BAGESHRESS VAZE (Choreographer/Dancer) is an Indo-Canadian dance artist and musician. Raised in St. John’s, NL, she initially trained in Bharatha Natyam and studied Hindustani vocal music with her father, Damodar Vaze. She later trained in Kathak with Jai Kishan Maharaj in New Delhi and studied with the renowned vocalist Veena Sahasrabuddhe in Mumbai. Bageshree has choreographed numerous dance works such as 2007’s ‘Tarana,’ 2011’s ‘Avatar (9),’ and 2012’s ‘Damaru/Mudra.’ and has four CDs to her credit. Her breakthrough album Tarana (released as Khanak through Times Music in India), a CD of songs adapted and arranged for Indian dance, is accessed by dancers worldwide. Bageshree has been commissioned by and has performed in major festivals and in December 2018, Bageshree choreographed and performed a Kathak solo at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto entitled ‘Jahanara’ based on the story of the late Jahanara Akhlaq who was killed in Lahore, Pakistan in 1999. Bageshree’s 2019 choreography ‘A Hidden Princess’ was nominated for three Dora Mavor Moore Toronto theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production, Outstanding Sound Composition and Outstanding Performance by an Individual. Bageshree has a Masters degree in Dance from York University.

ANDEL ‘HANDLZ’ JAMES: For the last 20 plus years, Andel James has been an active contributor to the Hip-Hop community as a dancer, DJ, youth outreach worker, program coordinator, director and manager at Unity Charity, Blueprintforlife, Wintor Massiv, and 2U4U. He started breaking in Scarborough in 1999 and started Djing in 2010. He later started his journey with Unity Charity as a Program Coordinator and shortly after became Program Director under Michael Prosserman to assist with designing Unity’s signature programming for artists and youth. Also, Andel has been involved with Blueprintforlife under Stephen Leafloor and gained the experience of working in remote indigenous communities, youth detention centres and inner city high schools across Canada.

Andel also acts as a curator for events that are hosted by 2U4U and Wintor Massiv that provide a platform for street dancers and DJs to connect and build with others in the Hip-Hop community.

MIRANDA FORBES is the Manager, Producing & Administration at the Dance Umbrella of Ontario (DUO); she is entering her third year in the role. Before working with DUO, she was the choir manager and Executive Director of the Mississauga Children’s Choir (MCC). She served on the MCC Board of Directors from 2017-2019.

She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Performance Dance from Ryerson University and studied Arts Administration at Humber College. She has performed dance, taught early years ballet, and produced dance on camera. Her choreographic work on film has been shown in New York and Helsinki. She is the web designer for GMD Toronto. She is thrilled to be actively supporting many diverse dance/circus artists and companies across Ontario to build organizational capacity and longevity to grow the sector.
TIMEA WHARTON-SURI is an arts executive, curator, and producer who has collaborated with organizations to engage, entertain, and educate communities for 20 years. She performed with some of Toronto’s African Diasporic dance companies for a decade and has curated or produced projects with TO Live, Toronto Dance Theatre, Holla Jazz, Toronto Comic Arts Festival, North York Arts and Beam Suntry. Timea earned a BFA in Dance, an MBA, and an Arts and Media Management Graduate Diploma from York University. She has held administrative positions with the Dancer Transition Resource Centre, TVOntario, and Toronto Arts Council, and is currently the Chair of The Dance Current. In the fall of 2020, Timea became dance Immersion’s Program Director.

MAHLIKAH AWE:RI: Haudenosaunee Kanien’kéhà:ka & Mi’kmaw L’sitkuk, Canadian Poet Of Honor, Mahlikah Awe:ri Enml’iga’t Saqama’sgw (The One Who Stands & Walks In The Light) is an Artist For Social Change, “Shifting paradigms through Indigenized ways of knowing and being; while reimagining what it means to be “In-Relation”, to the Land, the Universe, and to each other”. Awe:ri is a nationally recognized Spoken Word Artist, Arts Educator, Musician, Moon Medicine Practitioner, Land Defender & Water Protector, Public Speaker, Performance Artist, Curator and Afro-Indigenous Futurist Writer & Digital Artist. Awarded the 2019-2020 Paula Fund for the development of new works for younger audiences for her acclaimed solo work Tionnhéhkwen Tionnká:non (Our Sustenance Our Medicines), and published in the first Black Canadian Afro-Futurism Anthology in 2020, Cosmic Underground Northside: An Incantation of Black Canadian Speculative Discourse & Innerstandings, Cedar Grove Publishing.

Mahlikah is currently based in Sewatokwa'tshera't Wampum, Tsi Tkarón:to, as the acting Deputy Director of Programming for Neighbourhood Impact at the Centre of Learning & Development in Regent Park, Founding member of Red Slam, an Indigenous Art 4 Social Change Movement, Art Educator for the The Art Gallery Of Ontario, Prologue To The Performing Arts Touring Artist, TDSBCREATES Mentor Artist, a Faculty Member for the Wildseed Black Arts Fellowship and a 2021 member of the Whole/Self Liberation Online School for Liberatory Living. IG @mahlikah_aweri FB @mahlikahaweri Twitter @redslam
THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE is one of the world’s most influential dance education and training organisations, with its global headquarters in London. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn to dance.

FALL FOR DANCE NORTH is a commitment to support the professional dance community. The festival, occurring annually in the fall, celebrates dance by launching the performing arts season and opening conversations about dance that will continue in theatres, studios and households throughout the year.

FFDN nurtures the dance audiences of the future. $15 tickets for any seat in the house invite everyone to experience professional dance together. Internationally and stylistically diverse, FFDN’s programming reflects Toronto’s exceptional multiculturalism. A love of dance, and of new dance forms, is cultivated at the festival and audiences attend more professional dance throughout the year because of their experience at FFDN.

GENERATOR is a mentoring, teaching, and innovation incubator that expands the skills, tools, and competencies of independent artists, producers and leaders. From intensive programs to online tools, Generator is transforming the role of the artist producer one artist at a time.

GUELPH DANCE —formerly the Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival—aims to engage and enthral. We strive to be a nationally-recognized leader in contemporary dance by offering a platform for professional, new-generation, and youth dance artists to share their vision, push creative boundaries, and engage community audiences.

DANCER TRANSITION RESOURCE CENTRE (DTRC): Founded in 1985, the Dancer Transition Resource Centre (DTRC) is a national, charitable organization dedicated to helping dancers make necessary transitions into, within, and from professional performing careers. We also operate as a resource centre for the dance community and general public and support activities that improve the socioeconomic conditions of artists across the country.

As a world leader in dancer transition, we are active participants in international conferences and research initiatives and help drive change within the dance community.