

# THE MOVING ARCHITECTS

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Bringing the Crane House & Historic YWCA's history to life through dance: 'Where She Once Stood'**

*The Moving Architects at Montclair History Center's Crane House & Historic YWCA*



(Montclair, NJ) – **Where She Once Stood** is a dance performance project that brings to life the rich history of the Crane House & Historic YWCA. In partnership with Montclair History Center, this site-immersive performance weaves dance and music together with the spaces and historical narratives.

Grounded in the company's signature aesthetic of strong, fiercely feminine dance, the project's choreography blends bold, innovative physicality with moments of tenderness and subtlety.

Audiences are guided through the house and grounds to witness intimate and captivating performances by an all-female cast. Each room reveals a different era, from the lives of three generations of the Crane family and the enslaved people and servants who were part of the household (1796–1900), to the period when the home was a segregated YWCA for Black women and girls, including boarders (1920–1965).

The dances crafted for each room and era reflect their emotional, spiritual, and everyday realities, thoughtfully shaped through shifting movement dynamics, evocative live music, period-inspired clothing, and resonant tone. From controlled to free, from restrained grace to expressive strength, the choreography is rooted in each dancer's deep connection to the stories

and to one another. This project honors the women of the Crane House & Historic YWCA by giving physical form to their experiences and centering women's voices in the spaces where they once stood. *Where She Once Stood* builds on The Moving Architects' extensive history of producing innovative, community-focused, and feminist-driven dance work.

**Founded in 2007 by Erin Carlisle Norton**, The Moving Architects have consistently explored feminist narratives and ideologies through physically dynamic and immersive performances.

With a strong presence in New Jersey and the New York City metropolitan-area, the company has also toured extensively across the United States and internationally, earning critical acclaim for their "brave and bold and fearless" work with a "fresh and daring aesthetic." Norton's accolades include two Fellowships in Choreography from the NJ State Council on the Arts. Beyond performances, TMA enriches communities through its popular interview podcast *Movers & Shapers: A Dance Podcast* and educational



programming for all ages. Through this new site-specific project, The Moving Architects continues to use dance as a powerful medium for storytelling, connecting the past to the present in ways that inspire, educate, and celebrate diverse histories.

"It's been a pleasure to dig into the rich history of the Crane House & Historic YWCA," said Erin Carlisle Norton, Artistic Director of The Moving Architects. "Rehearsing in the spaces, learning about the women who lived there, and bringing their stories to life through movement, music, costume, and era-specific details has been a powerful and inspiring process."

*Where She Once Stood* is the company's second full-length performance in Montclair, NJ, home of Artistic Director Norton since 2013, after successfully premiering *O my soul* at Montclair Women's Club in 2023. This project is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and from the Essex County Division of Cultural Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

**About The Moving Architects:** We connect people intimately to dance, focusing on creating female-centric collaborative dance works and community-based projects. We do this through performance of original works, educational movement programming for all ages, and public discourse via our popular podcast. For additional information, please visit the website [www.themovingarchitects.org](http://www.themovingarchitects.org) or contact The Moving Architects at 312-343-2840 or [info@themovingarchitects.org](mailto:info@themovingarchitects.org).

***“...brave and bold and fearless.”***



**Where She Once Stood**  
***bringing the Crane House & Historic YWCA to life through dance***

**Saturday, September 20, 2025**  
**(Rain Date, September 21)**

Crane House & Historic YWCA  
Montclair History Center  
110 Orange Road  
Montclair, NJ 07042

Tickets: [Available August 2025](#)

*Performances are accessible by ramp or elevator,  
with a gravel parking lot located within 30 feet of the entrance.  
For further accommodations, please contact TMA 2 weeks prior to performance.*

Artistic Director: Erin Carlisle Norton  
Company Dancers: Mariah Anton-Arters, Nicole Arakaki, Karma Chuki,  
Emily Cicio, Kelly Guerrero, Cecilia Mitchell  
[Hi-Res Media Photos by](#) Julie Lemberger

Follow the process: [Project Blog](#)  
Read more about the project goals: [Crane House Preview Media Kit](#)

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