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## Five New BCA Dance Residents Welcomed As BCA Celebrates 15 Years Of Dance Residency!

BOSTON, MA — Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) is proud to announce the 2024-2025 lineup of Dance Residents and celebrate its 15th year of dance residency programming. Founded in 2009 by Andrea Blesso, the BCA Director of Dance & Interdisciplinary Arts, the Dance Residency program sparked annual dance-focused support that fosters the creation of new dances by Boston-based artists.

BCA is thrilled to host [Cassie Wang](#) and [Nailah Randall-Bellinger](#) as the 2024-2025 Boston Dancemakers Residents and welcomes [Alexander Davis](#), [Darnell "Snoopy" Brown](#), and [Mira Göksel](#) as this year's Dance Lab at BCA residents.

The incubation model of our residencies allow dancemakers to plant their feet at BCA, then spring from Boston to share their work across New England, the US, and further. The dance programs at BCA have been described as having “changed the landscape of dance in New England” and over the course of their 15 years have supported more than 80 artist collectives and approximately 200 individual dancers.

### 2024-2025 Boston Dancemakers Residents

[Cassie Wang](#) is a multidisciplinary artist exploring various mediums within the framework of contemporary dance performance. Originally from Kansas City, she earned her B.A. from Pomona College in Computer Science with minors in Dance and Media Studies. In her choreographic work, she explores feelings of serendipitous existential intimacy and strives to

make the deeply personal feel universal. Her artistic endeavors embody a relentless pursuit for an understanding of Self in relation to surrounding circumstances.

[Nailah Randall-Bellinger](#) is a dancer, choreographer, scholar, educator, and founding artistic director of RootsUprising Dance Company based in Boston, MA. She has studied, performed, and lectured throughout the U.S. and abroad including Brazil, Ghana, Haiti, The Czech Republic, and Senegal. With a Masters Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies: Dance and African American literature from Lesley University, Randall-Bellinger's choreographic work is rooted in interdisciplinary research, often drawing from literary and historical source materials. Randall-Bellinger trained with Jamie Nichols, Karen McDonald, Raymond Johnson, and Gerarld McCall in California, in modern, jazz, and ballet. She began her professional performing career in Los Angeles, CA, where she was a performing member of contemporary dance companies: Karen McDonald's New Age Dance Workshop and Jamie Nichols Fast Feet, Inc.

### **About Boston Dancemakers Residency and its partners**

Considered Boston's most comprehensive dance-focused residency, the **Boston Dancemakers Residency** is designed to support new work from conception to performance. This intensive Dancemakers Residency offers incubation elements for research, experimentation, artistic risk-taking, and growth within the dance industry in a customized manner for the artist's practice. Two choreographers selected for this opportunity will receive support for research, development, rehearsal, production support, marketing and mentorship.

The Boston Dancemakers Residency was created through a partnership between Boston Center for the Arts and **Boston Dance Alliance (BDA)**, a combination of their individual residency programs that comprised a year-long, comprehensive incubator program for dancemakers to make new work in the City of Boston. Like the choreographic process itself, the partnership has continued to evolve with BDA emphasizing the development of crucial business practices to fund and sustain the creative livelihoods of rising dancemakers, through direct service and its growing Fiscal Sponsorship Program, which in 2023 disbursed \$330,000 to dozens of dance organizations.

We are delighted to share that this season of the Boston Dancemakers Residency will feature a new sponsorship from **Jacob's Pillow** for the retreat element of the program that invites each resident dancemaker to utilize their state-of-the-art Perles studio for a short, focused rehearsal period within their residency year.

### **2024-2025 Dance Lab at BCA Residents**

[Alexander Davis](#) is a Boston-based homosexual interested in subverting expectations, heightening the pedestrian, and normalizing queer narratives through fiber and performance. Alex has worked with organizations across Boston including Ryan Landry's Gold Dust Orphans, Boston Lyric Opera, Boston Children's Chorus, Global Arts Live, Improv Asylum/Laugh Boston, and Urbanity Dance, where he served as the Interim Artistic Director for the 2019-2020 Season. As a choreographer and fiber artist Alex has received grant and



residency support from The Studios at Mass MoCA, The Boston Foundation, NEFA, The City of Boston, and The Theatre Offensive. Alex assisted choreographer Monica Bill Barnes on Greta Gerwig's Academy Award winning 2019 film Little Women. In 2019 Alex was named City of Boston Artist Fellow. In 2023 Alex earned his MFA from Smith College, where he was a Teaching Fellow from 2021 -2023.

[Darnell "Snoopy" Brown](#) is a well-versed freestyle movement artist/choreographer from a Jamaican ethnicity but raised in Boston, Massachusetts. Snoopy became proficient in Hip Hop, Dancehall, and Krump as well as mentored by the best and prominent iconic dancers Such as Russell Ferguson (SYTYCD Winner S8), Mr. Wiggles (Michael Jackson, Usher, Missy Elliot, etc.) and Ian Eastwood (YouTube Sensation & Founder of Young Lions) to name a few. Snoopy catered towards his street styles/teachers and followed up his training which extended into more classical training like ballet, jazz, and modern. Darnell attended Dean College where he studied business & performance arts management with a dance minor.

[Mira Göksel](#) (they/them) is an interdisciplinary movement artist from Izmir, Turkey, "currently existing on the land of the Massachusetts and Pawtucket Peoples, colonially referred to as Boston, MA." Mira is a choreographer, educator, rehearsal director, casual painter, and a cat mom. They strive for creation rooted in emotional, physical, and social instincts working hand in hand for the most organic outcome in all tenses of creation. Mira is deeply committed to the nurturing of an inclusive space with an investment in mutual support, respect and harmony.

### **About Dance Lab at BCA and its partners**

**Dance Lab** at Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) offers resources for dance-based artists to research, expand, and rebuild work at varying stages of development. Designed to amplify and support a project over the course of a five-week time period, Dance Lab at BCA offers three dance-based artists support for research, development, rehearsal, outreach, and mentorship. Resources will be tailored for dancemakers at all stages of experience and point of their artistic arc for the selected project.

The 2024-2025 season of Dance Lab Residency will include new partnerships with **Midday Movement** and **Monkeyhouse** to encourage collective learning and project planning in a cohort format and deepen professional development conversation and opportunities. The spirit of process-driven support within Midday Movement, Monkeyhouse, and Boston Center for the Arts spark a natural partnership between the organizations and resident artists.

BCA is process-driven and our residencies are shaped by that vision. Please join us for work-in-process Open Sharings with our Dance Lab Residents in April 2025 and Showcase Performances with our Boston Dancemaker Residents in May/June 2025.

### **Quote from Andrea Blesso, Boston Center for the Arts**

"BCA offers space to research and develop projects that address urgent global topics — creating a snapshot of the world at that moment in time. Over the course of 15 years, not only



have these dances impacted and educated those around us, they have also resonated within me and shaped my perspective on so many topics. It has been an honor to deeply partner with our dance residents for all these years and I am eager to continue that work with this year's artists." — Andrea Blesso, Director of Dance & Interdisciplinary Arts, Boston Center for the Arts

### **About Boston Center for the Arts**

Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) supports working artists to create, perform, and exhibit new works; develops new audiences; and connects the arts to community, and has for over five decades engaged the creative community for the public good. While the organization's physical residence is in the historic South End, BCA touches every part of Boston's cultural ecosystem. A leading force in the city's cultural community, BCA has supported thousands of individual artists, small organizations, and performing arts companies, who add depth and dimension to the Boston arts ethos. Through residencies and programming, BCA serves as an epicenter for an expanding cohort of artists working across all disciplines and has catalyzed careers by providing fertile ground for experimentation and artistic risk-taking. To learn more about Boston Center for the Arts, visit [bostonarts.org](https://bostonarts.org).

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