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**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHOREOGRAPHY-AKRON  
KICKS OFF 10TH ANNIVERSARY**



Clockwise (L to R): Soles of Duende tap shoe; Raja Feather Kelly; CAR Investigative Retreat with Dominic Moore-Dunson, Antuan Byers, and Christy Bolingbroke; Kimberly Bartosik's *The Encounter* rehearsal; Ashwini Ramaswamy in studio; CAR Summit Plenary with Rosie Herrera and Makini; slowdanger in Technical Residency; Kate Wallich's DanceChurch® in Akron; and Dance Heginbotham in studio.

Akron, OH (December 9, 2025) — The National Center for Choreography–Akron (NCCAkron) celebrates 10 years as a national hub for dance research and development: an incubator for artists and a hyperagent for the national dance field. This milestone anniversary kicks off in December 2025, launching an 18-month celebration filled with public events, research and

development residencies, and national convenings in Akron, OH; Houston, TX; Memphis, TN; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN; and Boston, MA. A detailed programming and events list is below.

Established in 2015 with lead support from Knight Foundation, [NCCAkrón](#) is one of only two national centers for choreography in the U.S. Nationally recognized for redefining support for dance artists and thought leaders, to date, NCCAkrón has worked with [800+ choreographers](#) from 100 U.S. cities as they explore, experiment, and shape the future of the art form. The organization also offers audiences opportunities to experiment with and understand dance through conversations, events, podcasts, and books.

Over the past decade, NCCAkrón has invested nearly \$3 million in dance artists, performing arts thought leaders, and arts workers. The organization has hosted 105 Research, Creative, Technical, and Dancing Lab residencies for artists across the U.S., in addition to 62 [Creative Admin Research](#) Investigative Retreats. NCCAkrón has facilitated activities and convenings in Akron, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Albuquerque, NM; Miami, FL; Houston, TX; Seattle, WA; New York, NY; Chicago, IL; and Nashville, TN.

Under the NCCMedia umbrella, NCCAkrón co-created the [NCCAkrón Series in Dance](#), working with the University of Akron Press to publish *Artists on Creative Administration: A Workbook from the National Center for Choreography* (2024) and *Shifting Cultural Power: Case Studies and Questions in Performance* (2021). NCCMedia podcasts include the short-form [Inside the Dancer's Studio](#) (Seasons 1-6) and the long-form research series [How People Move People](#) (Series 1-4).

“Ten years ago we asked ourselves: what is possible for a center focused on research and development in dance? We set out to redefine creative investment by reimagining how we support choreographers and dance as an art form. By committing time, space, and resources to try things in the studio, pursue new research topics, or have coffee with a thought partner—all with zero pressure for a final product—NCCAkrón has strived to create transformational experiences for artists, not just transactional exchanges,” shares **Christy Bolingbroke, Founding Executive/Artistic Director of NCCAkrón**. “Artists help us process the world around us—something more important than ever—and dance is not some niche art form; it is an intrinsic part of our culture and daily lives. As a connector, cultural matchmaker, and hyperagent for the field, NCCAkrón continues to learn as we champion the artists shaping the future of dance.”

## Artist Testimonials

“NCCAkrón’s emphasis on thinking of administration as a creative practice continues to resonate in my work.” – **Raja Feather Kelly, Founder & Artistic Director, the feath3r theory** (Brooklyn, NY)

“It has been a privilege to witness NCCAkrón manifest a vision and ask big, intentional questions all along the way.” – **Hope Mohr, artist and advocate** (San Francisco, CA)

“NCCAkron removes the idea that there's a singular pathway in dance or success. They have encouraged me to question what I truly want out of this career and my work, and then helped me investigate further.” – **Dominic Moore Dunson** (Akron, OH)

“The way NCCAkron holds community feels intentional and authentic and iterative.” – **anna thompson, co-artistic director of slowdanger** (Washington, DC / Pittsburgh, PA)

“There are very few organizations I trust to “matchmake” for me. NCCAkron is one of them. When they suggest a potential connection with an artist, I pay attention.” – **Christopher Kai Morgan, Artistic Director of Christopher K. Morgan & Artists and Malashock Dance** (San Diego, CA)

## 10th Anniversary Programming

NCCAkron will continue to host [research and development opportunities](#) for artists from across the U.S. Upcoming collaborations include **Ashwini, Aparna, and Rane Ramaswamy** (Minneapolis, MN), **Shamel Pitts/TRIBE** (Brooklyn, NY), **Michael J. Love** (Philadelphia, PA), **Yayoi Kambara** (San Francisco, CA), and **Angelina Ramirez** (Tucson, AZ) with **Carlos Menchaca** (Albuquerque, NM).

NCCAkron will host open-to-the-public events in Akron, OH, as well as nationally. **Dancing Conversation talks** will continue on April 17, 2026 (*The Creative Process in Nature*, F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm, Akron, OH), and on May 7, 2026 (*Aging as Action*, Location TBA, New York, NY). NCCAkron plans to host **Making Moves events** in Boston, MA; Memphis, TN; Houston, TX; and beyond.

In Akron, a **10th Anniversary Dance Party Through the Decades** fundraising event will take place June 20, 2026. **Dance Club: A Social Experiment for Dance Audiences** will return August-November, 2026.

NCCAkron's [Creative Administration Research](#) program continues with investigative retreats for artists **Amy O'Neal** (Seattle, WA) with Thought Partner **Michele Byrd-McPhee** (Jersey City, NJ), **Deneane Richburg** (Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN) with Thought Partner **Francine Sheffield** (Richmond, VA), and **Jasmine Hearn** (Houston, TX) with Thought Partner **Conrhonda Baker** (Atlanta, GA).

NCCAkron will host its fourth **CAR Learning Journey in Minneapolis-St. Paul** in March 2026, and its third **National Summit Convening** for invited Creative Administration Research artists and their Thought Partners in Akron, June 20-22, 2026. This national think tank will take place over the course of three days and include the Dance Party Through the Decades event open to the greater public on Saturday, June 20.

NCCAkron will add to its digital publishing umbrella **NCCMedia**, an artist-centered and artist-driven platform for telling stories and elevating the voices of dance artists and genres historically left out of the codified dance canon. The short-form ***Inside the Dancer's Studio***

(season 7) will drop in Summer 2026; and the long-form serial *How People Move People* (series 5) in Fall 2026.

The newest recipient of the [Knight Choreography Prize](#) will also be announced in Fall 2026.

Additional programming to be announced.

## **10th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMMING CALENDAR\***

**Bold events** will be open to the public.

**January 14, 2026 | Making Moves: Houston, TX** (Brazos Bookstore)

January - February 2026 | CAR Admin Experiment: Leveraging Revenue (virtual)

**February 7, 2026 | Midwinter Event, NCCAkron curatorial partner** (Akron Art Museum)

February 2026 | Research Residency | Ashwini, Aparna & Raneeramaswamy (Akron, OH)

February-May 2026 | CAR Admin Experiment: Tech Support (San Francisco, CA and virtual)

March 2026 | CAR Learning Journey: Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN

**April 17, 2026 | Dancing Conversation: The Creative Process in Nature** (Akron, OH)

**April 25, 2026 | Making Moves: Memphis, TN** (Crosstown Concourse)

**May 3, 2026 | Making Moves: Boston, MA** (JAE Dance Center)

**May 7, 2026 | Dancing Conversation: Aging as Action** (New York, NY)

May-June 2026 | Creative Residency | Angelina Ramirez & Carlos Menchaca (Akron, OH)

**June-July 2026 | Inside the Dancer's Studio Season 6** (podcast drop)

June 2026 | CAR Summit Convening (Akron, OH)

**June 20, 2026 | Dance Party through the Decades** (Akron, OH)

**August - November 2026 | Dance Club: A Social Experiment for Dance Audiences** (Akron, OH)

\*As of 12/9/25. Programming subject to change.

### ***About NCCAkron***

The National Center for Choreography-Akron supports the research and development of new work in dance by exploring the full potential of the creative process. In addition to offering studio and technical residencies to make new work, activities focus on catalyzing dialogue and experimentation; creating proximity among artists and dance thinkers; and aggregating resources around dance making. For more information, visit [nccakron.org](http://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 Knight Foundation.

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