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**NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHOREOGRAPHY - AKRON ANNOUNCES THE
THIRD COHORT OF CREATIVE ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH PROGRAM**



From L to R: Artist Dominic Moore-Dunson, Thought Partner Antuan Byers, and NCCAkron Executive/Artistic Director Christy Bolingbroke (photo Dale Dong).

AKRON, Ohio (October 26, 2021)—**The National Center for Choreography - Akron (NCCAkron)** announces the third cohort of the **Creative Administration Research (CAR)** program. This fall, five additional artists will be onboarded into the program: **Dominic Moore-Dunson** (Akron, OH), **Iquail Shaheed** (Philadelphia, PA), **jumatatu m. poe** (Philadelphia, PA), **Pioneer Winter** (Miami, FL), and **Rosie Herrera** (Miami, FL).

With lead support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Creative Administration Research program is fostering a national think tank of up to 20 Artist Teams between

now and June 2023. These teams include the dance Artist, a curated Thought Partner, and NCCAkron team members. Each Artist Team engages in an artist-dedicated Investigative Retreat, with time and space to identify administrative experiments that support artistic practices. Focused on challenging the dance ecosystem to think beyond the boundaries of known, traditional models and “best practices,” NCCAkron’s CAR program adds new cohorts of five or six Artist Teams every six months. In January 2022, an open application will be announced for the fourth and final CAR cohort, and in June 2022 NCCAkron will hold a national convening for all Artists and their Thought Partners in Akron, OH.

Brian Brooks (New York, NY), who is part of the first cohort of artists to join the Creative Administration Research program, shares his experience, “Reflecting upon our past strategies and outcomes to realize strengths and patterns has been amazing. I've been able to recognize successful team-building techniques that I hadn't completely owned before. I've been honestly inspired by NCCAkron's idea of "Creative" Administration and using choreographic tools to create more cohesive management approaches. This idea has really been quite illuminating and pivotal. Each conversation concerning the work, whether artistic or financial or educational or logistic, has potential connections to other partners, and I find myself looking to connect these dots more and more.”

This third and latest cohort includes artists based in Knight Foundation resident communities. The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation provided the initial funding to establish NCCAkron in 2015.

“Leveraging the support from the Mellon Foundation for the Creative Administration Research program to tap artists in communities where our founding partner [Knight] has strong investments and commitments is a step to further highlight and develop the dance ecosystem outside of New York City.” says NCCAkron Executive/Artistic Director **Christy Bolingbroke**. “The so-called best practices developed across our sector over the past 70 years presume everyone’s operating environment is the same. Through the CAR program, we aim to investigate and discover what unique opportunities and solutions are specific to each artist’s chosen home, too.”

Thought Partners are identified through the CAR Work-in-Process: a series of small group discussions by nomination and invitation with arts administrators, artists, funders, and presenters to discuss current dance business models and the potential around the program. Since beginning the series in summer 2020, NCCAkron has brought together 57 thinkers and leaders across the arts sector. From the group of participants,

NCCAkron curates a selection of potential Thought Partners for possible pairings for each Artist. Artists make their own final selections.

The third cohort of Thought Partners includes individuals who have been Thought Partners to other cohort Artists including **Antuan Byers** (New York, NY) and **Francine Sheffield** (Richmond, VA). Byers will continue as Thought Partner to second cohort Artist Bebe Miller (Columbus, OH) in addition to working with third cohort Artist **Dominic Moore-Dunson**. Similarly, Sheffield will continue with Abby Zbikowski (Columbus, OH/ NYC) in addition to her new role with **Rosie Herrera**. Thought Partners who are new to the program include **Dixon|Dahlia Li** (New York, NY), **Sydney L. Mosley** (New York, NY), and **Reuben Roqueñi** (Portland, OR). The aforementioned Thought Partners will be working with the following third cohort Artists, respectively: **Pioneer Winter, Iquail Shaheed**, and **jumatatu m. poe**. Artist and Thought Partner bios appear below.

“I am delighted to join the Creative Administration Research program this fall with Francine Sheffield as my Thought Partner,” says Artist Rosie Herrera. “I look forward to investigating administrative practices that can reflect my own creative process and practices.”

In January 2022, an open application will be made available for the public to apply to the Creative Administration Research program for a fourth and final cohort under this current grant award. The open application process will be guided by an Artist Selection Committee, which includes Creative Administration Research Artists, Thought Partners, and Works-in-Process participants.

All active Artists and Thought Partners will join NCCAkron for the inaugural National Summit Convening in Akron from Thursday, June 2 through Saturday, June 4, 2022. The planning of the inaugural convening will be informed by the Convening Planning Committee including Creative Administration Research Artists and Thought Partners in addition to national scholars.

For updates about the Creative Administration Research program, subscribe to NCCAkron’s newsletter at nccakron.org/engage.

The Creative Administration Research program is made possible with lead support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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About NCCAkron

The National Center for Choreography at The University of 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.

The establishment and general operation of NCCAkron is made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Biographies

Dominic Moore-Dunson (Akron, OH)

Dominic Moore-Dunson (he/him/his) has received numerous recognitions including 2019 Cleveland Arts Prize's Emerging Artist Award for Theatre & Dance, a 2019 fellow of The Ann & Weston Hicks Choreography Program at Jacob's Pillow, 2019 Akron Arts Alive! "Outstanding Artists in Dance", and 2019 "New Agent" by MOCA Cleveland, and 2021 Associate Artist at Atlantic Center for the Arts #180 with Doug Varone. Currently, Moore-Dunson is a Research Resident Artist at the National Choreography Center at The University of Akron (NCCAkron) and helped launch the Akron Black Artist Guild in Akron, OH earlier this year. dommooredun.com

Iquail Shaheed (Philadelphia, PA)

Iquail Shaheed (he/him/his) is the executive artistic director of DANCE IQUAIL!, a Philadelphia-based dance company working at the intersection of dance and social justice. Mr. Shaheed has performed in the companies of Ronald K Brown/ Evidence, Fred Benjamin Dance Company, The Metropolitan Opera, Compagnie Thor in Brussels Belgium; on Broadway in *The Lion King*, *Hot Feet*, Bill T. Jones's *Super Fly*, as well in films directed by Julie Taylor. Reviewers have described Iquail Shaheed as "a perfect example of his generation of male dancers...Technically superb and artistically infallible." Mr. Shaheed is also on faculty as an associate professor at Goucher College, The Ailey School, Dance Theatre of Harlem and NAISDA Dance College in Sydney, Australia. danceiquail.org

jumatatu m. poe (Philadelphia, PA)

jumatatu (flexible) is a choreographer and performer based between Philadelphia and New York City who grew up dancing around the living room and at parties with their siblings and cousins. Their early exposure to concert dance was through African dance and capoeira performances. jumatatu's work continues to be influenced by various sources, including foundations in those living rooms and parties. Collaboration is often

essential for their work, and for the past several years they have worked collaboratively with J-Sette artist Jermone Donte Beacham on a series of visual and performance works called *Let 'im Move You*. jumatatu.org

Pioneer Winter (Miami, FL)

Pioneer Winter (he/they) is a Miami-based choreographer and dance artist. He directs Pioneer Winter Collective, a group of artists, activists and allies in their own right, whose bodies and voices transform their social, political, and cultural landscapes. PWC is a dance-theater company, rooted in social practice and community, queer visibility and beauty beyond the mainstream. Recognized in *Dance Magazine* 25 to Watch, Pioneer Winter works to democratize performance in public spaces, museums and galleries, stage, and film. Pioneer has been commissioned by the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Miami Theater Center, Karen Peterson and Dancers, Tigertail Productions, Jacksonville Dance Theatre, and FundArte. pioneerwinter.com

Rosie Herrera (Miami, FL)

Rosie Herrera (she/her/hers) is a Cuban-American choreographer and artistic director of Rosie Herrera Dance Theater in Miami. She has been commissioned by Miami Light Project, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Ballet Hispanico, Jose Limon Dance Company, New Dialect, Houston Met Dance, New World Symphony and the American Dance Festival. Her work in film, theater, dance and cabaret has resulted in collaborations with Walter Mercado, Carlota Guerrero, Larry Keigwin, Pig Iron Theater and many more. Her work is rooted in a reverence for the uniquely tropical intimacy and spectacle of the Caribbean. rosieherrera.dance

Antuan Byers (New York, NY)

Antuan Byers (he/him/his) is a dancer, creative entrepreneur, and arts activist based in New York City. He is a graduate of the Ailey/Fordham BFA Program, and holds a certificate from the Parsons School of Design. Antuan has cultivated artistic partnerships with brands such as Acura, Barney's NY, Brooklinen, Nike, Jaguar, and Urban Outfitters, and global modeling campaigns including ASICS and Capezio. After touring internationally with Ailey II, he returned to Lincoln Center to rejoin the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, where he is currently performing a repertory with works choreographed by Kim Brandstrup, Lorin Latarro, Mark Morris, Alexei Ratmansky, Susan Stroman, and Christopher Wheeldon, among others. Antuan hosts The LLAB on the Pod de Deux podcast, a series on racial justice in the dance world, is a steering committee member of the Dance Artists' National Collective (DANC), is a founding member of the Black Caucus at the American Guild of Music Artists, where he also serves on the Board of Governors representing Dancers in the New York Region. He is the proud Founder/CEO of Black Dance Change Makers. antuanbyers.com

Dixon|Dahlia Li (New York, NY)

Dixon | Dahlia Menghui Li (they/she) is a Chinese Diasporic, Transfemme writer, dancer, performance maker, scholar, teacher, and death-doula-in-training. Conceptually, she is preoccupied with materialities, cultural poetics, and embodied histories and techniques that can initiate different experiences of time, sociality, and desire. Whenever possible she works mostly with queer diasporic bodies and archives in a variety of research and presentational formats. She is currently finishing a doctoral dissertation that researches the convergence of queer diasporic dancing and theoretical approaches to technology and embodiment. She actively collaborates with Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, Be Heintzman Hope, and Yin Mei. In 2021 she was an emergeNYC Fellow.

english.upenn.edu/people/dixon-dahlia-li

Francine Sheffield (Richmond, VA)

Francine Sheffield (she/her/hers) is a former company member of Urban Bush Women for 6 years, where she traveled and performed all over the world. She then went on to work as Artist Representative for Pentacle, where she booked engagements for emerging dance companies. With her knowledge of dance and skills in arts administration, Francine started Sheffield Global Arts Management in 2014.

SGAManagement offers exceptional artist representation and consulting services for select established and emerging dance companies, with a focus on women and people of color. SGAManagement is now in partnership with Rhizome Arts Consulting to continue the work of serving and sharing the arts field. sheffieldglobalarts.com

Reuben Roqueñi (Portland, OR)

Reuben (he/him/his) is a nationally respected arts administrator with over 20 years in progressive program development, management, artist-centric support systems and grantmaking experience. He is currently Director of Transformative Change Programs at Native Arts and Cultures Foundation. Previously, Reuben was Program Officer in the Performing Arts Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Reuben is Board President at MAP Fund in NYC. He is currently a member of the advisory committees for First Nations Performing Arts, Advancing Indigenous Performance at Western Arts Alliance, and he is a former board member at Portland Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA). linkedin.com/in/reubenroqueni/

Sydney L. Mosley (New York, NY)

Sydney L. Mosley (she/her/hers) is an artist-activist and educator who produces experiential performance works with her New York City-based dance-theater collective Sydney L. Mosley Dances (SLMDances). She is a Bessie-award winning performer, and received a special citation from Mayor Bill de Blasio for using her talents to fuel social

change. She applies her diverse know-how as a visionary strategist, producer, and more in the arts and culture field as a consultant and coach. She has collaborated with PURPOSE Productions, 651ARTS, Betty's Daughter Arts Collaborative, Well Read Black Girl and Hollaback!, and sits on the Advisory Committee to Dance/NYC. Her writing has appeared in *Essence*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and *Dance Magazine*.

sydniemosley.com