

Post-Project Evaluation:

The Urbana Arts Grant not only provided me and the Urbana Dance Company fiscal sponsorship, but also lent us the confidence and support of the Urbana Arts Program. This mark of achievement encouraged other groups and foundations to join in support. With this support, the Urbana Dance Company was able to pull off a truly extraordinary year.

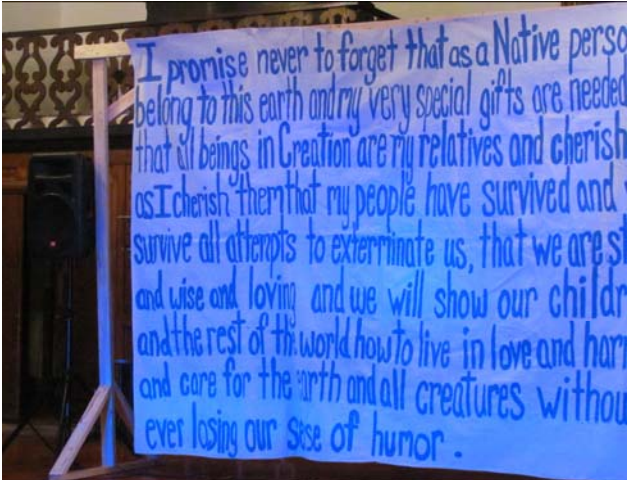
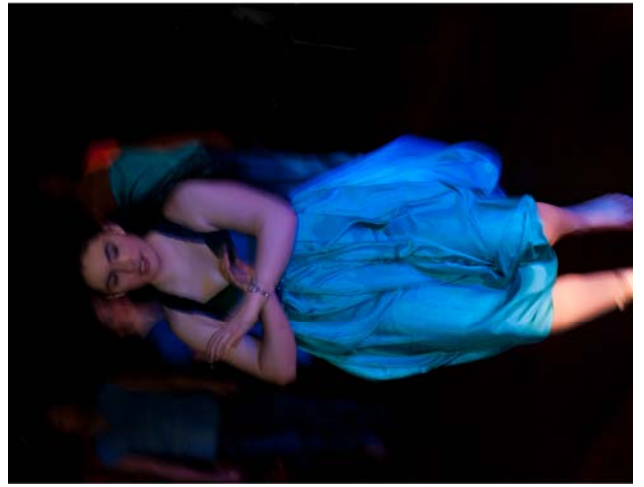
\$1,000 of the Urbana Arts Grant was divided among 11 dancers as a stipend for 130 hours of work. We met approximately once a week, for three hours, over a 9 month period along with extra rehearsals and two evening length performances. I believe art is not just a hobby, but a job that fills a necessary responsibility for our city and society to grow and prosper. Providing my dancers a small stipend was an important part of acknowledging their efforts. For many of the dancers, the extra stipend provided them gas money and bus fare to get to rehearsal as well as food to eat. More than half of the company members are low income.

The dance company had many accomplishments. For one, we got close to one another despite racial, age, ethnic, cultural and religious differences. Together we explored issues of racism, classism, ageism, sexism, nationalism, and care for the environment. From this research we created a piece that took a stand for humanity against all oppressions. The piece ended with dancers running and spinning across the floor exclaiming "I WANT TO LIVE!" to eventually finding one-another in a warm embrace whispering- "I want you to live."

As Artistic Director of the company, I spent approximately 10 hours a week for 10 months.

15 dancers, 2 lighting designers, 3 sound designers, 2 videographers and a handful of administrative staff helped me to complete this event. March 29th's performance in the Urbana Landmark Hotel was sold out with approximately 130 attendees. March 30th's performance, same venue, had approximately 100 attendees.

Collaborating with the Phillips Recreation Center and the United to End Racism Foundation went well. The Phillips Recreation Center provided us space and the United to End Racism Foundation (UER) provided us literature, research, and support. Creating concepts and organizational tools for leading the company was fueled by my experience with UER.





The Urbana Dance Company presents!

Friday, March 29th
7:00 pm FREE
Saturday, March 30th
1:00 pm \$5
South Race St.
Urbana Landmark Hotel

Artistic Director
Debbie Insolia
UrbanaDanceCompany.org

Supported in part by the Urbana Arts Grant, Urbana Park District, the Barbara Mettler Trust and Mir Studio, Inc. Photo by Christy Ruiz



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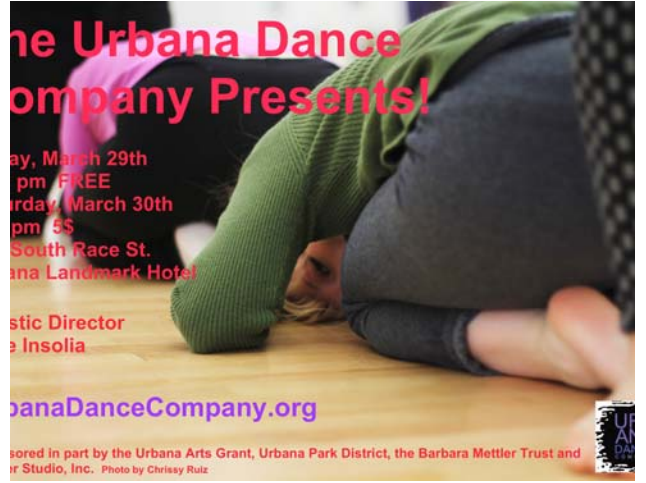


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