

# KENDRA J. ROSS

[kendra@thekendrajross.com](mailto:kendra@thekendrajross.com)

[www.thekendrajross.com](http://www.thekendrajross.com)

Kendra J. Ross is a choreographer, dancer, community organizer, facilitator and teaching artist who focuses on contemporary dance and dances of the African Diaspora. Her work heavily utilizes community engagement and collaboration as generative tools.

## **EDUCATION**

**Alvin Ailey/ Fordham University** (New York, NY) Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Sept. 2003-May 2007

## **CHOREOGRAPHIC WORKS**

### **Sankofa Residency (choreographer/performer)**

Self-Produced adaptation of my dance film Return and Go Seek presented in public park: Potomac Playground. Presented as a duet with interactive activities for the audience to explore the past, present and future of neighborhood Bedford Stuyvesant. This work was funded by The Laundromat Project Create and Connect Fund and the Green LIVE/ARTS grant. (Brooklyn, NY; 2021; 22 min)

### **Return and Go Seek (choreographer/performer)**

Presented by 651Arts. This dance film was the culmination of the Neighborhood Project Artist in Residence program encouraging artists to create work in collaboration with a community partner. (Virtual premiere; 2021 15 min)

### **Silver Linings: Triumph of Loss (choreographer/performer)**

Presented by Brooklyn Studios for Dance. This collaboratively created trio used Hip Hop, Petwo, and Ring Shout to explore how these dances were formed under conditions of oppression and loss, if they could show us how to transform our perspective of losses in our lives. (Brooklyn, NY 2018; 45 min) Presented again in 2019 as part of FAST FORWARD series at Dixon Place (New York, NY)

### **Warrior's Path (choreographer/performer)**

Presented by The Field at Dixon Place. This solo work explores how the training and discipline of a Warrior mirrors the same training as an artist. This work was created in collaboration with poet Tim Prolific Jones and Farai Malianga. (New York, NY 2016; 8:30 min)

### **Manifest Divine: Oshun; (choreographer/performer)**

Self-produced at Museo del Arte (Savaldor, Bahia, Brazil, 2014; 12 min), presented by BalaSole at Ailey Citigroup Theater (New York, NY; 2014; 4:30min) Development started through Artist Residency at Detroit School of Performing Arts (Detroit, MI; 2012) This solo work explores the Youruba deity of Oshun and how traces of her essences manifests in contemporary american culture.

### **destruction/Revitalization...REPURPOSE (Video 2011, Dance 2012) (co-choreographer/performer)**

*Presented by Midwest RAD Festival (Kalamazoo, MI 12 min) Cory Terry & Dancers Wellspring Theater*  
Created in collaboration Maya Stovall this work explored the process of land use in Detroit following the 2008 economic crisis. The duet was first sel-produced as a dance film then later presented as a live presentation.

### **RESIDENCIES**

**The Laundromat Project** (Brooklyn, NY) BedStuy Artist in Residence Jan 2022-Nov 2022

**The Neighborhood Project by 651 Arts** (Brooklyn, NY) Artist in Residence Nov. 2020-March 2021

**Bates College** (Lewiston, MA) Visiting Artist in Residence; Set choreography on students 2019 & 2020

**Atlantic Center for the Arts** (New Smyrna Beach, FL) Visiting Artist for Residency May 13-June 2, 2018

**Brooklyn Studios for Dance** (Brooklyn, NY) Artist in Residence in Fall 2017; Residency culminated with a public showing

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

**BAX Space Grantee** (Brooklyn, NY) June 2018-November 2018 100 Hours of Studio Space

**Best Dance of 2020/Best of the Street by New York Times.** Awarded for the STooPS BedStuy Annual Art Crawl

**GREEN/ARTS** (New York, NY; 2021) Grant to produce work in a public public park. \$3000

**Create and Connect Fund through The Laundromat Project** (2021) Grant to support community building work.  
\$1000

**Pay It Forward Award** from The Laundromat Project (2021) for outstanding work in the community. \$10,000

**Brooklyn Arts Council Black Artists to Know**

**Local Arts Support Grant through Brooklyn Arts Council.** Grant awarded for STooPS Annual Art Crawl. \$5000  
(Years: 2014-2022)

**Community Arts Fund Grant through Brooklyn Arts Council.** Grant awarded for STooPS Annual Art Crawl.  
\$5000 (Years: 2014-2022)

**The Charlene Victor & Ella J. Weiss Cultural Entrepreneur Fund** (2021) To support professional development.  
\$2500

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ TRAINING/FELLOWSHIP**

- 2017-2018      **Race Forward Innovation Arts Lab (New York, NY)**  
Creation of a organizational prototype to advance Cumbe: Center for African and Diaspora Dance) towards racial equity
- 2016-2017      **Field Leadership Fund Fellowship (New York, NY)**  
Training and Support to develop leaders to promote equity in the arts field
- Jan. 2013/2015      **People's Institute for Survival and Beyond Undoing Racism Workshop for Artists**  
New York, NY  
Workshop focused on understanding racism and how to approach arts-based community organizing in a non-racist way
- 2012-2014      **Silvestre Technique Training Program; (Salvador da Bahia, Brazil)**  
*Summer Intensive, Taught by Roseangela Silvestre and Vera Passos; Modern Dance Technique, Floor Bar, and Orixa Movement Classes*  
*Second Level graduation*
- 2010/ 2011      **Dos Aguas Summer Intensive (Havana, Matanzas, and Santiago de Cuba, Cuba)**  
*Dance and song classes in Afro-Cuban folklore and popular forms, lectures on Afro-Cuban culture, visits to religious communities, attend professional dance concerts.*
- 2009-2010      **Teaching Artist Training & Internship Program; Community~Word Project; (New York, NY)**  
*Participated in a 24-week training program which emphasized multiple intelligence learning, collaboration, classroom management, lesson planning and the interpretation of one's process as an artist in order to make dance more accessible to students and identify more connections to curriculum. Acquired hands-on experience shadowing teaching artists in NY public high schools.*
- 2006              **Jacob's Pillow Cultural Traditions Program: Afro-Caribbean; (Lee, MA)**  
*Two week dance intensive that focused on Afro-Cuban dance taught by Richard*

Gonzales, Afro-Dominican dance taught by Marily Gallardo, and Afro-Puerto Rican dance taught by Roberto Cepeda.

- 2005      **Dance International; (Burgos & Valencia, Spain)**  
*Seven week dance intensive that focused on cultural exchange through dance. Classes in ballet and various modern techniques inspired by Graham and Limon techniques. Program included several public performances of work created shortly before and during the program. Teachers and choreographers including Kazuko Hirabayashi, Takehiro Ueyama, Kenny Larson, and Nathan Trice.*

### **COMMUNITY ORGANIZING**

- 2013-present      **Founder/Director of STooPS (Brooklyn, NY)**  
Organized Community-building event where local artists, homeowners and businesses came together to host performances for the community in various outside spaces. The event had 16 participating artists, 18 homeowners, 5 vendors, various local sponsors and approximately 200 attendees. [www.stoopsbedstuy.org](http://www.stoopsbedstuy.org)
- May 2017      **Head in the Cloud: Technology for Arts Organizing (New York, NY)**  
Presented at Fourth Arts Block; workshop sharing technology tools for artists and organizers
- 2017 & 2019      **BBHMM: Understanding the Artist's Body as Business (New York, NY & Kansas City, MO)**  
Co-facilitated workshop for Dance/USA conference and Dance/NYC conference with SLM Dances and PURPOSE Productions
- 2015-present      **Builders, Organizers and Leaders Through Dance (B.O.L.D) Facilitator**  
Lead Facilitator on workshops focusing on arts and community engagement, wellness, and artistic Collaboration
- 2014      **Allied Media Conference (Detroit, MI)**  
Presented a workshop about STooPS for the Placemaking/Placekeeping Track at the conference.

- 2014-2019      **Director of Programs/Senior Program Manager at Cumbe:Center for African and Diaspora Dance (Brooklyn, NY)**  
Responsible for co-conceiving and implementing all programs including dance and music classes, Workshops, performance, community engagements, and special events; hire and manage Teaching Artists and evaluation
- 2013            **Co-facilitator of Performance Workshop for Urban Bush Women (Brooklyn, NY)**  
Worked with Red Hook Community to create a performance piece for the Red Hood Festival centered around the community and Hurricane Sandy
- 2012            **Co-facilitator of “Are We Democracy?” Workshop for Urban Bush Women (Miami, FL)**  
Performance based workshop where facilitators guided participants to create a performance piece based on the theme of democracy in one week through various activities and dance classes

## **DANCE COMPANIES**

- 2012-present    **Tamara LaDonna Moving Spirits** (Brooklyn, NY/Charlotte, NC)) Artistic Director: Tamara Williams
- 2018-2020      **Movement of the People Dance Company** (New York, NY) Artistic Director: Joya Powell
- 2017-2018      **SoulRebel Dance Company** (Brooklyn, NY) Artistic Director: Afaliah Tribune
- 2011- 2012     **Urban Bush Women** (Brooklyn, NY) Artistic Director: Jawole Willa Jo Zollar
- 2010-2017     **RAKIA!** (Brooklyn, NY) Artistic Director: Rakia Seaborn
- 2010-2015     **MBDance** (Brooklyn, NY) Artistic Director: Maria Bauman
- 2009-2019     **Ase Dance Theatre Collective** (Brooklyn, NY) Artistic Director: Adia Tamar Whitaker
- 2009-2011     **Sonic Leroy & Motionsickness** (New York, NY) Artistic Director: Monstah Black
- 2009-2019     **Souloworks** (New York, NY/ Durham, NC) Artistic Director: Andrea E. Woods;
- 2008-2009     **Urban Bush Women 2 (UB2)** (New York, NY) Artistic Director: Chanon Judson
- 2007-2016     **Oyu Oro** (New York, NY) Artistic Director: Danys ‘La Mora’ Perez
- 2007-2010     **Evidence Dance Company** (Apprentice) (Brooklyn, NY) Artistic Director: Ronald K. Brown
- 2007-2009     **Genesis Dance Company** (New York, NY) Artistic Director: Karen Arcenaux

## PERFORMANCES

2021/2022	<b>IBA OBINRIN</b>	
	Dance film presented by NCCAkron (2021). Live performance at UNC-Charlotte and Ohio Dance Festival (April 2022)	
2019	<b>Sapphire</b>	<b>Brooklyn, NY</b>
	Performed at Brooklyn Studios for Dance, created by Melanie Greene	
2019	<b>peh-LO-tah</b>	<b>Miami, FL/ Maui, HI</b>
	Understudy for show created by Marc Bamuthi Joseph	
2015-2021	<b>Brooklyn Ballet Nutcracker</b>	<b>Brooklyn, NY</b>
	Performed at Actor's Fund Theater and Kings Theater	
2018	<b>Demon Fruit Blues</b>	<b>New York, NY/ Chicago, IL</b>
	Presented at Harlemstage and Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; collaboration between Tamar-kali and Ase Dance Theater Collective; served as Rehearsal Director	
2018	<b>Song and Dance You</b>	<b>New York, NY</b>
	Performed at Central Park Summerstage by Movement of the People Dance Company	
2018	<b>A Ruin</b>	<b>Brooklyn, NY</b>
	Performed at Eva Dean dance with RAKIA!	
2017	<b>Woman's Work</b>	<b>Brooklyn, NY</b>
	Performed at Actor's Fund Theater with SoulRebel Dance Company	
2017	<b>myeyesdontcrynomore</b>	<b>Brooklyn, NY</b>
	Performed at Jack, Work by Rakia Seaborn	
2013	<b>Expressão</b>	<b>Salvador, Bahia Brazil</b>
	<i>Performed original choreography at Espaço Kriyacura</i>	
2012-2013	<b>Vinyl Vaudeville European Tour</b>	
	Dancer for show by DJ Kid Koala along with Adira Amram	
	Countries: Canada, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Russia, Hungary, England, Germany	
2012	<b>Black Jams: Parallels Series; Dancespace</b>	<b>New York, NY</b>
	<i>Danced House Improvisational Piece with Monstah Black and Brian Polite</i>	
2012	<b>Revolutionaries &amp; Romantics; Actors Fund Theater/Kumble</b>	<b>Brooklyn, NY</b>
	<i>Guest Artist with Brooklyn Ballet</i>	
2011	<b>Summerstage: The Indomitable James Brown (Von King Park)</b>	<b>Brooklyn, NY</b>
	<i>Dancer along with Band Burnt Sugar</i>	

- 2011 **MTV Iggy: Best New Band Awards; Best Buy Theater** **New York, NY**  
*Danced with Artist Gyptian*
- 2011 **Black Culture Arts Festival** **St. Louis & Dakar, Senegal**  
*Performed with Urban Bush Women in collaboration with Jant-Bi*
- 2011 **Black Moon (La Lune Noir); Dance New Amsterdam;** **New York, NY**  
*Danced with Monstah Black and Major Scurlock*
- 2011 **Indomitable James Brown; Summerstage Marcus Garvey Park** **Brooklyn, NY**  
*Danced with Burnt Sugar Band; Choreographed by Paloma McGregor*
- 2011 **Adira Amram & the Experience; BAM Cafe Brooklyn, NY**
- 2010 **Performed at Cinco de Mayo event for 7th Annual Transformer Gallery Benefit;**  
*Mexican Cultural Institute; Washington DC*  
*Arranged by Holly Bass*
- 2010 **Times Square Kinect Project by X-Box;** **New York, NY**  
*Promotion for Kinect in Times Square with live performance by Neyo*
- 2009 **African Futures: DC; Smithsonian National Museum of African Art; Washington DC**  
*Choreographed by Holly Bass; Work commissioned by the Smithsonian in conjunction with the Yinka Shonibare exhibit.*
- 2009 **Tributo; Heritage Sunday at Lincoln Center Outdoors** **New York, NY**  
*Performed Afro-Cuban Folklore as Guest Artist with Oyu Oro*
- 2009 **Ceremonial de la Danza; Chase Latino Cultural Festival** **Queens, NY**  
*Performed Afro-Cuban Folklore as Guest Artist with Oyu Oro at Queens Theater*

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- 2020-present **Cumbe: Center for African and Diaspora Dance (Online)**  
 Teach Creative Caribbean Movement classes to an intergenerational group of adults.
- 2016-present **Greenwich Academy/ Mixt. Co (Greenwich, CT)**  
 Taught adult and high school classes in addition to developing a new piece and remounting previous work
- 2013/2015 **Brooklyn High School for the Arts ( Brooklyn, NY)**  
*Taught 5 week residency that ended in the creation of two pieces of choreography to be performed in the spring concert*
- 2012 **Florida A&M University (Tallahassee, FL)**

- 2012 *Taught modern dance workshop to dance students. Co-Choreographed Half-Time Performance*  
**Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL)**  
*Taught House Dance Workshop to Dance and non-dance majors*
- 2012/2015 **Detroit School of Performing Arts ( Detroit, MI)**  
*Taught dance classes and set choreography as part of a one week residency*
- 2012-2013 **Locust School for the Performing Arts (Stamford, CT)**  
 Taught dance to ages 3-14 in Creative Movement, Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop and Modern
- 2012-2013 **Casita Maria** **Bronx, NY**  
 Taught Afro-Caribbean dance to students in grade K-2
- 2011/2012 **Urban Bush Women’s Summer Leadership Institute (SLI); New Orleans, LA**  
*Taught co-taught conditioning and Hip Hop classes; assisted facilitators and lead Documentation Cohort.*
- 2011-2012 **Sweet Soul Arts Academy** **New York, NY**  
*Teach Hip Hop to students ages 6-12*
- 2011 **Town Hall** **New York, NY**  
*Teach Afro-Caribbean Dance residencies ranging from 6-12 weeks to students in grades K-8 in various New York Public Schools.*
- 2010-2013 **Crunch Fitness** **New York, NY**  
*Taught Hot Pilates classes and subbed for Pilates, Burn and Firm pilates, and Rubberband Pilates Classes.*
- 2008-2012 **Young Audiences New York** **New York, NY**  
*Teach Afro-Caribbean and Hip Hop dance residencies ranging from 6-12 weeks to students ranging from grades K-8; 2009 choreographed a dance for students from Cypress Hills Community School who danced to music created by students at International Arts Business School for a show called “Anthem” presented at Symphony Space Thalia Theater through the JAM Master Jay Foundation.*
- 2007-2009 **Creative Outlet** **Brooklyn, NY**  
*Taught Hip Hop and Afro-Caribbean to students from grades K-12*
- 2007 **Urban Assembly Academy for Arts and Letters** *Taught Modern Dance Fusion with students in grade 5 and 6.*