

ISTWA A TWÒ LÒNG

A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE



Istwa A Twò Lòng.

The story is too long to tell in one lifetime

A work of collective healing across space and time.

What if I told you that the greatest bit of technology ever invented was the woman?

Project Brief

Latisha Cesar Dance will work with partners— performing artists, digital artists, theatre makers and arts and cultural organizations— to take the choreopoem, *Istwa A Twò Lòng*, through the next phase of research and development.

The Story-

Senny is a contemporary Haitian American woman in the midst of crisis, who discovers new technology that allows her to communicate with and get advice from her ancestors- Heroines of the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804).

Based on the work of historian Bayyinah Bello and in the Afro Futurist genre- Latisha Cesar Dance will use music, movement, poetry, and ritual - to create a digital and in-person space for gathering connecting and collective healing.

Themes-

The themes explored are grief, difficulties and pressures of trying to thrive in a hostile world (ableism, misogyny, misogynoir, patriarchy, racism, xenophobia, hetero-centrism, gender-binary) finding hope, and creating healthy ways of navigating hardship. We will examine the theater of ritual and ceremony as a tool for connection. We seek to investigate the science behind the healing properties and therapeutic nature of our ancestral music and movement practices.

Why

Portions of the work have been shown at various scratch events. The aim of this stage is to further develop Senny's character and the characters (movement journeys) of the Heroines. This calls for additional studio time.

Through preliminary research, and a reevaluation of Latisha Cesar Dance's values, we have come to understand that our work is not serving all of our community. We believe that as disabled artists we must be more intentional in creating work that keeps our disabled audiences and community participants at the heart of our work. As a result, we will be collaborating and consulting with experts on creating in-person, online, and hybrid theater for people with visible and invisible disabilities- including those who are immunocompromised and/or home bound.



The Big Idea

Create an Afrofuturist theatrical work that is designed to be hybrid (in-person and online) and creates opportunities for in-theater and at home audiences to interact throughout the show.

The Outcome

We aim to: attend to the issue of social isolation that often comes with being home-bound, increase the overall accessibility of theater, increase the sustainability of LCD's work by enabling the company to learn how to work with emerging and established technologies, offer LCD's audiences a novel experience, and introduce a new level of social justice into the work of LCD.

About Latisha Cesar Dance

LCD has been creating experiences for collective healing for 20 years. Our workshops, performances and events aim to preserve Haitian culture, encourage creativity, and build community. We offer high quality dance and creative arts education to schools colleges, universities and communities in the UK and around the world. Our current projects include: Saïas Liberdade a community dance company that specializes in social and folkloric Afro-Caribbean dance; Create Your Well facilitated creative play and building a creative practice for wellness including workshops aimed at supporting professional creatives; and Krik Krak Festival- courses and events connecting people around the world with Haitian Artists and opportunities to learn more about Haiti. In the spring of 2020, we expanded our practice to include online and hybrid gatherings for support and connection. Through music, movement, meditation, poetry, visual arts and vibes we explore the themes of Black Queer Femme identity, grief, finding and making joy, and the importance of small revolutionary acts.

Demure and mindful dance company in search of:

We are looking to partner with Calling Up Justice and Claudia Alick (Theater maker/ Social Justice Organizer) experts at making theater performances accessible for disabled and/or immunocompromised audiences.





Timeline

Twelve months*

Months 1-3: Assembling team and finalizing partnership structure

Months 3-6: Building and devising

Three months as follows

Week 1: One Day Masterclass followed by four days in-studio/practical work.

Week 2-4: Project development (artistic, digital/technical).

Up to 3 additional months as needed for project development (digital/technical).

Months 7-9: Making arrangements and marketing for final sharing. Sharing with close community members.

Months 10-12: Evaluation and Reporting

*LCD is able to schedule a time contingency (up to 6 additional months) to accommodate access needs.

“WITNESS...FOLLOW THE CYCLE FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN,
RURAL TO URBAN, TRADITIONAL TO CONTEMPORARY AND BACK
- ALWAYS POWERFULLY WALKING IN THE FULLNESS OF OUR
TRUTH”

Latisha Cesar Istwa a Twò Lòng

