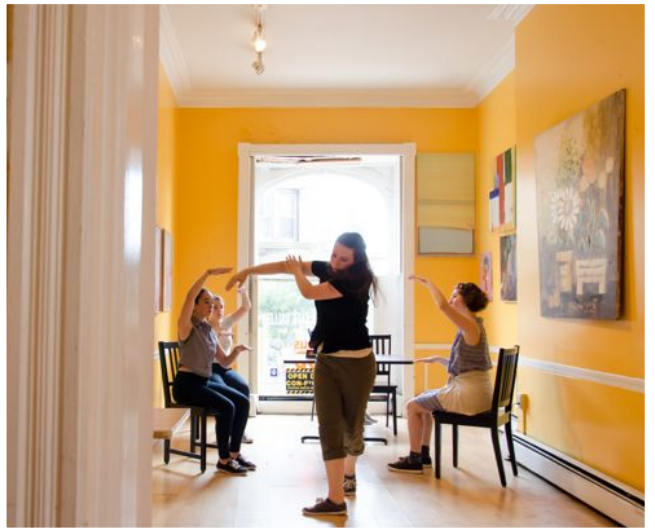


AKIMBO

2016 REPORT

Dance & Movement Art
Festival in Baltimore



AKIMBO 2016 REPORT:

Dance & Movement Art Festival in Baltimore

Artists Grow & Try New Things	2
Programs	3
By The Numbers	5
A Lasting Impact	6

AKIMBO Staff

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AKIMBO 2016 Artistic Selection Panel

Matthew Cumbie (Dance Exchange, D.C.)
 Sonia Dawkins (Prism Dance Theatre)
 Deana Haggag (The Contemporary)

AKIMBO 2016 Committee

Melissa Brady, Kelly Hall, Karen Kuebler, Zoe Papaeracleous,
 Peter Redgrave, Jamilla Scott, and Sarah Smith



THE CITIZENS OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY

CITY ARTS 2
APARTMENTS



STATION NORTH
ARTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT
DISTRICT

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 MICA / Baltimore Rock Opera Society / Towson University / and individual donors

AKIMBO is a project of Deep Vision Dance Company, Inc., a 501(c)3 performing arts organization committed to the cultivation of innovative and collaborative dance experiences that engage and empower the community.



Cover Photos: clockwise from top: Zoe Cleous & Artists by Zachary Handler, Baggypantsrich & mrsuaidi by Zachary Handler, Moveius Contemporary Ballet by Zachary Handler, community workshop by Sidney Pink, Sarah Smith by Zachary Handler, and Deep Vision Dance Company by McKenna DeBandi. This page: Full Circle Dance by Zachary Handler.

Artists Grow & Try New Things

Artists Talk About the Success of AKIMBO 2016

AKIMBO 2016 was Deep Vision Dance Company's 5th festival of site-specific dance in Baltimore's Station North Arts & Entertainment District (SNAED). Based on post-event surveys and conversations, artists took new creative risks in making art, found new ways of interacting with the audience, and created innovative ways to engage with the community.

Feedback from AKIMBO Artists

"To see the joy and excitement on audience members' faces was very rewarding as an artist!"

"The AKIMBO Artwalk was so memorable, especially when I look at the range of audience members who saw my work. I was inspired and challenged to make my art connect to as many people as possible, to find the balance between providing accessible entry points to my art as well and encouraging the audience to engage with creative expressions which might be new or different from what they are used to."

"AKIMBO gave us the motivation to try out ideas and movement around a new concept; it gave us the opportunity to share with audiences that would be unlikely to see our work in other contexts."

"The audience participation was a success! We had them trying gestures and animals. We even met someone who had knowledge of Indian dance and music and related to the different aspects of our performance."

"A 12 year old girl, walked in from the neighborhood, pulled up to one of our microphones, and started singing with Anna RG."



Photos clockwise from top:
Audience member interacting with Noa Heyne's sculpture at the Tool Library, Maggie Jones and Tiffany Spearman, FlamencoSole Experimental. All photos by Zachary Handler.

AKIMBO 2016 - Programs



Photos clockwise from top: Prakriti Dance by Zachary Handler, Vaught Contemporary by Zachary Handler, Dance Jam by Walter Levy, and Baltimore Dance Project by Zachary Handler.

AKIMBO 2016 Artwalk

The Artwalk was the main AKIMBO event on September 10, 2016 from 1:00-6:00PM. This event paired 18 professional dance companies and regional artists with 18 unique SNAED locations. Artists were selected through a detailed proposal process led by local artists and curators: Matthew Cumbie (Dance Exchange, D.C.), Sonia Dawkins (Prism Dance Theatre), and Deana Haggag (The Contemporary).

New sites this year included The Crown, BAMF, The Chesapeake Building, Motor House, Penthouse Gallery - and a return to Area 405.

Artists and companies included:

Baggy pants rich & mrsuaidi, Baltimore Dance Project, BlueShift Dance, The Collective, darlingdance/Hayley Cutler, Deep Vision Dance Company, FlamencoSole Experimental, Full Circle Dance Company, Maggie Jones/Tiffany Spearman, Moveius Contemporary Ballet, Noa Heyne, Noelle Tolbert and Alexander D'Agostino, Peter Redgrave and Khristian Weeks, Prakriti Dance, ReVision Dance Company, Sarah Smith, Vaught Contemporary Ballet, Zoe Cleous & Artists - plus individual musicians and visual artists.

AKIMBO Dance Jam at Motor House

During the middle of the Artwalk, over 80 people gathered at Motor House for an hour long dance jam led by Dance & Bmore. We passed out handmade musical instruments and invited audience and artists to dance and play music together.

The result was a high energy and celebratory gathering where people of all ages danced, played music, laughed, and shared stories about their AKIMBO experiences.

AKIMBO 2016 - Programs Continued

Community Dance Workshop

A FREE Community dance class led by Dance & Bmore was offered at the outdoor WonderGround park in the Greenmount West neighborhood on August 26, 2016.

AKIMBO Teaser & AKIMBO Spree

This year's AKIMBO Teaser featured eight dance companies improvising in a round robin fashion, cycling through various locations throughout SNAED. We also had ten companies participate in the AKIMBO Spree, a celebratory concert at Penthouse Gallery. Both events focused on artist collaborations and sharing.

"I loved participating in the AKIMBO Teaser! Creating on-the-spot performances was so inspiring especially when I can see passers by responding as if they had been re-awaken to the everyday sites and spaces they move through in their daily routine. It reminded me of the power of art to re-connect people to their environment, or at the very least, to see the everyday and seemingly ordinary with fresh eyes. "

~ Artist Feedback

Professional Artist Workshops & Events

One of the most important aspects of the AKIMBO process for artists was the professional workshops and networking events. Following these workshops, artists reported feeling more connected with the Baltimore dance community.



Photos clockwise from top: Community Workshop by Sidney Pink, Artists workshop by Sidney Pink, BlueShift Dance performing at the AKIMBO Spree by Sidney Pink, and darlingdance by Zachary Handler.



Photos clockwise from top: Noelle Tolbert and Alexander D'Agostino, Peter Redgrave and Kristian Weeks, Sarah Smith, and Deep Vision Dance Company.
All photos by Zachary Handler.

AKIMBO 2016 By The Numbers

988

Audience for the Teaser, Artwalk, and Spree

36

Participants in the Professional Workshop

21

Participating Station North Businesses & Organizations

48 Total / 18 Children

Participants in the Community Workshop

14

Outdoor Station North locations including Penn Station, Ynot Lot, 2 Murals, and the Police Box

53

Volunteers for the Teaser, Artwalk, and Spree

29

Dance Companies participated in the Professional Workshop & AKIMBO events

140

Individual Artists

AKIMBO: A Lasting Impact for Station North & Beyond

Supporting Emerging Artists

AKIMBO 2016 presented 9 new companies and artists this year, including the world premiere of BlueShift Dance and Zoe Cleous & Artists. Baltimore's Dance scene continues to shift and grow as new artists are creating work.

"Inspirational! I loved watching the audience naturally join in with the dancers to 'experience' the excitement of days gone by! What a fantastic show, Deep Vision! As always, your creativity and perspective captivates the audience and keeps them wanting more and more!"

~ Audience Member

Broader PR & Dance Reviews

Bmore Art has increased its coverage of dance through critical reviews and thoughtful analysis. This is a great addition to our dance discourse within Baltimore. We also found new PR opportunities this year with Baltimore Magazine and Baltimore Style, giving increased exposure to residents across the state.

Regional Impact

AKIMBO 2016 continued to impact regional artists by inviting artists from Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. This positions Baltimore within the larger context of the east-coast dance scene, and demonstrates Baltimore's larger cultural footprint through innovative art practices and events.

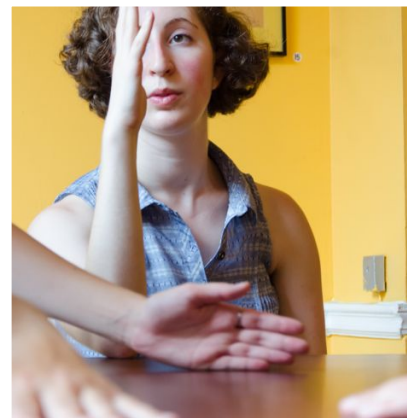


Photo credits, clockwise from top: ReVision Dance Company by Zachary Handler, Zoe Cleous & Artists by Zachary Handler, The Collective by Zachary Handler, and Dance & Bmore by Walter Levy.



AKIMBO 2016 map & poster designed by Baltimore artist Jimmy Malone



Photo credits, clockwise from top: Zoe Cleous & Artists by Zachary Handler, AKIMBO 2016 map photo by Sidney Pink (map designed by Baltimore artist Jimmy Malone), Dance Jam at Motor House by Sidney Pink, Noelle Tolbert & Alexander D'Agostino by Zachary Handler, DVDC by Walter Levy, and Dance Jam by Walter Levy.