DANCING EARTH

BETWEEN UNDERGROUND & SKYWORLD
A PERFORMANCE RITUAL

SAN FRANCISCO, CA | SANTA FE, NM

WWW.DANCINGEARTH.ORG
Rulan Tangen founded Dancing Earth in 2004 after a battle with stage 4 cancer. That health experience allowed her to realize a bodily reflection of socio-environmental toxicity. She is a woman of Kampampangan, Norwegian, and Hunka Lakota heritages who believes in exploring movement as an evolving language of intertribalism and as functional ritual for transformation and healing. Her impetus for beginning Dancing Earth was the premise to animate the decolonization process while integrating concurrent universes of ancient futurities in the moment of now, and expressing energetic connection with all relations - human and beyond.

**ABOUT DANCING EARTH**
An Unique Force in World Dance

We are inter-tribal and global Indigenous collaborators who embody intertribal ecological philosophies to re-envision contemporary dance and assert its role in our society as purposeful ritual. As cultural contemporary dancers, composers, costumers, filmmakers, and poets, we honor dance’s essential function in personal, social, and environmental transformation. We dance the rich diversity of our contemporary heritage with the intent to promote ecological awareness, cultural diversity, healing and understanding between peoples. Our aesthetic embodies earth’s inherent spirit, and is created by, with, and for the land and the peoples of the land.

**BETWEEN UNDERGROUND + SKYWORLD**
A Ritual Performance

Between Underground and Skyworld is an interactive site-immersive experience that welcomes each guest into a dream-realm of performance ritual. Incorporating mobile installation, oration, dance, music, immersive media, and eco-innovative set design, the performance will take place at curated bio-regions that are the homelands to several different Indigenous communities across the United States.

Together, the company and community will explore renewable energy from spiritual, cultural and practical perspectives. Cosmological themes evoking the power of the Sun, Moon, constellations, and other energy sources are woven with these media to engage with current urgencies around renewable energy and resource depletion. These themes will come from the contributions of the core Indigenous artists as well as the Native community members at each residency location.

With a renowned background in relation-building for communities in 18 states and 8 countries, Dancing Earth is excited to return to share this new project!
Between Underground and Skyworld was created in response to the violent extraction of natural resources and anthropogenic climate change, delving deeply and bodily into the questions:

- What is renewable energy?
- What is the ecological and cultural overlap in considering sustainability?
- What is our collective vision for Indigenous-centered Futurity?

**THE EXPERIENCE: FOUR OFFERINGS**

1. **Residency:** Workshops, lectures, and engagement with local First Nation hosts to show honor and forge boundaries of Respect.

2. **Outdoor Immersive:** An interactive journey to cultivate Reciprocity.

3. **Dance Theater Performance:** Ritual as an act of Responsibility.

4. **Farm-to-Table Feast & Community Dialogue:** Exploring possibilities for a collective future through community contexts and Relation-building.

**INTENTIONS**

1. Amplify capacities for healing by invigorating self-confidence and resilience through artistic process; cultural exchange; and local and personal ancestral connection to land, water, and skies.

2. Deepen the understanding of all forms of life including humans as sacred and explore knowledge systems of energetic, metaphoric, and actual sustainability.

3. Embody the physical movement of socio-cultural movement-building; that is, the kinetic integration of all aspects of being into connection with collective socio-cultural and socio-environmental movements.

**CONTINUED RELEVANCE**

Dancing Earth’s past decade of eco-performance rituals has grown rich community relationships across the world. Between Underground and Skyworld emerges at a time of international interest in Indigenous futurism and eco-technology generated by popular media and the mainstreaming of sci-fi themes. With the state of the environment now critical, Indigenous advisors are prioritizing the dissemination of certain teachings about water, sky, and land to protect planetary life forces; these are the gathered teachings that comprise this performance ritual experience and its host of accompanying activities.