2013

Department of Dance Student Investment Project Assessment

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## College of Fine Arts, Department of Dance
### Student Investment Projects Assessment Plan

Student Investment Projects are funded through WMU College of Fine Arts Differential Tuition and provide students with discovery driven opportunities to engage with professional artists through learner-centered experiences on and off-campus that expand the student's understanding of the field and assist them in refining career goals.

### GOALS

Each year, Student Investment Projects will provide students with the opportunity to:

- Engage in geographically related on and off campus experiences with professional dance artists;
- Develop artistic and professional relationships for students and faculty, both nationally and internationally;
- Learn more about a major metropolitan center, its working artists, dance facilities, and career opportunities;
- Explore, experience, and consider living and working in a major metropolitan center with a strong dance presence;
- Shape career goals for the field of dance.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES – PROJECT SPECIFIC

Upon completion of a Student Investment Project students will:

- Demonstrate increased understanding of physical, creative, or scholarly work in the field of dance;
- Use the project experience to further develop their career plan;
- Identify useful artistic AND professional career connections;
- Determine viability and desirability of geographic location for post-graduation relocation.

### GENERAL OUTCOMES

In general, Student Investment Projects provide:

- A minimum of one off-campus trip for every graduating senior;
- A minimum of one on-campus experience for every graduating senior;
- Opportunity for engagement by non-dance students at WMU and members of the greater Kalamazoo Community.

### ASSESSMENT METHODS

Each Student Investment Project will be assessed separately upon its completion through a Project Exit Survey completed by the participants and Project Final Report completed by the faculty advisor for the project.

The impact of Student Investment Projects in general will be assessed in conjunction with ongoing department and program assessment methods already in place including the Senior Exit Survey and Alumni Survey.

Funding for the development of this assessment plan was made possible through an Assessment Fellows Grant provided by the Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies, Western Michigan University.

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### Project Summary

Design and implementation of an assessment plan for Department of Dance Student Investment Projects funded through College of Fine Arts differential tuition.

### Project Objectives

- Refine and articulate the goals of the Student Investment Projects within the Department of Dance including their reflection of department, college, and university goals
- Identify measurable outcomes and associated criteria related to stated goals
- Design assessment methods, including direct measures wherever possible, to track the impact of Student Investment Projects on student development within the curriculum and the overall success of the projects themselves
- Test assessment plan through projects occurring during academic year 2012-13

### Project Timeline

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**Light and Landless**

Francisco-based artist KT Nelson, co-founder and co-artistic director of ODC/San Francisco. Ms. Nelson worked with students in the fall of 2012 to create Light and Landless, a 22 minute piece including video projection which was performed in February as part of the 2013 Winter Gala Dance Concert.

**West Coast Dance Immersions**

Los Angeles, CA – Spring Break 2013

San Francisco, CA – May 2013

The Department of Dance will partnered with Oberlin Dance Collective (ODC) and Alonzo King LINES Ballet in San Francisco and with various dance centers in Los Angeles, to provide dance majors exposure to West Coast artistic and commercial practices.

Nine dancers and one faculty member traveled to Los Angeles over spring break. Ten dancers and two faculty members will travel to San Francisco as part of the spring semester. In each city, dance majors take classes, see performances, network with alumni, and meet with company directors. In Los Angeles, students also met with talent agents.