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Foundation **tBf**

JULY 2022

SURGE Coastal Community Fellowship



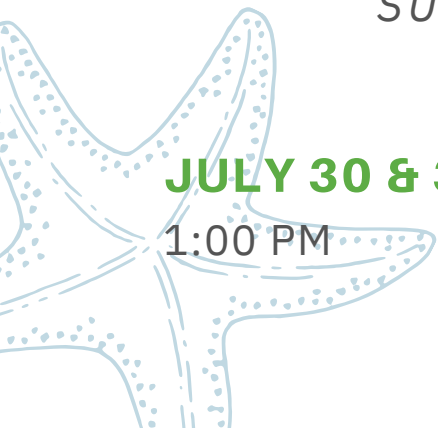
*BOSTON DANCE THEATER
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TRUSTEES
SUPPORTED BY THE BOSTON FOUNDATION*

JULY 30 & 31, 2022

1:00 PM

PIERS PARK AMPHITHEATER

Marginal St, Boston, MA 02128,





About the Fellowship

The [SURGE Coastal Community Fellowship](#) is a two-month residency program that accompanies Boston Dance Theater's SURGE performance. The program has been designed for a group of BIPOC movement artists residing in coastal communities that are vulnerable to the impacts of sea-level rise. The SURGE Fellowship provides the opportunity for Fellows to reflect on the impacts of local climate events, build on existing narratives of resilience to climate change, and to envision a thriving future for the community through artistic presentation. During six meetings Fellows are guided through a creative art+science+climate activism process designed by Jessie Jeanne Stinnett, Dr. Larry J. Pratt, and the BIPOC Core Members of BDT. Fellows will learn about recent trends in Boston-area sea level rise research, Stinnett/Pratt's strategies for art+science collaboration, gain access to resources for climate activism, and continued learning through the [Climate Reality Project](#), and will have the opportunity to share their artistic contributions alongside Boston Dance Theater's performance of SURGE.

The Boston Foundation has provided support to BDT to launch the pilot SURGE Fellowship in East Boston in partnership with [The Trustees of Reservations](#).

The SURGE performance is a participatory dance work by BDT of approximately 45 minutes in length. Audience members mingle with performers and a scientist to witness dance and engage in dialogue about the climate crisis, current sea-level rise science, and coastal impacts to come. The work was initially funded by the [Boston Dancemakers Residency](#) award in 2020, but the creation was cut short by COVID-19 cancellations. In partnership with The Trustees of Reservations, SURGE will premiere in East Boston at Pier's Park in July 2022.

2022 SURGE Fellows

MARIA SERVELLÓN

is an award-winning filmmaker, multimedia artist, educator, and arts advocate from Boston, MA. Her focus is film and digital media, including projection, installation, photography, and design. Maria's work often explores synesthetic relationships between art, music, and dance within identity formation.



JENNY OLIVER

is a Boston-based trauma-informed, culturally responsive, kinetic storyteller. She is inspired by the transformative power of movement to educate, heal, and connect. An enrolled member of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag, her experiences as an African American person of Cape Verdean/Native American heritage inform her creative process.

VERONICA ROBLES

is a Mariachi singer, musician and Latin American folkloric dancer and choreographer by trade but has become a cultural icon for Latinos in Boston. She has effectively utilized the power of the arts and culture to bring the community together by raising awareness on the importance of diversity and she has empowered the youth by employing them and teaching them about their roots and cultures.



2022 SURGE Collaborators

As lead artists, our Fellows were encouraged to invite 1 main collaborator to participate in all residency meetings (which will involve science discussion, led movement practices, spoken word and movement generation exercises) and performances.

Additionally, they were invited to include 1 supplemental collaborator to participate in the final performance in July.



Neha Rayamajhi

Maria's Collaborator



Torie Wojick

Maria's Collaborator



Ruka White

Jenny's Collaborator



Jose Luis Ortega

Veronica's Collaborator



Jociney Barbosa

Veronica's Collaborator

Jessie Jeanne Stinnett

Project Lead, Choreographer

Stinnett is a Climate Reality Leader trained by former US Vice President Al Gore as well as a dancer, choreographer, and the founder and co-artistic director of [Boston Dance Theater \(BDT\)](#). Her current project, SURGE, is created in collaboration with ocean scientist Dr Larry J. Pratt of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the BIPOC dance artists of Boston Dance Theater. SURGE addresses the crisis of sea level rise, and the role that arts + science collaboration can play in creating a sustainable future.

She received a BFA in Dance Performance from The Boston Conservatory and an MFA in Creative Practice: Dance Professional Pathway from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, in conjunction with Independent Dance/Siobhan Davies Dance. Most notably Jessie has performed for the Metropolitan Opera, Tate Britain (UK), Prometheus Dance, Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (Vienna), The Boston Baroque Opera, and Bard College's SummerScape Festival.

Her choreographic work has been described by Hannah Chanatry of WBUR as "conceptually driven performance that unpacks the complexities of being female, and pushes the academic boundaries of choreography" and has been sustained in part by grants from [The Boston Foundation](#) with support from The Barr Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts, Assets4Artists at MASS MoCA, and Fidelity Charitable.

Some of Jessie's recent choreography commission credits include: Boston Ballet School, Dean College, Keene State University, Providence College, Endicott College, Goethe-Institut Boston, Emerald Necklace Conservancy, The Trustees of Reservations, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and Emmanuel Music. She is the recipient of the 2020 Boston Dancemakers Residency grant award and was the 2020 Choreographer in Residence at Boston Center for the Arts and Boston Dance Alliance.



FACILITATORS

Dr. Larry J. Pratt

Lead Science Collaborator

Dr. Pratt is a senior scientist at [Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution](#) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He holds a B. S. and M. S. from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

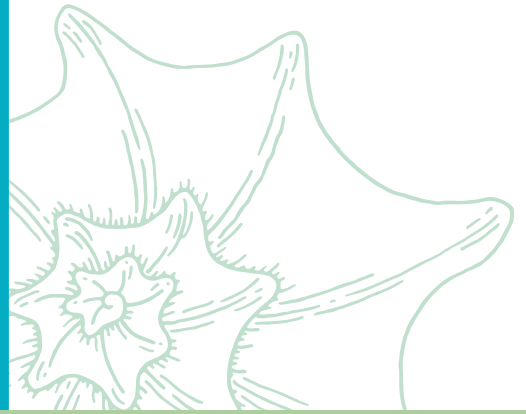
Dr. Pratt's research interests include theory and modeling of ocean and marginal sea circulation and mixing, mesoscale and submesoscale instability and turbulence, sea strait hydraulics, abyssal circulation in deep canyons, and the use of dynamical systems and chaos theory to understand mixing and stirring at various scales.

He has collaborated on a number of dance, photography, and ocean science projects and public workshops in Boston and New York with choreographers Riley Watts, Courtney Peix, Jody Sperling, Mariah Steele, Alissa Cardone and Jessie Jeanne Stinnett. His extended arts and science projects have been presented at the Boston Science Museum, New Bedford Art Museum, Keck Futures Foundation (Washington, DC), Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and Boston Arts Academy, often with support from the National Science Foundation.



Dancers

Boston Dance Theater



Core Members



Isvel Bello
he/they/theirs



Olivia Coombs
she/her/hers



Khris Henry
he/him/his



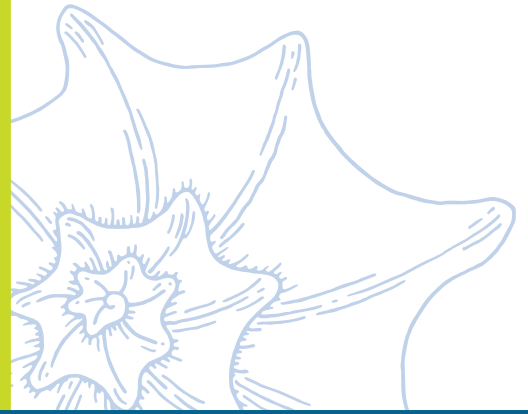
Henocho Spinola
he/him/his

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Dancers

Boston Dance Theater



Apprentices



Carley Lund
she/her/hers



Sarah Takash
she/her/hers

Trainees



Anelise Tatum
she/her/hers



Wesley Urbanczyk
they/them/theirs



Sean Pfeiffer
he/him/his

[DANCER BIOS AT BOSTONDANCETHEATER.COM](http://BOSTONDANCETHEATER.COM)

Support Boston Dance Theater!

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Thank you!

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