



UCLA Disability Inclusion Lab:

## **DANCING DISABILITY**

**[www.DancingDisability.ucla.edu](http://www.DancingDisability.ucla.edu)**

UCLA'S DISABILITY STUDIES MINOR and THE UCLA DEPARTMENT OF WORLD ARTS AND CULTURES/DANCE unite with the UCLA Disability Inclusion Lab to present "DANCING DISABILITY"

This week-long intensive lab promotes the role of creativity and aesthetic production as a change agent for the continued progress of disability justice.

For Immediate Use:

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Media Contact:

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WHO: Emerging and Experienced Disabled Dance Artists

WHEN: June 23-29, 2019

WHERE: UCLA's Kaufman Hall, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA—This June, UCLA Disability Studies and the UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance will present "[Dancing Disability](#)" a week-long intensive lab designed to bring together experienced and emerging disabled dance artists from across the world to engage in the creation of new performance work that challenges "ability paradigms." The unique collaboration between the Disability Studies' UCLA Disability Inclusion Lab and the Department of World Arts and Culture/Dance will take place at UCLA from June 23-29, 2019, culminating in a public showcase on June 28 in UCLA Kaufman Hall's black box theater.

The application will open on December 15, 2018 and close February 1, 2019. Both current students and experienced dance practitioners are encouraged to apply.

Conceived and directed by the UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture's Associate Dean and Professor of Choreography **Victoria Marks**, "Dancing Disability" aims to support the continued artistic development of dance artists with physical differences as well as the dance community as a whole. Through this work, Marks also hopes to inform and expand the larger field of physically integrated dance.

The intensive program will combine small group study of the histories and social discourses surrounding disability justice, aesthetics, and culture with movement exploration and the creation of new choreographic work. Participants will engage one another through choreographic study and improvisation sessions to expand and

deepen action languages while they consider how we represent, view, transform, and challenge ideas about the body and personhood. At the center of the program is the notion that aesthetic production (dance) can serve as a change agent for the continued progress of disability justice.

Victoria Marks will be joined by **Rosemarie Garland-Thomson**, a renowned critical disability studies scholar, bio-ethicist, and disability justice activist, and **Alice Sheppard**, a choreographer, dancer, and disability aesthetics provocateur for this experimental, week-long exploration.

The UCLA Disability Inclusion Lab is a cross-disciplinary initiative devoted to curricular transformation and community engagement designed to reframe our cultural understanding and practices around the concept of disability. Each lab will build and strengthen networks of faculty, staff, undergraduate/graduate students, and community leaders to develop action agendas for change. In addition to "Dancing Disability," the UCLA Disability Inclusion Lab will host the "Autism Media Lab" in winter and spring 2019.

"Dancing Disability" will set the stage for increased recruitment for UCLA's Dance M.F.A. in the Physically Integrated Dance community. Additional outcomes of the program will include essays and scholarship in the form of print and video documentation. The program will be offered for three consecutive years through 2021.

This project is supported through funding from UCLA's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and the UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture. The Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance and Undergraduate Education Initiatives are contributing significant in-kind support.