Dear Members,

Greetings and Highest Good from the Advisory Board. It's been two years since the idea coalesced with need, and CDSM was launched. We wish there was no reason to exist, but racism continues its devious though lethal course in our professional and private lives. After some infant growing pains (you may recall the "Where Do We Go From Here" letter we sent last May 22), we agreed to keep on keepin' on, accepted new members on the Board, and inaugurated a new initiative. Read on for details.
Many others in our Diasporan circle are exerting pressure on the establishment to make room for us. A multiplicity of efforts is a good thing, and we support all such endeavors, some of which are listed in this newsletter.

Once again CDSM will sponsor a session at the IABD conference (Cleveland, OH, Jan. 22-25), conceived by Advisory Board member Jaamil Kosoko and moderated by yours truly, with dance department chairs Onye Ozuzu, Gaynell Sherrod, Christal Brown, 651 Arts Center director Shay Wafer and pending guest Camille A. Brown participating.

I encourage you to take time in your schedules to read this newsletter, share it with colleagues, and contact us with your ideas or solicitations. Peace Out.

In Remembrance
CDSM remembers the life and legacy of Geoffrey Holder. We send our love to his family and friends and honor the numerous contributions he has made. Rest in Peace Ancestor.

Ambassadorship Program
CDSM wants to introduce its newest initiative, The Ambassadorship Program. The CDSM Ambassadorship Program is designed to give dance scholars and movement researchers facing discrimination or subversive, exclusionary tactics in the academic or dance community with an opportunity to connect with and get advice from an experienced practitioner in the field. The program guarantees participants with one conversation a year.

Click here for more information.
Urban Bush Women Choreographer’s Convening

In June 2014, CDSM advisory board members Brenda Dixon Gottschild, Saroya Corbett, and Jaamil Kosoko, were invited to participate in the Urban Bush Women Choreographers Convening in Brooklyn, NY. Over the course of three days scholars, artists, writers, activists, and educators from all over the nation gathered to discuss, brainstorm and plan new strategies for supporting the creation and distribution of performance works by Women of Color. Working under the creative moniker of Project Next Generation (the capacity building subsection of UBW), Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Paloma McGregor, and her brilliant UBW team led the powerhouse group through a series of activities and community building exercising geared towards self empowerment and self esteem strengthening.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Check out this update on some dance scholars/practitioners that we have worked with over the years.

Black Girl Brilliance, LLC specializes in academic career coaching services for graduate students and faculty members in arts, humanities and social science disciplines. Focusing on culturally relevant, practical strategies for career success, Black Girl Brilliance, LLC supports clients with an array of a la carte and long-term service options to support them on their pathway to optimal success in the academy. Established by Takiyah Nur Amin, Ph.D., Black Girl Brilliance, LLC is committed to providing relevant and accessible career coaching services to diverse clients through timely, relevant trainings, one-on-one executive coaching opportunities and on-site workshops.

Click here for more information.
"I am the new Dance Faculty at Bard High School Early College in Newark. I'm currently teaching Dance History, the Politics of Movement, and several movement classes. The students at BHSEC are working towards obtaining their Associates Degree. I find the experience to be challenging and rewarding. I am thankful for the support I've received from our CDSM community."

Liana Conyers, M.F.A.
www.lianaconyers.com

"After two long years of recovery in Texas that provided multiple insights pertaining to healing, recovery, and new directions in my research, I am now finding purpose again as a Visiting Professor of Dance in the Modern Department at The University of Utah."

A’Keitha Carey, MFA
PhD Candidate at Texas Woman’s University
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