

## **The WE Project**

### **Description:**

"WE" is a week-long dance project that centers movement in an interdisciplinary dialogue about learning and living in connection to social awareness. The week interweaves the academic discipline of Dance with several themes across varied academic disciplines including Art, Theater, Race and Ethnic Studies, Religion, and Gender and Sexuality. Ultimately, the week centers movement in an interdisciplinary dialogue about learning and experiences regarding identity, trans-global awareness, and social justice.

### **Events:**

#### **1. Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, Workshop 1**

- Arneshia Williams – the Ring Shout
- Boe Chapel, 4:30-5:30pm
- Connected to themes of identity, race, and spirituality
- Guest Educator: Anthony Bateza

#### **2. Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> Workshop 2**

- Vivian Kim – K-Pop
- Buntrock 225A, 4:15-5:30pm
- Connected to themes of identity, race, culture

#### **3. Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> Workshop 3**

- Samantha Salters - West, Central, African American influences
- CAD, Studio One, 11:30-12:30pm
- Connected to themes of identity, gender, and sexuality
- Guest Educator: Lisa Moore

#### **4. Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Mini site-specific performance**

- 5 students and Arneshia Williams
- Flaten Art Museum, 5:15-5:45, including an after performance conversation
- <https://wp.stolaf.edu/flaten/more-than-that/>
- Connected to themes of identity and more
- Collaborator – Jane Becker Nelson

## **5. Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Dance Concert and Post-Performance Discussion**

- CAD, Studio One 6:30-8pm
- Connected to themes of interdisciplinary, identity, transglobal awareness, and social justice
- Round-Table Participants: Michelle Gibbs (Moderator), Paul Briggs, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, Vivian Kim, Alexandria Marcus, Samantha Salters, Arneshia Williams

### **Guest Artists:**

Vivian Kim – Workshop 2, Dance Concert, and Panel

Samantha Salters – Workshop 3, Dance Concert, and Panel

Alexandria Marcus – Dance Concert and Panel

**\*Below is information on the Guest Artists**



Originally from Nebraska, **Vivian Kim** is a choreographer, teaching artist, and performer based in Boulder, CO. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) under the direction of Susan Levine-Orada. During her time at UNL, Vivian had the opportunity to work with, and perform for, Kayvon Pourazar, Kendra Portier (David Dorfman Dance), Jenna Reigel (Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company), STREB: POP Action Company, Ekida Laurie, Noelle Bohaty, and many others. After graduating from UNL, Vivian performed and taught for MamLuft&Company Dance in Cincinnati, OH under the Artistic Direction of Jeanne Mam-Luft. While in Cincinnati, Vivian had the opportunity to present her first commissioned work for the Cincinnati Area Choreographer's Festival. Recently, Vivian received her Master of Fine Arts degree for Performance and Choreography in Dance with a secondary emphasis in The Alexander Technique from the University of Colorado. During her time at the University of Colorado Boulder, she taught as a Graduate Part-Time Instructor and studied under Helanius J. Wilkins, Gesel Mason, Erika Randall, Larry Southall, and many others.

Currently, Vivian is teaching at Red Rocks Community College as an Adjunct Professor in Dance. She is also a company member for world-renowned Hip-Hop choreographer and dancer, Rennie Harris, in his Denver-based dance company, Rennie Harris Grass Roots Project. Additionally, she is a company member for Cindy Brandle Dance Company in Boulder, CO. As a choreographer and performer, Vivian continues to create dance works and perform at festivals around the United States.

Vivian's performance research is based in her Korean-American identity and the balance between imposed Korean traditionalism and being raised in the United States. In this research, Vivian's curiosities lie within the collision, or intersection, of traditional Korean and American cultures, focusing on how they influence her actions, behavior, character, and thought-processes. Additionally, she is interested in the shared influences of popular culture between the United States and South Korea, noticing how the shared influences effect internal and societal perceptions of Korean women.



**Samantha Salters** is a Masters of Fine Arts in Dance graduate from the University of Colorado Boulder and an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University. Upon her acceptance into UCB's Graduate Program, she received an annual Teaching Fellowship and the 2013 Gail Pokoik Scholarship, awarded to incoming graduate students exhibiting exceptional talent and commitment to the arts. She is also the recipient of the George Mason Core Award Letter for her fall 2017 & spring 2018 African dance courses. Samantha has diverse training in Hip-hop, house, modern, jazz, and various Afro-Caribbean and West African dance styles. She has traveled to Ghana to study traditional and contemporary styles of music and dance since 2014. She will return to Accra, Ghana under the DC Sisters Cities Grant in 2019. Her studies have also taken her to Rochester, New York and Arcata, California to study at the Garth Fagan Summer Dance Institute and the 2015 Afro-Cuban Music and Dance Exploration at Humboldt State University, under sponsorship. Samantha has been a Guest Performer with Rennie Harris Puremovement and Gesel Mason Performance Projects. She currently performs with Coyaba Dance Theater, a resident West African Dance company at Dance Place in Washington, D.C. She has been a Guest Instructor at Howard University, Davidson College, and the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage. Samantha also instructs youth West African and jazz classes at Maryland Youth Ballet and CityDance DREAM.

For Samantha, dance is a daily practice of preserving cultural aesthetics and re-shaping perspectives. She believes embodying movement from a different culture is a way of building bridges and challenging stereotypes of racialized bodies in performance. Samantha's research is motivated by the juxtaposition of, proliferation and exploitation, of Black dance on the social media circuit. Her research is focused on the consumption of racialized posteriors through American popular culture dance. Samantha has been invited to present her research, in Washington, D.C., at the 2019 Nankama African Dance Conference hosted by Howard University.



**Alexandria Marcus** is a teaching artist, performer, and jack-of-many-trades. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance from the University of Colorado Boulder, with an emphasis on Hip Hop and House technique. She continues to research and participate in the continuum of Hip Hop as activism, as a local and global phenomenon. While at CU Boulder, she trained with Rennie Harris Grassroots Project before taking a break and devoting more of her time to Breakin', where she has found a deep sense of identity, personal development, and expression through B-girling. Her movement style is most notably known for its' dynamic floor work and inversion work. In 2017, she received the Katherine J. Lamont scholarship at CU Boulder for Dance and Community Engagement after spending the year researching and making work about consent, as well as juvenile justice reform. More recently, she helped form a multi-generational crew of B-girls, B-boys, and Emcees called Love Es Love, who debuted their first work at Denver's Buell Theater for Sadler Well's Breakin' Convention. On January 1, 2019 she taught the first House class in Bhutanese history at Gokab Community Center- a new center focusing on life skill acquisition and Hip Hop dance education- in Thimphu, Bhutan. In her free-time you can find her reading, cooking, strengthening her Photoshop skills, rolling around on the floor, and spending time with loved ones.