Vibrant Statements
DANC 4700 Senior Capstone Project
Curated by Michael Arellano
April 17, 2019
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CREATIVE WORK

- PROPOSAL ............................................................................................................. 1-2
- FUNDING PROPOSAL .................................................................................. 3-6
- REFLECTION PAPER .................................................................................. 7-11
- ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY .................................................................. 12-14

## ANCILLARY MATERIALS

- RESUME ........................................................................................................ 15
- PERSONAL ARTISTIC STATEMENT .......................................................... 16

## ADDENDA

- CREATIVE MATERIALS FOR *Sonder* ............................................................... 17-19
  - IMPROVISATION SCORE
  - PROJECTION DESIGN VISUALIZATION
- GOOGLE FORM: ARTIST APPLICATION ......................................................... 20-21
- ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES .............................................................................. 22-27
- POST-EVENT SURVEYS .............................................................................. 28-29
- MARKETING MATERIALS ........................................................................... 30-33
  - PROGRAM
  - FACEBOOK EVENT
  - FACEBOOK POST
Capstone Proposal

For my BA Capstone project and Lee Honors College Thesis, I will curate a multi-disciplinary arts event showcasing work created solely by individuals identifying with the LGBTQ+ community. This event is designed to give a diverse group of queer people a platform to show their work and state their presence to an audience from around the community. By presenting work centered around celebration of queer identities and themes, the show will work to open the minds of those who may not recognize the presence and talent of LGBTQ+ in their community. This addresses the need for representation of all types of gender-expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc. in a time where white, straight, cis-gender men often have the loudest voice in a room. Art forms will include performance art such as live music and dance, as well as two-dimensional and three-dimensional visual art such as sculpture, photography, and painting. The show will be feature new and existing works from the selected artists relating to themes of community, diversity, and celebration of queer identities. The title will be finalized by conversation with the other artists, but a working title is *The Chromatic Collective*.

I will be hosting this event at Wellspring Theatre on April 5, 2019 for the monthly Kalamazoo Art Hop event. Lisa Poole, the facility coordinator of the theatre, has confirmed my show for this event. Poole has outlined a budget for use of the space, and I have already secured funding for the costs through a generous donor. Since this is a large community event, I will also be collaborating with other local LGBTQ+ organizations in the
area serving as a resource to queer people such as OutFront Kalamazoo to recruit artists interested in showing their art at this event. Other ways I plan to recruit artists is through an online Google Form allowing people to submit a biography and samples of their art. The deadline for submissions is February 15, 2019 which is when I will select a small group of artists to show their work.

I will also contribute to this event by designing a score for a structured group improvisation performance reflecting my choreographic aesthetic with exploration of themes of race, sexuality, and gender identity and movement vocabulary connecting to sources of pleasure, pain, and individual experience. My work is also highly collaborative, and this piece will be inspired by some of the two-dimensional and three-dimensional visual art in the show. I believe this component will require me to use my knowledge of choreography and composition from my studies but proposes a challenge for me to explore chance-based dance more. The curation of this event requires me to reference my knowledge of production elements for organization of the event, my communication skills to work with directors of the space, and the knowledge I have gained about how to collaborate with other artists. This whole event represents the type of work I want to do in my career as a choreographer-creative director. I have always been extremely passionate about combining art with activism, and through my work with Point Foundation, the national LGBTQ+ scholarship organization I belong to, I have learned more about how to represent the underrepresented and to use my own privilege as a white, cisgender male to give a platform to those who are marginalized and silenced.
LuLu Rara Avis Endowment Proposal
Submitted by Michael Arellano
Date: February 26, 2018

Vibrant Statements: LGBTQ+ Multi-Disciplinary Arts Event
BA Capstone Project and Lee Honors College Thesis

Project Description
“Vibrant Statements” is a multi-disciplinary arts event showcasing work created solely by LGBTQ+ individuals. This event will take place at Wellspring Theatre on April 5th from 6-7pm as part of the monthly Art Hop event. Selected artists will showcase live music, spoken-word poetry, dance, film, fashion design, and sculpture all reflecting themes of community, diversity, and celebration of queer identities. The main objective of the event is to give a diverse group of queer people a platform to show their work and state their presence to an audience from around the Kalamazoo community. By presenting work centered around queer themes, this show will open the minds of those who may not recognize the presence and talent of LGBTQ+ people in their community. This addresses the need for representation of all types of gender-expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc. in a time where white, heterosexual, cis-gender men often have the loudest voice in a room.

Selected Artists

Graphic Design: Sarah Trumbull
- Trumbull will be helping me to make promotional materials for the event that reflect the tone and theme of the work that will be presented.
- These materials will include posters to be placed around campus and in different community spaces, as well as promotional materials for social media such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

Vocalist with Instrumentation: Jessica Ivey
- Ivey will be performing two cover songs and one original song which will relate to the feelings of coming out and coming to terms with LGBTQ+ identity.
- Ivey’s tentative title is “songs that got you through it”
- Possible selections include “Ivy” by Frank Ocean and “Hard Place” by H.E.R.

Fashion Designer: Austin DiPadova
- DiPadova will be presenting three looks for the show which will all have an androgynous edge to them.
- DiPadova may also be creating costuming for the dancers for the improvisation score that I am creating.

Spoken-Word Poetry: Daja Excel-Johnson
Excel-Johnson will be speaking three of her original spoken-word poems. Two of the poems are already existing and one will be a new creation for the event.
Excel-Johnson’s poems have Christian influences, but also include themes of acceptance of sexuality.

**Dance Improvisation:** Michael Arellano + **Sculpture:** Melina Wilcox
- I have been working with Mel Wilcox who is doing her own thesis work “Point of Contact” which involves dance improvisation with her sculpture work. The creation of her sculpture work is inspired by human touch and contact.
- I am interested in expanding upon the dance score that she has already created for her project.

**Screen Film:** Gavin Rantz
- Rantz will be showcasing existing work and possibly creating a new work that reflects queer themes.

**Goals & Objectives**
- To give LGBTQ+ artists an open space to state their identity and express their creativity through their chosen artistic medium.
- To enlighten people from different backgrounds who may not be educated on LGBTQ+ matters and choose not to always recognize queer artists. This event will confront ignorance and loudly share the voices of phenomenal LGBTQ+ individuals.
- To boost the confidence and careers of the different LGBTQ+ artists showing work at the event.
- I will try to also encourage others to keep this event (or similar events with LGBTQ+ themes) running each year to continue giving representation to the underrepresented.

**Measurement of Impact**
To obtain quantifiable impact results I will like to provide a survey for audience members at the event to assess their experience. Questions will include "Have you seen work that you knew was produced by a member of the LGBTQ+ community before?" or "On a scale of one to ten, how did the work shown tonight change your perspective of gender performance?"

**Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Completed or Not</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title and Theme for Show</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>- The title of the show is “Vibrant Statements” and the thematic focus is a celebration of queer identities with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 19, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvisation dancers contacted</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>I have contacted a list of strong improvisers to perform in my event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 24, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ+ Artists Selected</td>
<td>Pending Completion</td>
<td>I have selected a diverse group of artists from around the community, each agreeing to present work related to queer themes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 27, 2019</td>
<td>(Once I have confirmed with the screen film maker, I will have completed my artist selection.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Release about event</td>
<td>Pending Completion</td>
<td>I have met with Sarah Trumbull to create posters and promotional material for the event. These should be posted around campus and on social media on this date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 27, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Dancers &amp; Rehearsal Time</td>
<td>Pending Completion</td>
<td>Confirm which dancers will perform in my original improvisation score and coordinate rehearsal times with their schedules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 1, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Works Completed</td>
<td>Mid-March, 2019</td>
<td>DiPadova’s new fashion designs have been created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ivey’s original song is finished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Excel-Johnson has finisher her new spoken-word poem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rantz will have a new film created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvisation Score Solidified</td>
<td>Late-March, 2019</td>
<td>My original improvisation score has been created and rehearsed many times with the necessary collaborative art elements (Wilcox’s sculptures)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative Arts Event</td>
<td>April 5, 2019</td>
<td>Presentation of the collaborative arts event.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Honors Thesis Defense | April 10, 2019 | I will write and present a review of my process and evaluation of the impact on the community.

Statement of Need

Since I am renting out Wellspring Theatre, I will incur expenses for rental and production. The Rental Fees will be calculated based on the event running from 4-8:30pm. Other costs include the press release and other advertising mediums, costuming for my dancers, and videography/photography. I have also acknowledged possible miscellaneous costs for the supplies or materials for the organization and display of the artwork.

Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theatre Rental</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Manager</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound &amp; Lighting Technicians</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marley Installation</td>
<td></td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projector Use</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Release/Advertising</td>
<td></td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$840.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Income                               |       | **$200** |
| Donor Funding                        |       | $200     |
| **TOTAL INCOME:**                   |       | **$200** |

Balance

| ESTIMATED NEED:                      | $640  |
| FUNDING REQUESTED:                   | $640  |
Vibrant Statements Reflection

Entering my final year at Western Michigan University, I was eager to create a senior capstone project exercising the skills I have acquired in composition, collaboration, and artistic management throughout my four years in college. While conceptualizing the project, I knew I wanted to utilize it as an opportunity to further develop my creative problem-solving skills and explore my personal aesthetic. However, while reflecting on my current passions and future aspirations, I uncovered a strong desire to create a project producing a meaningful impact in the community around me. Curating a multidisciplinary arts event showcasing LGBTQ+ artists, entitled Vibrant Statements, fulfilled the desire to combine my passion for artistic composition with outreach for marginalized communities. I produced this event not only to affect change, but to face and surpass artistic and organizational challenges preparing me for similar endeavors in my post-graduate career.

In 2017, I received a scholarship from Point Foundation, the largest national LGBTQ+ scholarship organization in the United States. While this provided me with leadership training and strong mentorship for queer activism, engaging with LGBTQ+ people from intersectional communities, and hearing their experience, is what inspired me to focus on uplifting marginalized people. To further fuel the curation of the event, I read queer-focused publications, including an article where a man named Fabricio Leal Cogo states “I remember growing up here in Brazil and not seeing anyone like me portrayed on TV- or at least, not anyone with a similarly complex inner life” (Cogo). This creative research helped me identify a distinct need to create a diverse and positive representation of LGBTQ+ people in mainstream media and art platforms.
The event title, *Vibrant Statements*, was chosen to reflect this objective, prefacing a positive, upbeat celebration of LGBTQ+ artists and their extraordinary talent, with proud statements of identity through their chosen medium of art.

When deciding the venue and date of the event, I strategically planned this event to be held at Wellspring Theater in downtown Kalamazoo for the April Arthop event on April 5, 2019, from 6-7pm. Since Arthop is a well-known event in the community, it attracts a wide variety of audience members with different backgrounds, who may wander into an event without knowing the LGBTQ+ focus. I chose this setting because it allowed the event to confront people with closed-minds or lack of recognition of LGBTQ+ identities and challenge prejudice and ignorance. The diverse audience also allowed *Vibrant Statements* to be a networking opportunity for artists to receive more professional exposure. Further into the process, I decided to create a networking table with biographies, headshots, and business cards for the artists so possible collaborators from the community could contact them after the event. Identifying these foundational objectives for the event was easy, however, organizing the event to achieve these goals was the challenging part.

Due to the purpose of the event, the artist selection was the most crucial part of the creative process. I wanted to create a lineup of artists representing different intersectional identities. While doing this, I predicted my main challenge would be avoiding tokenism. Tokenism is essentially selecting people from under-represented groups for the sole purpose of appearing diverse (Elmoutawakil). In hindsight, this was not my biggest challenge because the objective of the event was embedded into the description; to represent underrepresented artists. This eventually provided me with a diverse pool of artists once I refined the recruitment process. However, this did blindside me from narrowing down what type of art I wanted to showcase. I
was so fixated on recruiting a diverse group of artists, I did not ask myself important questions such as “will this event feature visual or performance art?” or “what themes do I want the artwork to reflect?”

Without creating a concise vision with consideration of time and resources, I was not able to move forward with the event. My first approach to artist selection was to create and circulate a Google Form for a “Collaborative Arts Show” stating: “Artwork I am interested in showcasing includes photography, painting, sculpture, ceramics, multi-media arts, and music performance; however, I am open to presenting other forms of art as well.” In hindsight, this statement sounds indecisive coming from the curator, as it does not clearly identify what type of artwork will be showcased, how the artwork (both visual and performance mediums) will be used collaboratively, and if both existing and new work is accepted. The lack of clarity within the description may have deterred some potential artists from applying for the event. Although the content of the form was well designed, requiring a statement of identity, artistic biography, samples of previous work, and a proposal for the event, the description is much too obscure.

Moving forward in another curation process, I will start with a clear vision for the specific work I would like to showcase, themes for work, and how the artwork will be tied into the full event.

At the start of the artist recruitment process, I was getting an underwhelming number of responses. When it became time to start considering marketing materials, I decided to ask a friend who is a graphic design major if she knew an LGBTQ+ graphic designer. Within 30 minutes, I was already connected with a graphic designer who agreed to create promotional materials for free. This “aha” moment propelled me into a full day of contacting my personal network expressing specific needs for the event. Within the next two days, I was in contact with a fashion designer, singer, spoken-word poet, and filmmaker. I realize now the power of reaching
out to a direct contact who will then connect me to their direct contacts. This chain of communication spurred much better results than blindly sending an online form to the public, and instead, immediately connected me to respectable talented LGBTQ+ artists, since they were recommended by my own trusted network.

Once I had a group of artists selected for the event, my role as a curator demanded new responsibilities. Another oversight during this phase was not communicating clear guidelines and deadlines for the artists, especially since my timeline was severely delayed. After speaking with the fashion designer and spoken-word poet I had recruited for the event, they both agreed to be featured. However, both of these artists became unresponsive after repeated attempts to get in contact with them. I’ve learned as a queer arts curator, I must be intuitive to the artists’ comfortability with outward statements of their LGBTQ+ identity, as well as their level of commitment to the event. If I would have clarified more specific deadlines for certain materials such as headshots, artist biographies, and samples of work, I would have been able to learn of these artists’ reservations sooner than later. This relates back to my lesson in coordinating logistics for the event before involving collaborators. If I had defined dates, specific materials, and set up in-person meetings, I could have avoided having to scramble to find new artists.

With my absolute, final line-up of committed artists, I was able to move forward with marketing and event materials. This phase provided me with valuable experience collaborating with a graphic designer for promotional posters, creating a professional Facebook event coordinated by WMU Dance with daily artist features and event previews, creating a promotional video in iMovie, and designing programs to reflect the event objectives. I believe the promotional materials were extremely successful since the event was fully packed with approximately 150 people, however, in the future I know I would like to distribute materials
earlier and in a variety of other locations. This can be easily remedied by, once again, concretizing the vision of the event sooner to coordinate logistics.

Since I was also a featured artist at the event, I wanted to create work aligning with the existing themes of representation, identity, community, and diversity. I decided to create an improvisation score for eight dancers titled *Sonder*. I prompted the dancers to reflect on their identities to compose phrase-work performed in a chance-based format, and to guide improvisation. I heavily relied on my skillset of compositional techniques from intensives and choreography courses at WMU. This creation was also a chance to express my personal choreographic aesthetic which relates to multi-media collaboration, such as projecting abstracted images and text onto moving bodies to create socio-political statements. I collaborated with Skyler Dickenson, a queer projection designer to project images on the dancers, reflecting a gradual discovery of identity through the formation of a collective community. I provided Dickenson with images for each section, as well as words, colors, images, and textures submitted by the dancers to generate a projection for each of them. The time limit for this collaboration limited the possibility for the visuals, however, I was extremely satisfied with the outcome.

Reflecting on the curation of *Vibrant Statements*, I believe the event successfully achieved the objectives defined at the beginning of the process. Moving forward, I hope to curate a collaborative arts event combining visual and performance artwork, organized to subvert conventional gender expression. I feel confident committing to a new, challenging project such as this one after learning how to efficiently recruit artists, create marketing materials, devise funding proposals, and more. I will continue to learn from creative challenges so I can address crucial socio-political issues and ignite change by providing positive representation and visibility for LGBTQ+ artists.
Works Cited

“About - QUEER | ART.” QUEER | ART, www.queer-art.org/about.

- This page provides a strong example of a concise mission statement relating to the presentation of art created by a diverse group of queer artists. This informed my proposal summary for promotional materials.


- Viewing identity as a constant performance within the framework of society provided me with strong questions for the performers in my improvisation score. This article inspired me to ask each of them about colors, images, words, and textures they connected with their identity.


- Reading Cogo’s statements about his experience with lack of representation, helped me to shape the event with a diverse lineup of artists.


- This article defines tokenism and discusses its problematic nature in the arts. I used the information provided to aid in avoiding tokenism during the artist selection process.


- Outlining an improvisation score with different components including expressive material, sequence, and behavior of performers guided my creation of a strong score for eight dancers.
anchor point and a reference to outline the objective of the show as an event to reaffirm audience members of all backgrounds of their valid experience with their identity and personal expression.
Michael Arellano

Email: michaelwarellano@gmail.com  Phone: (586) 292-9770  Height: 5’7”  Weight: 145 lbs

EDUCATION
2015-2019 Western Michigan University | B.A. Dance & B.S. Psychology  Kalamazoo, MI
2017-18 University of Roehampton | Study Abroad Dance Program  London, England
2017-18 BalletBoyz Pre-Professional Dancer’s Course  London, England

SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING
2018 Ate9 Dance Company Winter Intensive (Danielle Agami, A.D.) | Los Angeles, California
2018 B12 Workshop Festival (Olivia Ancona, Francisco Cordova, Tom Weksler) | Berlin, Germany
2018 Abraham in Motion Summer Intensive (Kyle Abraham, A.D.) | New York, New York
2018 Hofesh Schechter Winter Intensive (Bruno Guillore) | London, England
2018 Nuova Danza Workshop (Jermaine Spivey, Bryan Arias, Spenser Theberge) | Turin, Italy
2017 RUBBERBANDance Summer Intensive (Victor Quijada, A.D.) | Saint-Irénée, Quebec

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE | (* denotes original casting)
2019 Happy Little Things  Aszure Barton
(staged by Brett Perry & Tobin Del Cuore)  WMU | Kalamazoo, MI
Wingless Angels*  Seyong Kim
2018 Composing Principles*  Iztok Kovač
Dock 11 | Berlin Germany
2017 The Gettin’  Kyle Abraham
(staged by Matthew Baker & Jeremy Neal)  WMU | Kalamazoo, MI
Lilac Garden  Antony Tudor
(staged by Amanda McKerrow & John Gardner)  WMU | Kalamazoo, MI
Charanga  Frank Chavez
2017 Diphthong  Brian Enos  WMU | Kalamazoo, MI
Wake*  Christian Denice  Kent State University, OH
2016 Out of the Dark*  James Gregg  WMU | Kalamazoo, MI
Let it Move You*  Monique Haley  WMU | Kalamazoo, MI

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS
2018 Ethel Perry Eaton and Jerold T. French Dance Scholarship
2017 Outstanding Dance Major Scholarship
2017 RUBBERBANDance Summer Intensive Partial Scholarship
2017-19 Point Foundation LGBTQ+ Scholarship
2015-19 WMU Medallion Scholarship

REFERENCES | (contact information available upon request)
Kyle Abraham  Monique Haley  Jeremy Blair
Founder of Abraham.In.Motion  Assistant Professor, WMU Dept. of Dance  Faculty Specialist, WMU Dept. of Dance
Personal Artistic Statement

As a choreographer, I create work responding to the current socio-political climate in the world and explore themes of race, sexuality, and gender identity. My movement vocabulary is inspired by exploring “gendered” movements and authentic bodily responses to different emotions. I work with dancers to collaboratively create authentic movement, prompting them with questions or cues to connect to sensory experiences such as pleasure and pain. Within this framework, I am interested in moving through natural, pedestrian movements and distorted, classical shapes utilizing full range of effort, time, and space. I am influenced by elements of urban dance including staccato dynamics, isolations, and the foundations of break-dancing to inform weight transfer and swift level changes. My movement has a strong connection to martial arts and acrobatics creating a deep, grounded quality and an athletic edge to the work. My work also requires the dancers to embody different characters on stage; through the creation of different personas, I like to highlight some facet of the human experience. By doing this, my work is somewhat satirical and uses different absurdities to criticize human folly and injustice. Collaboration with other artists such as actors, poets, and live musicians is essential to my work in order to enhance the intention through different mediums of art. I aim to curate work utilizing these elements to provide a different lens in which the audience member views the world.
# Projection Design Visualization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Texture</th>
<th>Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy Phelps</td>
<td>#f4eb42</td>
<td>Fluffy</td>
<td>ultra-bright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Boone</td>
<td>#d88a82</td>
<td>Brushstrokes</td>
<td>serene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avree Gunderson</td>
<td>#074ab7</td>
<td>Smooth</td>
<td>tenacious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allie Renner</td>
<td>#42f4b3</td>
<td>Turtle shell</td>
<td>translucent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arden Lapin</td>
<td>#d5bee8</td>
<td>Linens on a Clothesline</td>
<td>comfort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel Sutton</td>
<td>#1070ed</td>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>eccentric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Anderson</td>
<td>#F4d942</td>
<td>Bubble wrap</td>
<td>optimistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Brutlag</td>
<td>#4ee5ed</td>
<td>Geometric</td>
<td>expressive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Improvisation Score

Section One
Choose a mode: conscious avoiding, subtle awareness, full connection
• Walk (Medium Speed)
• 4 counts learned contrast phrase
• Walk (Faster)
• 8 counts learned contrast phrase
• Hand Gesture
• 4 counts improvisation
• Walk (Faster)
• Full learned contrast phrase
• Hand Gesture
• 8 counts improvisation
• Walk (Faster)
• 4 learned contrast phrase
• Hand Gesture
• 4 learned contrast phrase
• Hand Gesture
• 2 learned contrast phrase
• Hand Gesture
• 1 learned contrast phrase
• Hand Gesture
• Full Improvisation (High Energy)

Transition
Cue: Everyone finishes section one score
• Hand Gesture Clump (Upstage Right)
• One by one improvisation ➔ form diagonal line
• Every other person hand gesture away (ripple)
• Approach partner (cannon)

Section Two
• Couples 1 and 3: Reverse Manipulation
• Couples 2 and 4: Reactive Conversation

Transition
Cue: Birds Chirp
• Hand to forehead ➔ lead to upstage clump

Section Three (Flocking)
Rules/Suggestions
• Exhaust repetition and stillness
• Modulate space between bodies
• Modulate traveling & stationary movement
• Build intensity in repetition
• Finish with percussive movement

**Transition**

**Cue: Music Fades to Silence**
• Exit the space one-by-one ➔ leave 3 people in the space

**Section Four (Composed Material)**

**Rules/Suggestions**
• Use any and all composed material
• Minimum of 3 people in the space
• Experiment spatial relationships/interactions
• Change body-facing

**Transition**

**Cue: all dancers finish material**
• Create semi-circle for cypher

**Section Five (Cypher)**

**Order**
1. Kennedy
2. Boone
3. Avree
4. Allie
5. Arden
6. Angel
7. Kelly
8. Brutlag

**Rules/Suggestions**
• Draw 7 letters of your name
• Full-body, high-energy improvisation
• Upbeat celebratory tone/movement
• Be human and stay active when watching

**Ending Transition**

**Cue: Brutlag finishes**
• Everyone improv full-body, high-energy ➔ find active group shape
• Expand to largest shape 3x ➔ Contract to small group shape 3x
• Resolve to horizontal line facing audience
Collaborative Arts Show Submission

For my Senior Capstone Project at Western Michigan University, I will be curating a collaborative arts event at Wellspring Theatre in Kalamazoo, Michigan on April 5th, showcasing the work of a variety of different artists that identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

This event will be held to represent underrepresented artists mainly located in (but not limited to) the Kalamazoo Area.

Art work that I am interested in showcasing includes photography, painting, sculpture, ceramics, multi-media arts, and music performance; however, I am open to presenting other forms of art as well.

If you are interested in having work shown at this event please fill out the survey below.

The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Not michaelwarellano@gmail.com? Switch account

* Required

Name *

Your answer

Email *

Your answer

Do you live in Kalamazoo, Michigan? *

☐ Yes

☐ No, but I live in Michigan

☐ No

How Do You Identify? *

This can include sexuality, gender identity, race, ethnicity, etc. (ex. I am a hispanic, cisgender male)

Your answer
Artistic Biography *
Please define your primary medium of art/performance and the nature of the work that you create.

Your answer

Sample of your previous work
This can include photos, video, or audio recording of work that you have created in the past.

ADD FILE

Link to your previous work
If you prefer to provide a link or website that shows your previous work, please include it below.

Your answer

Proposal for Event
If you have an idea of what you would like to create for this event, please include a description below (this is not required).

Your answer

Any Additional Information
If there is any other information that you would like to include about yourself, your art, etc.

Your answer

SUBMIT

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Google Forms
Jessica Ivey is a classically trained vocalist with a Bachelor of Musical Arts from Western Michigan University. As a first-generation college student from the West side of Detroit, she is a vocalist, activist and teaching artist working toward inclusivity and representation in music education. Jessica stands for human rights-specifically the liberation of Black people across the African diaspora and is an advocate for autonomy across intersectional identities. Redesigning music education curriculum in her practice as a teaching artist aiming to meet students where they are: musically, behaviorally, and with participation. She validates students’ musical interests in opening discussions, while sharing those interests of intermusicality: reinvented styles of past as the constant change of music. Jessica is also a member of the local band “Last Gasp Collective” and has a joint album "1302" (thirteen oh two) available on all streaming platforms.
GAVIN RANTZ  
Filmmaker

Gavin Rantz started working with film at a young age, using a portable VHS camera to recreate scenes from his favorite movies. Gavin received the rank of Eagle Scout in 2012 and graduated from Otsego High School in 2013. The same year, Gavin was asked to help make a short film called *The Wizard of Otsego* to accompany the city’s application for a state funded grant called Main Street Program. The grant was approved, resulting in a $250,000 Main Street Grant from the state of Michigan. Gavin attended one year of Tribeca Flashpoint College in Chicago, IL, making a few short films there, before moving back to Kalamazoo, Michigan and attending Western Michigan University. Mixing music with strong images has been Gavin’s main emphasis while filmmaking, he strives to tell a story by matching sound and visuals in a fluent way.
Lucy Lucas Valentine has been making art in about five different ways since they were twelve at their first art school. Everything about their artistry journey has been informed by identity and family; Fierce, saddened, rough, powerful, surviving New Yorker women brought them up. Valentine learned almost everything - acting, dancing, writing, music - and has found their place as a performance artist and organizer. / As Valentine defined their identity over time - not a man, not a woman either, not straight either, and blackness encapsulating all of this - they started to understand that art is the place where you make sense of it. So now, they write furiously. They learn to speak up and live the ferocity with which they were born. /
MICHAEL ARELLANO
Performer & Choreographer

Michael Arellano is a graduating senior at Western Michigan University pursuing a double major in Dance and Psychology. Throughout his time at WMU, Arellano had the privilege of performing numerous works including The Gettin’ by Kyle Abraham, Excerpts of Happy Little Things (Waiting on a Gruff Cloud of Wanting) by Aszure Barton, Out of the Dark by James Gregg, and more. Arellano has also trained at Roehampton University and attended the BalletBoyz Pre-Professional Dancer’s Course in London, England where he strengthened his passion for creation. Throughout his travels, Arellano has trained with artists including Hofesh Schechter Company, RUBBERBANDance Group, Abraham.In.Motion, and Bryan Arias.

Along with his passion for performance, Arellano is also involved in LGBTQ+ activism work primarily through his scholarship with the national organization Point Foundation. Arellano is most interested in combining his interest in movement exploration with outreach work. He creates dance addressing current socio-political issues and cultivates environments providing representation for underrepresented people.
SKYLER DICKENSON
Lighting, Projection, & Virtual Reality Designer

Skyler Dickenson is a senior at Western Michigan University studying theatrical lighting and projections design. They also work as a developer and designer in the virtual reality development studio at WMU. Skyler has worked on several productions including Wisteria, Shakespeare in Love, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Overtaking, and Waiting to be Invited. Skyler is excited to see projections, lighting, and dance come together for Vibrant Statements.
Sarah Trumbull has immersed herself in the visual arts since before the age of ten, aspiring for a career in which she could create something that was meaningful to others and that could transcend traditional communication. Striving for these dreams meant participation in advanced placement school art programs, attending Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and dual enrolling at Kendall College of Art and Design during her final years in high school. Sarah is currently a graphic design student at WMU and is in her final semester of her BFA degree. Her primary interests in her field of work include graphic illustration, color application, and typesetting. She uses these skills and her experiences to create work that reaches out to those who can relate to her messages and to represent people, groups, and causes that she believes in. Sarah first came out as pansexual at the age of fifteen, and now uses that experience in the construction of her senior thesis—a graphic novel to support those under the age of eighteen struggling to come out or struggling with the exploration of their identity.
1) Open your smartphone camera 
2) Point it at the QR code above 
3) Clink the link at the top of the screen 
4) Take the survey 😊

(If you do not have a smartphone, please take one of the printed surveys!)

Your feedback for this event is extremely valued and appreciated. Thank you so much for coming!
VIBRANT STATEMENTS

SURVEY

1. Have you ever attended a multidisciplinary performing arts event?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

2. How did you find out about this event?
   [ ] Promotional Posters  [ ] Facebook Event
   [ ] Word of Mouth  [ ] Email
   [ ] Other (please specify)

3. Did this event raise your awareness of LGBTQ+ identities?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

4. Would you attend another LGBTQ+ event similar to this one?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

5. Did this event evoke an emotional response?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No
   *If yes, what part of the performance?

6. Have you ever attended an LGBTQ+ themed event?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

7. Are you an artist?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No
   *If yes, what kind of artist (i.e. dancer, visual, musician, etc.)

8. Would you share your experience at this event with a friend?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

9. Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

10. On a scale of 1-5, how organized was this event?
    [ ] 1  [ ] 2  [ ] 3  [ ] 4  [ ] 5
SARAH TRUMBULL | pronouns (she/her/hers)
Medium: Graphic Design
Bio: Sarah Trumbull has immersed herself in the visual arts since before the age of ten, aspiring for a career in which she could create something that was meaningful to others and that could transcend traditional communication. Sarah is currently a graphic design student at WMU and is in her final semester of her BFA degree. Her primary interests in her field of work include graphic illustration, color application, and typesetting. She uses these skills and her experiences to create work that reaches out to those who can relate to her messages and to represent people, groups, and causes that she believes in.

PRODUCTION STAFF
Artistic Director: Michael Arellano
Capstone Chair: Jeremy Blair
Capstone Committee: Nina Nelson
Point Foundation Mentor: Kyle Abraham
Department Chair: Megan Slayter
Facilities Coordinator: Lisa Poole
Technical Director: Samantha Snow
Stage Manager: Jolin Cramer
Run Crew: Will Brighton & Allison Ford

Please join us for the following upcoming performances at the WMU Dalton Center.

Labyrinth, BFA Graduating Presentations 2019, April 11-13, Studio B
BA Capstones & WDP Wrap Up, April 15, Studio B

Made possible with the generous support of the WMU Department of Dance, WMU Department of Theater, & Jerrold T. French.
This event was created to recognize the extraordinary talent and celebrate the identities of LGBTQ+ artists in Kalamazoo. Please visit the networking table to find contact information and learn more about the artists presenting work tonight.

**JESSICA IVEY** | pronouns (she/her/hers)
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Medium: Vocal Performance  
Songs: “All in My Head” by Tori Kelly, “Ivy” by Frank Ocean, “Hard Place” by H.E.R., & “Backwood Days” by Jessica Ivey  
Guitarist: Rob Lindsay  
Biography: Jessica Ivey is a graduating senior at WMU studying music and African American studies. As a first generation college student from the West side of Detroit, she is a vocalist, activist, and teaching artist working toward inclusivity and representation in music education. She is a member of the local band Last Gasp Collective and has a joint album *1302* (thirteen oh two) available on all streaming platforms.

**GAVIN RANTZ** | pronouns (he/him/his)
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Medium: Film  
Films: *Curious Encounters* (Choreography by Carmen Alvarez & Music by Sean Alvarez) & *Holding On To Love* (Music: “Holding On For Life” by Broken Bells)  
Actors: Carmen Alvarez, Michael Arellano, Kobe Brown, Allie Renner, Lexi Ringquist, & Timber Sides.  
Biography: Gavin Rantz started working with film at a young age, using a portable VHS camera to recreate scenes from his favorite movies. Gavin attended one year of Tribeca Flashpoint College in Chicago, IL, making a few short films there, before moving back to Kalamazoo, Michigan and attending Western Michigan University. Mixing music with strong images has been Gavin’s main emphasis while filmmaking. He strives to tell a story by matching sound and visuals in a fluent way.

**LUCY LUCAS VALENTINE** | pronouns (they/them/their)
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Medium: Spoken-Word Poetry  
Poems: *When They Ask What Happen, Directions* (featuring cover of Jon Bellion’s “Human”), & *Hmn.*  
Biography: Lucy Lucas Valentine has been making art in about five different ways since they were twelve at their first art school. Valentine learned almost everything- acting, dancing, writing, music - and has found their place as a performance artist and organizer. As Valentine defined their identity over time - not a man, not a woman, not straight either, and blackness encapsulating all of this - they started to understand that art is the place where you make sense of it. So now, they write furiously. They learn to speak up and live the ferocity with which they were born.

**MICHAEL ARELLANO** | pronouns (he/him/his)
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Medium: Movement Composition  
Dance: *Sonder*  
Bio: Michael Arellano is a graduating senior at WMU pursuing a double major in Dance and Psychology. In his junior year, Arellano studied abroad in London, England attending Roehampton University and the BalletBoyz Dancer’s Course where he strengthened his passion for choreography and artistic curation. He is most interested in combining his interest in movement exploration with outreach work. He creates dance addressing current socio-political issues and cultivates environments providing representation for marginalized people.

**COLLABORATORS**

**SKYLER DICKENSON** | pronouns (they/them/their)
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Medium: Projection Design  
Bio: Skyler Dickenson is a senior at Western Michigan University studying theatrical lighting and projections design. They also work as a developer and designer in the virtual reality development studio at WMU. Skyler has worked on several productions including *Wisteria, Shakespeare in Love, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Overtaking,* and *Waiting to be Invited.* Skyler is excited to see projections, lighting, and dance come together for *Vibrant Statements.*
Vibrant Statements
April 5th, 2019
6:00-7:00pm

Public - Hosted by WMU Dance and 2 others

Friday, April 5, 2019 at 6 PM – 7 PM
about 1 week ago

Epic Center
359 S Kalamazoo Mall Ste 104, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
Show Map

About

Write something...

28 Went - 49 Interested

Debbie, Kelly and 17 other friends went

Details

A multidisciplinary, live arts event featuring dance, film, spoken-word poetry, and live music created by LGBTQ+ artists from the Kalamazoo community. FREE Admission.

Performance will take place in the Wellspring Theatre.

This show is curated by Michael Arellano, as part of his Capstone project in completing his degree at Western Michigan University.

Recent Posts

Michael Arellano — I am full of gratitude for the amazing support last night at Vibrant Statements. Thank you to those who attended or contributed to this event in any way. If you saw...
WMU Dance
@WMUDance

WMU Dance is attending Vibrant Statements at Epic Center.
April 5 at 11:57 AM · Kalamazoo
Join us tonight for Vibrant Statements during Art Hop for a multidisciplinary, live arts event featuring dance, film, spoken-word poetry, and live music created by LGBTQ+ artists from the Kalamazoo community.

6-7pm in the Wellspring Theatre.

#wmudance #wmufinearts #arthopkalamazoo #arthop #igbqa #capstonenproject #atimeforhearts #atimefordance — attending Vibrant Statements at Epic Center.

WMU Dance is at Epic Center.
April 3 at 7:06 PM · Kalamazoo
Join us this Friday at the Kalamazoo Art Hop for the presentation of Vibrant Statements, curated by Michael Arellano.
The show is a multidisciplinary, live arts event featuring dance, film, spoken-word poetry, and live music created by LGBTQ+ artists from the Kalamazoo community. The artists presenting work include Gavin Rantz, Jessica Ivey, Lucy Lucas Valentine, and Michael Arellano, in collaboration with Skylar Dickenson and Sarah Trumbull.
In the Wellspring Theatre of the ... See More