



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to “The Art of Supporting Dance-Making” at the Alliance of Artist Communities annual conference! We are so grateful that you are able to join us in Charleston for what we hope will be a fruitful day of group and individual discussions. [for my taste the sharing/learning is a bit precious]

This conversation is taking place at the onset of the third year of the Hatchery Project, a collaborative experiment focused on research and development for dance. This project is one of several initiatives that grew out of a field-wide forum that took place at MANCC in 2009 and the AAC’s 2011 *Mind the Gap Report*, both of which highlighted a need for more comprehensive developmental support for dance and performance.

Included in this packet you will find the agenda, a description of The Hatchery Project and materials to give context for our discussions. [I would cut this sentence—doesn’t everyone coming to the conference know this? Might seem insulting? And then make the previous sentence the beginning of the next one Whether you are staying for the day or the entire conference, we encourage you to take advantage of conference activities to meet new colleagues as well as catch up with familiar ones.]

We are very appreciative to our funders, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts for supporting this project, and to the Alliance of Artist Communities for collaborating with The Hatchery Project to enable us to host this day-long convening at its annual conference. As an organization that brings together artist residency leaders, artists, funders, presenters and policy makers from around the world to focus on supporting the creation of new work, the AAC feels like an ideal setting for this discussion and exchange of ideas.

We hope this event will be a useful and generative part of a larger series of discussions unfolding around what it means to support the creation of new work.

We hope you enjoy the conference,

Jennifer Calienes + Carla Peterson  
Maggie Allesee National  
Center for Choreography

Sara Coffey  
Vermont Performance Lab

Craig Peterson  
RED Arts Project  
Gibney Dance

Brian Rogers  
The Chocolate Factory

**The Art of Supporting Dance-Making with The Hatchery Project  
@ The Alliance of Artist Communities Annual Conference  
October 21, 2014: Charleston, South Carolina**

In 2012, four organizations, the **Chocolate Factory Theater** in New York City, the **Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography** at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Philadelphia's **RED Arts Project**, and **Vermont Performance Lab** in Southern Vermont, launched a three-year experiment--The Hatchery Project. The Hatchery partners selected four choreographers to participate in the three year pilot project: **Luciana Achugar, Beth Gill, Annie-B Parson and Reggie Wilson**. Cultural critic/writer **Claudia La Rocco** was brought on to document and evaluate this endeavor, interviewing participants and observing as artists spend creative time at the four sites.

**The Art of Supporting Dance-Making** uses the Hatchery Project as a launching point to examine challenges, opportunities, and models in the support of performing arts and artists. This session will discuss the ways in which organizations and independent artists can create fruitful partnerships dedicated to research and development - protecting stable and productive work environments and digging deeper into the relationship between process and product (recognizing that these things mean different things to different people).

9:00 – 10:15	<b>Conference Welcome + Keynote Address</b> Keynote speaker: Reggie Wilson	Francis Marion Hotel
10:30 – 11:15	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>  <b>We didn't mean to sleep together, but lying side by side wasn't satisfying enough</b> <i>True collaboration is more than alignment: making commitment to long-term dialogue, compromise, information sharing and embracing different approaches to this work.</i>	Alumni Center Room, College of Charleston
11:15 – 12:30	<b>Conditions for Collective Advancement</b>  <i>A frank discussion of some of the challenges and opportunities in a collective initiative like the Hatchery Project, including but not limited to: prioritizing and valuing the variables inherent in dance development residencies; how to effectively navigate working with various artists at different career stages; working with managers and agents (or not) and the challenges of third party communication in supporting the development of new work and new behavior; the importance of building trust, transparency and shared values among all the key players.</i>	Alumni Center Room
12:30 – 1:30	<b>Lunch</b>	Alumni Center Room
1:30 – 3:15	<b>Engaged Research vs. Community Engagement</b>  <i>Artists and residency sites are more frequently bringing the creative process into the public realm. With the right support, artists can make work with community involvement; communities can invest in the work of artists through a porous creative practice and literacy of the field can rise. Why it works, how it works and when it doesn't.</i>	Alumni Center Room
3:15 – 3:30	<b>Break</b>	
3:30 – 5:00	<b>Building Visibility and Value for Residencies in Dance</b>  <i>Because of the collaborative nature of the form, special conditions and tremendous resources are required to research and develop new works in dance. How do we best acknowledge the intense nature of residency work and bring visibility to this often unseen investment?</i>	Alumni Center Room