



*connecting artists and  
communities in motion*

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Looking to the future, Made in BC - Dance on Tour announces a new organizational name:

**Dance West Network: connecting artists and communities in motion**

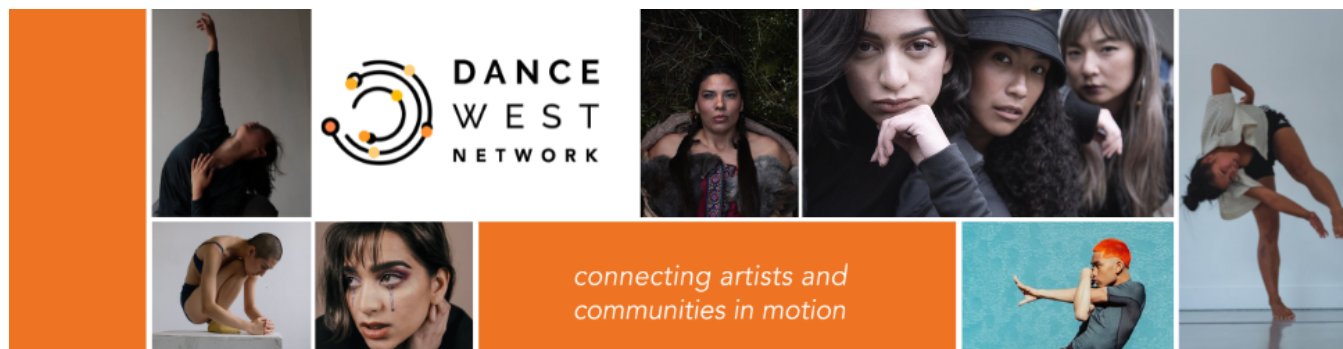


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***“Bravo! Dance West Network!***

***Hy'ceep qa (TY) Sii'em for taking a giant leap and leading the way in decolonizing not only your name but also with genuine engagement with Indigenous artists from the grassroots to professional levels.***

***Your leadership in this important work must be applauded.”***

***- [Tsatassaya White](#), curator, event planner and community mobilizer of the Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) & (Opetchesaht) Nuu-chah-nulth Nations.***

(September 2021) As a move to develop and embrace new collaborations, Made in BC (MiBC) - Dance on Tour has changed its name in its 15th anniversary year to better reflect the work of the organization and inspire current directions. In Fall 2021, the organization will be called, **[Dance West Network: connecting artists and communities in motion.](#)**

Conversations around changing the name began about five years ago. Right now feels a particularly fitting and supportive time to make this transformation as we all learn to understand the changes unfurling due to the pandemic and the increased visibility of related social causes supporting often historically excluded communities on the margins of mainstream society.

***Throughout the five years I have been involved with Made in BC, the name (which is based on Columbus) has made it really awkward to invite Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to collaborate. Attending to colonialism and centering Indigenous sovereignty has been a core value for me for the past 15 years, and associating with the “Made in BC” name has been where I have most been out of integrity in my work. I think it is a fantastic idea to no longer have “Made in BC” in the name. - Joanne Cuffe (they/them), Community Dance Connector in Lekwungen homelands / Victoria***

We aim to embrace further inclusivity, and see this organizational update as another step toward the development of new relationships with Indigenous artists and organizations, and as a modest statement that we are aiming towards increased solidarity with the Indigenous nations of the lands where we have the privilege of living, working and making fabulous performing arts projects happen.

The new name was chosen after many months of consultations with Indigenous artists, Network and affiliated Dance Presenters, Community Dance Connectors, multiple dance artists, organizations in other parts of Canada and the three original MiBC co-founders. These organizations and individuals are deeply involved with the work MiBC engages with on a daily basis, and it was important to first receive their input and reflections on this shift.

The new name ***Dance West Network: connecting artists and communities in motion*** focuses on the network of relationships so integral to our work, moving away from centering BC and its negative connotations for many Indigenous artists and communities. The name also features “Dance” more prominently, and acknowledges the communities with whom we work are also already in motion with multiple dance activities and artists.

***On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are grateful for the support and labour from members of the arts and culture communities including Indigenous artists, network presenters, and community outreach coordinators. All of their conversations with the organization on how to best align our name with the work of collaborating dance artists and communities resulted in this grassroots process of changing our name. We appreciate these efforts as part of our ongoing steps to be more inclusive and supportive to all communities. - Board of Directors: Melanie Hardy, Edmond Kilpatrick, Monique Laaper, Alice M. Murage, Barb Parker, Aina Yasué.***

***The community of the Dance West Network has over the past several years made remarkable efforts to recognize our company's distinct artistic practices. This name change is timely and a reflection of these core values. T'oooyax's'ii 'niin - Margaret Grenier, Executive and Artistic Director, Dancers of Damelahamid***

In 2021, the organisation celebrated the first 15 years of “Made in BC” with a unique online [digital audio/visual project](#) showcasing the history of supporting dance artists and communities around the province. As we look ahead towards the next 15 years, our work continues to evolve, as reflected in:

- Continued conversations with Indigenous dance artists consultants ([Olivia C. Davies](#), [Jessica McMann](#)) and Community Dance Connectors (local dance “champions”) throughout the province for ongoing for learning and possible future collaborations;
- Four residency projects in 2021-22 in process for historically marginalized artists:
  1. 3rd annual [Re-Centering/Margins](#) creative residency for emerging dance artists, including written documentation with BIPOC writers of their choosing on the traditional, ancestral and unceded Coast Salish territory of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlíl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations/Vancouver. Funded by City of Vancouver, RBC Foundation, and the BC Arts Council.
  2. Creative Residency opportunities to support the ongoing work of Lindsay Delaronde/Visible Bodies Collective/The Culture Den Society on the territories of the Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ nations/Victoria. Funded by RBC Foundation, and the BC Arts Council.
  3. *Northern BC : Re-Centering/Margins* Creative Residency, produced in collaboration with [Bulkley Valley Concert Association](#) (*Witsuwit'en Territory/Smithers*), and [ChangeMakers/](#) Karen Buchanan (*Ts'msyen Laxyuup*)/*Prince Rupert*) with teaching opportunities at [Hiit'aGan.iina Kuuyas Naay – Skidegate Youth Centre](#) (*Haida Nation Territory/Haida Gwaii*). Funded by the Canada Arts Presentation Fund Program, Support for Workers in Live Arts and Music Sector Fund and the BC Arts Council.
  4. Digital Project: Dance/Media Collaborations 2021 projects, produced in collaboration with [Arts Revelstoke](#) (*Secwepemc (Secwepemcul'ewc), Ktunaxa, Sinixt Territory/Revelstoke*), [LEÑA Artist Research and Residency Centre & Active / Passive Performance Society](#) (*traditional territories of Lamalcha, Penelakut, and Huitson First Nations/Galiano Island*), and [Hiit'aGan.iina Kuuyas Naay – Skidegate Youth Centre](#) (*Haida Nation Territory/Haida Gwaii*). Funded by BC Arts Council / Project Assistance: Pivot Program.

While the work of Dance West Network remains centred in BC, we are open to other collaborations in western Canada and nationally, often by following the lead and momentum of dance artists. As Dance West Network looks to the next 15 years and beyond, we will continue to facilitate connections between communities and dance artists sharing vibrant practices and experience, and to create collaborations that work towards greater equity for historically excluded dance artists and audiences, offering opportunities for people from all over BC to learn about the arts, express themselves creatively and celebrate a shared humanity through dance.