



Media Contact:

Mariclare Hulbert, NCCAkron PR Contact

585.278.2302

mariclare.hulbert@gmail.com

**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHOREOGRAPHY-AKRON
ANNOUNCES OPEN APPLICATION FOR DANCE WRITER LAB
–Dancing Lab: Oasis Dance Journal Explores Evolution of Dance Writing–**

Akron, OH (March 9, 2026) — As part of its 10th Anniversary programming, **The National Center for Choreography-Akron** (NCCAkron) along with **MoBBallet** (Memoirs of Blacks in Ballet) announces an open application period for the upcoming **Dancing Lab: Oasis Dance Journal**. During this Dancing Lab, participants will workshop and explore the role, responsibilities and relevance of dance writing in a shifting landscape. Applications are open March 9-April 9, 2026, and the program will be hosted in Akron, OH in July 2026.

NCCAkron is one of only two national centers for choreography in the U.S., a research and development hub for dance. NCCAkron is currently celebrating 10 years of serving as a connector and cultural matchmaker for members of the dance ecosystem. MoBBallet, created by Theresa Ruth Howard (New York, NY), preserves, presents, and promotes the contributions and stories of Black artists in the field of Ballet, illustrating that they are an integral part of dance history at large.

This Dancing Lab builds upon the work NCCAkron facilitated in its 2017 Dancing Lab: Low Residency Writing (co-designed with Tere O'Connor) and MoBBallet's Dance Writers Convening: Examining the Role, Responsibility and Relevance in a Shifting Landscape, held in 2024 as a part of the Pathways to Performance debut.

Four dance writers will be chosen through this open call to travel to Akron, Ohio, **July 13-17, 2026**, for this convening to workshop, converse, and explore their work with fellow dance writers, journalists, and editors. This [paper](#) on the MoBBallet Dance Writers Convening offers additional background.

Dancing Lab: Oasis Dance Journal

Application Dates: March 9-April 9, 2026

Program Dates: July 13-17, 2026

Application: nccakron.org/oasisdancejournal

Program FAQ: [details about eligibility, requirements, and due dates](#)

NCCAkron Executive/Artistic Director Christy Bolingbroke shares, “One of NCCAkron’s first Dancing Labs explored how we might better support and invest in dance writing. We learned so much; in particular I noticed how many writers, regardless of their operating environment, were hungry for community and sometimes unsure where to locate their work in the larger ecosystem.” Bolingbroke elaborates, “In the first three months of the pandemic, I participated in more press interviews than I did in NCCAkron’s first three years of operation. The notable difference was while conventional dance journalism often focuses on previews and reviews of live performance, our field was at a moment where such performances couldn’t happen and so there was great agency in sharing news and telling our stories in different ways. Moving forward, NCCAkron is keen to identify the ways in which both dance journalists and the work can be better supported while also strengthening the arts ecosystem.”

NCCAkron Dancing Labs are residency environments that bring together two or more artists across geographical distances to be in dialogue. They are space for rigorous play and positive failure around an issue, idea, or field-wide trend. Artists share their working knowledge with each other and develop new ideas through body-based studio practice, personal introspection, and group reflection.

Theresa Ruth Howard has been recognized by *The New York Times* as a “force for change,” bringing a multifaceted background as a ballet dancer, educator, journalist, and scholar to her work as an organizational consultant and advocate. Her holistic approach to addressing systemic inequities has driven international reforms across the dance field. In 2015, she founded MoBBallet (Memoirs of Blacks in Ballet), a digital archive and initiative preserving the contributions of Black ballet artists. A sought-after consultant, Howard has worked with leading institutions including The Royal Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, English National Ballet, National Ballet of Canada, New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, San Francisco Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Seattle Opera, and others. As a curator, she has led panels, symposiums, and exhibitions worldwide, including Dutch National Ballet’s Positioning Ballet conferences, the Royal Ballet and Opera’s Exposure, Access, and Opportunity symposium, and the Kennedy Center’s Reframing the Narrative residency, which featured Donald Byrd’s *From Other Suns*, named a 2022 “standout” by *Pointe Magazine*. Her writing appears in major publications and anthologies such as *Dance Magazine*, *Pointe*, *Tanz*, *Opera America*, and *The Source*, and former *New York Times* critic Alastair Macaulay has called her “one of the most valuable writers on dance today.”

About NCCAkron

For ten years, the National Center for Choreography–Akron (NCCAkron) has been a leader in dance research and development and a connector for artists. As one of only two choreography centers in the U.S., NCCAkron is an incubator and hub for dance. We also offer audiences opportunities to experiment with and understand dance through conversations, events, podcasts, and books. Over the past decade, NCCAkron has supported 800+ dance artists across 100 U.S. cities, serving as a cultural matchmaker for choreographers and a hyperagent for the national dance field. Offering space and resources for rigorous play and positive failure,

NCCAkron has redefined what it means to support dance artists. For more information, visit nccakron.org.

A discrete nonprofit organization, separate from The University of Akron but with offices based there, the establishment and general operation of NCCAkron are made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

###