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[High resolution photos](#)

Alabama Dance Council and Wideman Davis Dance receive APAP ArtsForward grant of \$50,000 to support collaboration with Selma partners for *Migratuse Reimagined*

May 27, 2022 – The Alabama Dance Council is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Professionals as part of its new program, **APAP ArtsForward**, which supports the performing arts field's safe, vibrant, and equitable reopening and recovery. Through the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, APAP ArtsForward awarded \$2.065 million to 47 partnerships between presenting organizations and artists.

The Alabama Dance Council presented Wideman Davis Dance's premiere of *Migratuse Ataraxia* at the Klein-Wallace plantation house in Harpersville during the 2020 Alabama Dance Festival. *Migratuse Reimagined* is the next iteration of this project. The artists intentionally shift the journey from spaces of enslavement to those of Black liberation and empowerment through a mobile, performative intervention. Participants will travel to three outdoor performance sites where they will encounter the artists' responses to historic Black structures through large scale projections, sonic environments, and live performances that speak to Black futurity.

The *Migratuse Reimagined* project will take place in Selma, Alabama, with multiple site visits to continue the artists' and presenter's practice of working deeply in community with local community partners. These include the Black Belt Community Foundation and Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation partnership, the National Voting Rights Museum, journeysforthesoul.com, By the River Center for Humanity, and ArtsRevive. Community engagement will involve virtual and in-person components to build relationships culminating with outdoor performances at three different sites.

Site visits to Selma include a planning residency on June 11-16, and community engagement residencies on June 19-25, August 7-13, September 11-17, and October 10-16. The site-specific performance series is scheduled for October 13-15. Community engagement activities include community gatherings, panel discussions, movement workshops (no dance experience necessary), interviews and individual meetings with the artists, work-in-progress showings, and other performative events. All performances and community engagement activities are free. **The first public event is a Meet-the-Artists Reception on June 14, 5:30-7:00 pm, at the ArtsRevive Carneal Building.**

As venues reopen, tours resume, and audiences reconnect, APAP ArtsForward grants will fuel collaborations between APAP presenter members and partnering artists/ensembles. The **APAP ArtsForward** program awarded 47 grants to APAP presenting organizations working in partnership with an artist or ensemble. The program placed priority on funding small and mid-sized presenting organizations with operating budgets of less than \$5M, and, as part of a growing movement to promote greater equity between presenter and artists, at least half of the grant funds will be distributed to artists over the course of their engagements. As the performing arts collectively recovers, grantees will also participate in peer gatherings.

“We are thrilled to be selected as a grantee of the **APAP ArtsForward** program,” said Rosemary Johnson, Executive Director of the Alabama Dance Council. “I am looking forward to working with Wideman Davis Dance and our local partners as we return to live engagement activities and performances in a safe environment. I am especially excited about being in community again to connect artists and audiences.”

“These 47 partnerships represent a shift in the ecosystem among artists and presenters, as well as the spirit of APAP’s [10/20/30 Pledge](#),” said Lisa Richards Toney, President and CEO of APAP. “Thanks to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as we emerge from the biggest challenge in our field’s history, artists, working with presenters, producers and agents, can lead the way.”

Selected by a [panel of experts](#) in the performing arts field, the 47 grantee collaborations support a variety of presenting organizations, a diverse array of artists, and a broad range of approaches to reopening. A complete list of grant-supported collaborations can be found [here](#).

APAP ArtsForward was inspired by the intensive exchanges that emerged during the pandemic among peers and working groups in the arts field, including APAP’s **Building Ethical and Equitable Partnerships** Working Group. The program was conceived of to build and reinforce a sustainable arts ecosystem with business practices that respect artists, support presenters, and underscores the interdependence and safety of all those involved in performance engagements. In addition to direct grants, **APAP ArtsForward** will provide a range of services to support the performing arts field’s transition toward reopening its venues safely. Learn more [here](#). Building on APAP’s long history as a regrantee organization, *ArtsForward’s* design and activities are informed by a national team of multidisciplinary and culturally diverse **advisors** and peers, including artists, agents, and presenters.

In addition to **APAP ArtsForward** funding, this project is supported by **South Arts** through the Momentum program designed to strengthen the touring capacity of selected Southern dance companies through residencies, touring grants, and professional development. Wideman Davis Dance is one of five dance companies currently receiving Momentum support.

About APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals

The Association of Performing Arts Professionals is the national service, advocacy and membership organization for the live performing arts field. APAP is dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts presenting, booking and touring industry and the professionals who work within it.

About the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and we believe that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom to be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive.

About South Arts

South Arts is a nonprofit regional arts organization empowering artists, organizations, and communities, and increasing access to arts and culture. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the State Arts Agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee — with additional funding from other public and private donors such as the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation — South Arts supports artists and organizations through a rich and responsive portfolio of grants, fellowships, and programs.

About the Alabama Dance Council

The Alabama Dance Council is a dance service organization working in partnership with the Alabama State Council on the Arts. We are a statewide network of people who are inspired to make, teach, share and experience all forms of dance as a powerful way to move toward a more just society. We believe that dance emboldens every body to connect, build community, and transform the experience of being human.

About Wideman Davis Dance

Wideman Davis Dance is a dance organization co-directed by Tanya Wideman-Davis and Thaddeus Davis that utilizes interdisciplinary collaboration to examine, create, and be inspired by Black life, existence, and imagination. We reflect the Black experience that is rooted in American Southernisms, even as it moves beyond the geography of the South. We research and make work to understand the social, economic, and political traditions that are historical in nature but current in their practice through movement, visual art, technology, film, and environmental studies. We create a space for truths to be told, rupturing the silence of denial, and retelling history about the African American experience while referencing the present and future.

About the Blackbelt Community Foundation

The mission of the Black Belt Community Foundation is to forge a collective stream of giving that transforms our 12-county region and connects those interested in having an impact in this region with nonprofits that are making a difference today. Founded in 2004 with the idea that those living and working in the Black Belt best knew the area's challenges and opportunities, the Black Belt Community Foundation actively puts needed resources into the region that make a lasting impact.

About Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT)

TRHT is a comprehensive, national and community-based process to plan for and bring about transformational and sustainable change, and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism. A primary focus of TRHT is jettisoning the deeply held, and often unconscious, beliefs that undergird racism: that a person's or group's inferiority or superiority is based on physical characteristics, race, ethnicity or place of origin. This belief has fueled racism and conscious and unconscious bias throughout American culture.

About The National Voting Rights Museum

The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute (NVRMI) is a vital and integral community resource that nurtures the ideas of its community, cultivates intellectual enrichment, encourages lifelong learning, and opens the doors of imagination for all citizens. Our mission is to be a Museum and Institute that chronicles and preserves the historic journey for the right to vote that began when the "Founding Fathers" first planted the seeds of democracy in 1776.

About JourneysfortheSoul

Journey Director JoAnne Bland will take you on a riveting journey thru the uncivil accounts that took place during the Civil Rights movement, touring various landmarks throughout Selma, Alabama. "During my lifetime, I have been both a witness and a participant in some of our nation's most consequential civil rights battles. Born and raised in Selma, Alabama, I have seen first hand how racism and segregation created a deadly divide between two races and decided that it was my duty to ensure that my voice was one of the many that was heard to create equality and voting rights for African Americans."

About *By the River* Center for Humanity

By the River Center for Humanity is a “mixed-use” creative incubator developed to provide for local performers and artisans a show-case to promote their talents, arts, crafts and merchandise. It is Our Mission to encourage and allow small business owners, artists and performers to promote their services to a larger market of consumers through our gallery, and retail gift shop and monthly open market events. It is also our mission to provide educational classes in business and offer to the public; presentations, workshops, exhibits, performances, demonstrations, documentaries, specialty tours and interactive experiences.

About ArtsRevive

ArtsRevive Community Development Corporation, Inc. exists to enhance community development in Selma-Dallas County, Alabama. Connecting with community through the arts, urban design, and tourism while preserving cultural heritage, ArtsRevive believes that the arts offer an entry to economic and community redevelopment and can spur creative place-making in Selma and Dallas County. When community members, governmental leaders, artists and designers work together, it increases the vibrancy and diversity in a place.

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