

THE
MOVING
ARCHITECTS

Crane House &
Historic YWCA

PERFORMANCE PROJECT



Premiere
9.20.25



The Project

Follow our progress at our [Project Blog!](#)

The Moving Architects' performance project brings the rich history of Montclair History Center's **Crane House & Historic YWCA** to life. In partnership with Montclair History Center, this **site-immersive performance** weaves dance and music together with the spaces and historical narratives of the building. Audiences are guided through the house and grounds to witness intimate and captivating dance performances by the **intergenerational and all-female cast**.

By engaging deeply with the site's history and incorporating the **diverse voices and stories of those who lived there**, the performance transforms the site into a **living celebration of its storied past**, offering audiences a profound and intimate connection to the area's rich heritage.



The History

Montclair History Center's **Crane House & Historic YWCA** holds the history of **three generations of the Crane family** and the enslaved people and servants who were part of the household (1796-1900), the period when the home was a segregated **YWCA for Black women and girls**, including boarders (1920-1965), and the early preservationists who saved this piece of **Montclair history** in the formative years of America's historic preservation movement (1965-1970).



The **Crane House & Historic YWCA** uncovers America's history from its early years as an independent nation to a country embroiled in the civil rights struggle.

Learn More about the
Crane House & Historic YWCA

The Company

Sign up for our Newsletter!

Founded in 2007, **The Moving Architects** are driven by artistic director Erin Carlisle Norton's focus in exploring feminist narratives and ideologies. Known for creating **innovative, physically dynamic, and community-based** dance work, the company has a long history of producing complex and **immersive** performances in New Jersey and NYC and has toured extensively across the United States and internationally. Norton's accolades include two Fellowships in Choreography from the NJ State Council on the Arts and critical praise for her "**brave and bold and fearless**" work with a "**fresh and daring aesthetic.**"

TMA also produces the popular interview podcast **Movers & Shapers: A Dance Podcast** and provides community-centered educational programming for all ages, including TMA's **Performance Workshop** program for adults.

Learn More about
Our Collaborators



Our Goals

- **Community Engagement:** Invite the community to engage with local history through dance and music
- **Historical Awareness:** Use the physical space of the Crane House to inform our understanding of history and create a dialogue between past and present
- **Artistic Innovation:** Integrate diverse and intergenerational voices in a unique, collaborative process
- **Accessibility:** Ensure each performance will be physically accessible to all community members
- **Educational Offerings for All Ages:** Develop interactive events for youth and adults to connect with material through lecture demonstrations, field trips, etc.
- **Model for Future Projects:** Use this project as a framework for future site-specific performances that will use the power of dance to illuminate local communities and histories



The Details

Work in Progress Community Showing

May 16, 2025 @ 7.30pm

Union Congregational Church, Assembly Room
176 Cooper Ave, Montclair, NJ 07043

Performance Date

September 20th, 2025 (*Rain Date, Sept 21st*)

Montclair History Center

Crane House & Historic YWCA

110 Orange Rd, Montclair, NJ 07042



FOLLOW US



NEW JERSEY COUNCIL
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



Made possible by funds from the
Essex County Division of Cultural Affairs, a partner
agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



Thank you to our funders