Greetings!

It is our pleasure to offer a glimpse into our 2018/2019 gatherings. We continue the necessary shadow work of assisting those who traverse and navigate contemporary racism as diasporan scholars moving so that the essential work of Black magic prevails.

Thank you for all you do and if you need us we are here for you.

Warmly,

CDSM Steering Committee – Dr. Brenda Dixon Gottschild, Dr. Adanna Kai Jones, Dr. Lela Aisha Jones & Jazelynn Goudy, MFA

OCTOBER GATHERING
CDSM sponsored an annual autumn meeting in Philadelphia, our home base, as well as a round-table discussion at the annual IABD Festival and Conference in January. At both gatherings, we listen, speak, and share ideas to better understand best practices and realistic strategies for success in contemporary dance culture.

Here are photos from our October, 2018 meeting, attended by Denise Saunders Thompson, IABD President / CEO, Omar Ingram, IABD Program Director, and a score of dance practitioners ranging from graduate students and university professors to presenters, choreographers, and artistic directors. Dr. Lela Aisha Jones orchestrated a breakout group story-sharing exercise and brought the meeting to a close by getting us on our feet to do what brought us together — namely, DANCE!
CDSM/IABD PANEL & REFLECTIONS

On Saturday January 26, 2 to 4 pm, the CDSM / IABD Roundtable session hosted a capacity audience to witness, testify, listen, learn, and vent our frustrations, as well as share our strategies for survival in mainstream dance culture. Since 2013, Dr. Brenda Dixon-Gottschild has facilitated this session and it is now an integral part of the annual IABD convocation.

Here are some reflections by 2019 panelists:

Watch video clip of Dr. Brenda Dixon-Gottschild setting the tone of panel.
Here are some reflections by 2019 panelists...

Going into this year's CDSM panel presentation, I was honored to be included in such a dynamic cast of individuals. I knew that this would be one of the highlights of my time at IABD and I was not let down. Listening to others, I was able to recognize a commonality between all of our journeys. Through being grounded in a deeper sense of self and purpose has allowed all of us to continue to share our gifts through all the adversity we have faced. I returned to my place of work feeling nourished as well as validated. I am humbled and yet reassured.

- Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney

It was an honor to be a part of the 2019 CDSM panel. As true to my previous experiences as an attendee, the event affirmed and supported me as an African American scholar-educator-artists in the field of dance. I cannot express how valuable it is to come into a space of mirrors, like experiences, when so often I feel like the only one of my kind. Our work is important, and as we put our hearts and souls into it--it is personal, speaking to our personhood and humanity. Thus, it is significant that we stop and come together to see each other and witness each other's experiences on this journey of dancing the diasporic body.

- Dr. Nyama McCarthy-Brown

[...] It was a space of validation. And it was clear that it became a space in which people felt the need to share. Of their experiences of troubled waters and of overcoming, of the loneliness of being a black art practitioner and teacher, and of the need for spaces such as that one, and for the healing power of community. All led by the soft hand of the high priestess herself Brenda Dixon Gottschild. [...] Through this process distances were closed, and absence was renewed by presence. It felt like a family reunion. One that had never met like that, and would never meet the same way again. [...] It was a moment, and it will live.

- Thomas Prestø

I was honored to be one of the dynamic 2019 CDSM/IABD panelists. Thanks to the magnificent Dr. Brenda for creating a nurturing atmosphere filled with inter-generational, sincere, honest, multiple sexual identities and emotional ARTISTS. I came away overflowing with renowned confidence, passion, and optimism for the Black Dance field - I AM HERE, WE ARE HERE! Signed, #globaldancemaker

- Germaul Barnes
PICTURED, CDSM / IABD Roundtable Panelists (L-R): Dawn Marie Bazemore, Germaul Barnes, Thomas Talawa Presto, Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney, Dr. Brenda Dixon-Gottschild, Dr. Nyama McCarthy-Brown and Julinda D. Lewis

CDSM ANNOUNCEMENTS

LackLuster
JAZELYNN GOUDY
MFA THESIS PERFORMANCE
MARCH 6-8
SULLIVANT HALL 350
7PM
In May, Jazelynn Goudy, who joined CDSM's steering committee in January of this year, will have completed all requirements to graduate with a **Masters of Fine Arts in Dance** from Ohio State University!

In 2018, our steering committee member **Lela Aisha Jones** finished her doctoral work at Texas Woman's University with her dissertation titled, *Diasporic Movement Practices: African/Afro/Black Embodied Translineages and Contemporary Migrations in Dance*. Her most recent 2019 artistic happenings are a **Lela Aisha Jones | FlyGround** performance at the Kennedy Center Arts Summit on April 29 and an original new work as a part of **Reggie Wilson Fist and Heel Performance Group**’s Grounds that Shout (and others merely shaking) in churches of Philadelphia. For more info: [2019 Kennedy Center Art Summit | FlyGround | Grounds that Shout](https://2019.kennedy-center.org/Art-Summit/FlyGround/Grounds-that-Shout)
In the Fall of 2018, steering committee member Adanna Kai Jones started her first year as an Assistant Professor of Dance and Dance Studies in the Department of Theater and Dance at Bowdoin College in Maine. December 2018 she embarked on a new ethnographic research project with Brotherhood Dance members Orlando Hunter and Ricarrdo Valentine in Veracruz, Mexico. The project focuses on the role dance plays in negotiating the African presence in Mexico.

Currently, Adanna is working on a solo piece (tentatively titled "Navigating the Borders of Silence") rooted in her ethnographic research on Afro-Caribbean gender relations, to premiere June 1st as part of the Maine Moves concert series, in Portland. Lastly, she was accepted into Urban Bush Women's Summer Leadership Institute, held in NYC at the Gibney this July.
We invite you to support Dr. Brenda Dixon-Gottschild as the keynote speaker of the Women in Dance Leadership Conference held in Philadelphia this October.

-- WID Conference Registration is now open --
As movement researchers and performing scholars of the African Diaspora, we have all experienced some form of either outright discrimination or subversive, exclusionary tactics by the academic community. CD3M is our response to millennial-style racism in our supposed post-racist era. Like those involved in the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century, we are resolved to be proactive. Our fledgling organization is creating a database, disseminating our Mission Statement, and gathering resources (including legal counsel).

We welcome new members from across the Diaspora as we extend our base. A voluntary, not-for-profit coalition of concerned dancer/scholars, we do not collect dues or elect officers.

We are a service organization, ready to “trouble the waters” in order to embrace our future fully and fairly.

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