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**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHOREOGRAPHY-AKRON ANNOUNCES NEW
OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD FOR CREATIVE ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH PROGRAM
– CAR Program Challenges & Innovates Arts Administration Practices –**



Pictured: [left] CAR Artists, Thought Partners, and NCCAakron team members at the 2023 Summit Convening (photo Shane Wynn), [top right] CAR Artists Pioneer Winter Collective (photo Peter Nieblas), and [bottom right] CAR Artist Kara Jenelle Wade (photo JahBrielle Henning Rayford).

AKRON, Ohio (September 24, 2024)—**The National Center for Choreography - Akron (NCCAakron)** announces its next Creative Administration Research (CAR) open application period. Funded by the Mellon Foundation, the CAR program supports U.S. dance artists and challenges the field to think beyond the boundaries of known, traditional models and “best practices.” Launched in 2020, the program serves as a national think tank for the dance and performing arts industry and, to date, has initiated five cohorts for a total of 22 Artist Teams from across the U.S. The application period for the Creative Administration Research program opens September 23, 2024, and closes October 25, 2024.

Through this open application, NCCAakron will welcome a new CAR cohort of up to three Artist Teams. Teams include the Artist, a curated Thought Partner, and NCCAakron staff members. Artists are encouraged to include any other staff or independent contractors from their own

operating environment in the experience as well. Each Artist Team will engage in a virtual Investigative Retreat to reflect on the Artist's body of work; project long-term artistic goals; examine chronic pain points across their operations; reconsider current habits and practices; and identify possible administrative experiments to evolve business operations.

The Artist and Thought Partner are provided a stipend— \$8,750 and \$3,750, respectively—to do this work in the Investigative Retreat as well as meet on their own throughout the contract period. After launching the program in 2020, NCCAkron received a \$1 million reinvestment from the Mellon Foundation to fund and evolve the CAR program 2023-2026.

The new book [*Artists on Creative Administration: A Workbook from the National Center for Choreography*](#), emerged from the CAR program and will be released on September 24, 2024, by the University of Akron Press. *Artists on Creative Administration* features essays from and interviews with 30 artists and advocates from the dance and the performing arts worlds (many of whom are alumni of the CAR program), sharing first-hand stories of creative administration in action through case studies, interviews, life tools, and experiments. NCCAkron will soon announce a *Making Moves* book event tour, through which they will host events centered on creative administration in cities like Nashville, Seattle, New York, Detroit, and beyond.

NCCAkron Executive/Artistic Director **Christy Bolingbroke** notes “Ideal Creative Admin Research candidates have a strong and distinct artistic point of view as well as a specific sense of self-awareness when navigating the performing arts field. With 22 teams across 20 states to date, new CAR Artist Teams will become a part of this special network that we hope strengthens the foundation of the dance field for whatever is next. What has surfaced to date through our Investigative Retreats and the publishing of *Artists on Creative Administration* is that this work is often unseen and unacknowledged – and it is more important than ever to recognize, name, and interrogate the administrative practices so we can adapt and evolve as a field.”

An Artist Selection Committee will review applications, and in December 2024 selected participants will be invited to join the program. Non-selected applicants will also be notified of the committee's decisions. A detailed schedule is below. Learn more about this application and program here: <https://bit.ly/2024-CAR-FAQs>

CAR Artist since 2021, **Pioneer Winter** (Miami, FL) remarks, “The NCCAkron ethos is so warm and accepting. I immediately felt welcomed into a community of humans asking questions I never knew how to verbalize. The questions asked and lessons learned have inspired a new approach to 'administration'. It has also fostered in me new confidence as an artist and leader. The opportunities, experiences, and lessons shared between us have expanded my capacity to consider and create beyond what I thought possible.”

CAR Application Schedule

Monday, September 23

Application opens

Friday, October 18, 3:30-6pm ET
Office Hours, 15-minute time slots available.
<https://calendly.com/nccakronconnect>

Friday, October 25, 5pm ET
Applications due

December 6-13, 2024
Applicant notifications

December 2024 / January 2025
New Cohort Orientation

Interested parties can email programs@nccakron.org with any questions about the program or the application.

Thought Partner, **Indira Goodwine-Josias** (Boston, MA), reflects, “NCCAkron’s Creative Administration Research program provides an opportunity to intentionally merge a choreographer’s creative practices with emergent administrative strategies that support their career trajectory and overall desired social impact through dance. It not only creates additional pathways to better support individual artists, but also places a high value on the stewardship of trust that must be built amongst all members of the dance ecology for equitable transformation to occur in our field.”

Current Creative Administration Research Artists and Thought Partner Teams include:
Kara Jenelle “KJ” Wade (Atlanta, GA / Los Angeles, CA) | **Elena Muslar** (Los Angeles, CA)
Marina Magalhães (Santa Cruz, CA) | **Maryá Wethers** (Brooklyn, NY)
slowdanger (Pittsburgh, PA) | **Hope Mohr** (San Francisco, CA)

Creative Administration Research Artist and Thought Partner Alumni include:
Abby Zbikowski (Columbus, OH and New York, NY) | **Francine Sheffield** (Richmond, VA)
Banning Bouldin (Nashville, TN) | **John Michael Schert** (Boise, ID)
Bebe Miller (Columbus, OH) | **Antuan Byers** (New York, NY)
Brandon “Chief Manny” Calhoun and **Jamal “Litebulb” Oliver** (Chicago, IL) | **Rika Iino** and **Chisa Yamaguchi** (Oakland, CA)
Brian Brooks (New York, NY) | **Huong Hoang** (New York, NY)
Dominic Moore-Dunson (Akron, OH) | **Antuan Byers** (New York, NY)
Edgar L. Page (Byron Center, MI) | **Helanius J. Wilkins** (Boulder, CO)
Iquail Shaheed (Philadelphia, PA) | **Conrhonda Baker** (Elberton, GA)
Jaamil Olawale Kosoko (Philadelphia, PA/New York, NY) | **Ellen Chenoweth** (Philadelphia, PA)
jumatatu m. poe (Philadelphia, PA) | **Reuben Roqueñi** (Portland, OR)
Kate Wallich (Seattle, WA) | **Indira Goodwine-Josias** (Boston, MA)
Marjani Forté-Saunders (Pasadena, CA/New York, NY) | **Michele Byrd-McPhee** (Jersey City, NJ)
Pioneer Winter (Miami, FL) | **Dixon|Dahlia Li** (New York, NY)
Raja Feather Kelly (Brooklyn, NY) | **Byron Au Yong** (Palm Springs, CA/Seattle, WA)

Rashaun Mitchell and Silas Riener (Margaretville, NY) | Tonya Lockyer (Suquamish, WA)
Ronald K. Brown (Brooklyn, NY) | Sandra Burton (Williamstown, MA)
Rosie Herrera (Miami, FL) | Aaron Mattocks (Acra, NY)
Takahiro Yamamoto (Portland, OR/Boston, MA) | Byron Au Yong (Palm Springs, CA/Seattle, WA)
Umi IMAN Siferllah-Griffin (Atlanta, GA) | Conrhonda Baker (Atlanta, GA)

About NCCAkron

The National Center for Choreography at The University of Akron supports the research and development of new work in dance by exploring the full potential of the creative process. In addition to offering studio and technical residencies to make new work, activities focus on catalyzing dialogue and experimentation; creating proximity among artists and dance thinkers; and aggregating resources around dance making. For more information, visit nccakron.org.

A discrete organization of its own, separate from the University, the establishment and general operation of NCCAkron are made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org.

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