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Urbanity Dance to Present FACTS, an Interdisciplinary South End Dance Crawl

Boston, MA—Urbanity Dance’s 2019/2020 season will open with FACTS, an interdisciplinary dance crawl in the South End, on Thursday, October 24 - Saturday, October 26. Dancers from Urbanity’s Professional Company and Creative Class, a roster of guest choreographers, and interdisciplinary collaborators will perform vignettes in a variety of locations in the South End that explore the many ways through which we receive information - the internet, books, stories, communities, bodies, time - and how one’s personal narrative can serve as one’s ultimate truth. Locations include Blackstone Community Center, Bates Art Center, and Urbanity Dance.

Each evening, four groups of audience members will travel to the four locations of FACTS and experience a unique interdisciplinary performance at each venue. The first group will begin at 7:00 pm, followed by groups at 7:20 pm, 7:40 pm, and 8:00 pm.

With artistic direction by Alexander Davis, FACTS will feature new choreography by Meg Anderson, Tarikh Campbell, Cayley Christoforou, and Alexander Davis. Urbanity Dance is thrilled to collaborate with Gillian Dana, Chris Fournier, LILAH, Paola Munda & The Lotus Sound, and Jeremy Stewart for music, set design, and lighting. Additionally, FACTS will feature Community Ambassadors, members of the local South End community, who will serve as guides throughout the performance.

Tickets are $35 each and available at urbanitydance.org/company and by calling 617-572-3727.

About Urbanity Dance

Urbanity Dance exists to engage, inspire, and empower through the art of dance and movement. Urbanity aims to engage people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, both in their own communities and in its own studio space, by helping them discover the joy of movement. Urbanity Dance was founded in 2008 by Betsi Graves with three objectives: propelling contemporary dance to the forefront of Boston’s cultural landscape; meeting an unmet demand for access to training in diverse dance forms; and using dance as a tool for development and healing in local schools and community spaces. Since its founding, Urbanity Dance has grown tremendously and now operates in three locations throughout Boston’s South End, serving thousands of dance-lovers and movers through its three programmatic pillars: Company, School and Community. The Company was voted Boston’s Best by Improper Bostonian in 2013, announced Best of Boston by Boston

**The Professional Company**

Founded in 2008 by Director Betsi Graves, Urbanity Dance offers audiences a challenging, entertaining, and visionary experience. The Company's hyper-athletic aesthetic is a true fusion, aiming to bridge the gap between concert and commercial dance. Known for its effortless curves and use of breath, Urbanity places a strong emphasis on the foundations of modern, jazz, and ballet, while also utilizing the highly detailed gesture work and hard-hitting articulation usually associated with hip-hop. Originally an all-female company, Urbanity added men to its ranks for the first time in 2014. Appreciating the attendance of live dance as a generous act in the mediated 21st century, the Company values high artistic integrity. Since its founding, Urbanity Dance has grown tremendously. The Company was voted Boston's Best by Improper Bostonian in 2013, announced Best of Boston by Boston Magazine in 2015, recently shortlisted for Bostinno's 50 on Fire, and named a Top Ten Critics' Pick by The Boston Globe. Urbanity has presented at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, The Alvin Ailey Citigroup Theater, The Institute of Contemporary Art, and venues across New England, New York, Virginia, Texas, and Florida.

**Creative Class**

Urbanity's Creative Class is comprised of Urbanity Underground and its Junior Apprentices.

**Urbanity Underground**

Urbanity Underground (UU) is Urbanity's second company comprised of highly trained and skilled dancers, who are working or pursuing degrees in non-performance fields and industries. A competitive program, UU provides these dancers with opportunities to participate in creative processes, work with nationally renowned artists, and perform publicly. Our dancers are tech specialists, HR and marketing professionals, medical students, nurses, lawyers, financial analysts, dance teachers, and physical therapists. Urbanity Underground is brimming with heart, human connection, professionalism, and terrific creation. Dancers also have the option to apply for choreographic opportunities within the company.

**Junior Apprentices**

This program is designed for talented high school students ages 14+ who are interested in pursuing dance as a career. This pre-professional group performs separately and alongside Urbanity's Professional Company, providing each dancer with the invaluable experience of learning the discipline, fortitude, and dedication that is required to be a member of a professional company. Graduates of Urbanity's Junior Apprentices have been accepted to and attended many of the most prestigious dance training programs in the country including Julliard, Boston Conservatory, University of Arizona, University of Michigan, Bennington College, and Alonzo King's LINES.
ABOUT BLACKSTONE

Blackstone Community Center serves the South End and Lower Roxbury neighborhoods. The mission of Blackstone is to enhance the quality of life for Boston’s residents by supporting children, youth, and families through a wide range of programs and services.

The Blackstone Community Center was incorporated in 1972 as a non-profit community service organization and began program operation in May 1976. The Blackstone Community Center received tax-exempt status in 1979. The local board of directors, the Blackstone Community Center Council, is a member of the Citywide Board of Boston Community Centers, Inc. The Blackstone Community Center is responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating programs and services to meet the expressed needs of the South End community. The Council sets the policy for the center and is directly accountable to the community under the auspices of the City of Boston. The Blackstone Community Center Council represents the diversity of the neighborhood, as it is comprised primarily of South End and Lower Roxbury residents.

ABOUT BATES

The Joshua Bates Art Center is part of a vibrant community of the arts. Today, talented artists use the high-ceilinged antique classrooms as working studios, maximizing their special light and space. Here, painters, sculptors, photographers, multi-media and new-media artists pursue creative work in a supportive environment at affordable rent. When the Bates had outlived its usefulness as a school after some eighty years, the Boston Redevelopment Authority assigned it to providing studio workspace for artists at below-market rent, and in 2003 initiated its rehabilitation as the historic centerpiece (and sole rental component) of an innovative neighborhood redevelopment plan that in 2006, with the completion of two modern residential towers on land surrounding the Bates, contributed 26 affordable live/work loft units to Boston’s shrinking pool of artist housing. The residences, adjoining gallery, and the Bates together comprise ArtBlock, an arts-oriented neighborhood in the heart of Boston’s culturally diverse South End.

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FACTS Marketing Language

Information is being communicated constantly. Through our phones. Through the internet. Through our bodies. In FACTS, audiences will follow Urbanity Dance, a roster of guest choreographers and interdisciplinary collaborators through a variety of locations throughout the South End (Blackstone Community Center, Bates Art Center, Urbanity Dance) as we together explore what truths make up our community, and what are the limitations of our own understanding.

- The way we exchange ideas through stories
- Framed by Community Ambassadors who are from the South End
- When humans don't understand things, we create narratives to explain them.
- Include “abouts” of each space in press release

Add collaborators and choreographers
Add dates
Add times
Ticket prices - $35, $15 break down the cost? Bridge the gap, If the ticket price is too much email, 25 tickets for free
Accessibility route

https://www.urbanitydance.org/call-for-artists
https://www.urbanitydance.org/community-ambassadors

Notes
- Gentrification vs Alternative Facts - leaning towards alternative facts
  - Gentrification through the lens of personal narratives
  - Moving away from South End rooted performance, towards the idea of facts and truth
  - Cutting “South End Moves”
- On receiving information
  - Each room representing a different way we receive information, consume media
  - Multiple narratives
  - “Worlds of alternative communication” - a “buy in”
- Locations:
  - Blackstone Community Center
  - Balance at Urbanity Dance
  - Bates Art Center
  - Urbanity Central
  - Ideally starting and ending at restuaunt but no performances there
- Artists (names and/or disciplines):
Group times:
  - Ask from Meg

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Various descriptions:

Newsletter: Featuring vignettes performed in venues throughout the South End, FACTS will explore truth and empiricism in a culture of alternative and selective facts.

Rack Card: Urbanity’s ever-popular fall dance crawl is back! Featuring vignettes performed in locations throughout the South End, FACTS explores truth and empiricism in a culture of alternative or selective facts.

Season PR: Urbanity’s 2019/2020 season will open with FACTS: South End Moves, a dance crawl set in four non-traditional performance venues of the South End. Dancers from Urbanity’s Professional Company and Creative Class will perform vignettes exploring the truth behind the neighborhood’s evolution. FACTS searches for objective or verifiable evidence in culture and politics, where truths are unclear and alternative or selective facts compete with empiricism. FACTS will take place on October 24–26, 2019.