY17 SomDance Professional Development Grant  
Somerville Arts Council; Somerville, MA  
To support the work of *The (still perfectly fine) adventures of Unicorn Hair +  
Dragon Heartstring*  
\$3,000, plus mentorship by choreographer John Jasperse and an invitation to  
perform selected work in SomDance Festival
- Artist Leadership Cohort  
Association for Performing Arts Professionals (APAP); New York, NY  
Part of a 20-member cohort invited to attend and inform APAP conference  
sessions and cultivate personal leadership capacities with Liz Lerman and  
Marc Bamuthi Joseph

- 2016 FY17 Arts & Humanities Fellowship Grant Program  
DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; Washington, DC  
*\$6,000*
- Project Grant  
Arcus Foundation; New York, NY  
To support the development and showing of Growing Our Own Gardens  
*\$5,000*
- 2015 FY16 Artist Fellowship Grant Program  
DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities; Washington, DC  
*\$5,000*
- 2014 Scholarship Recipient  
Dance Improvisation & Performance Intensive with Chris Aiken & Angie  
Hauser; Earthdance; Plainfield, MA  
*Full tuition scholarship*
- 2013 Scholarship Recipient  
Bates Dance Festival; Lewiston, ME  
*Full tuition scholarship*
- 2012 Scholarship Recipient  
Bates Dance Festival; Lewiston, ME  
*Full tuition scholarship*
- 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award  
Department of Dance  
Texas Woman's University; Denton, TX