

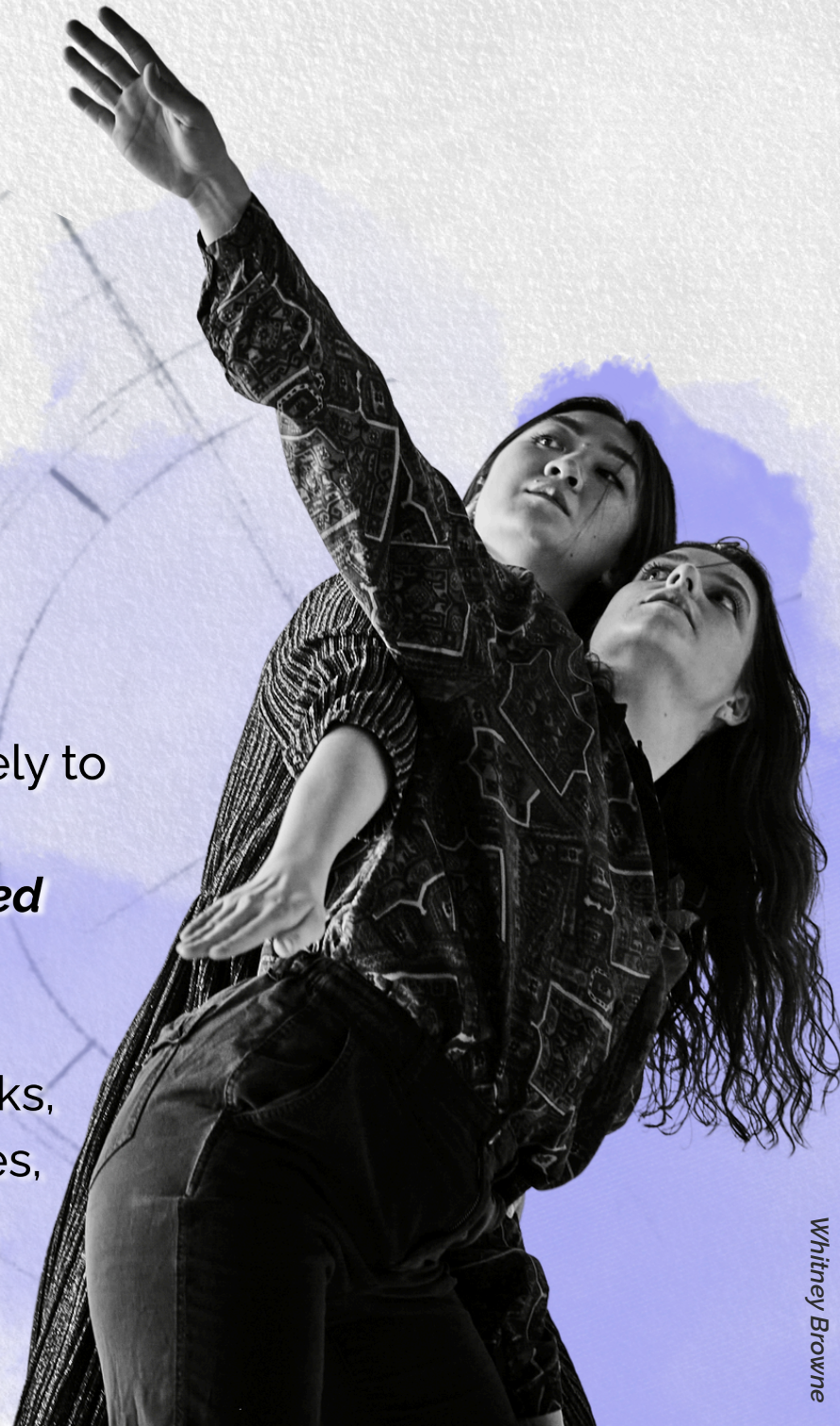
THE MOVING ARCHITECTS

Erin Carlisle Norton | Artistic Director

About

The Moving Architects connects 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.

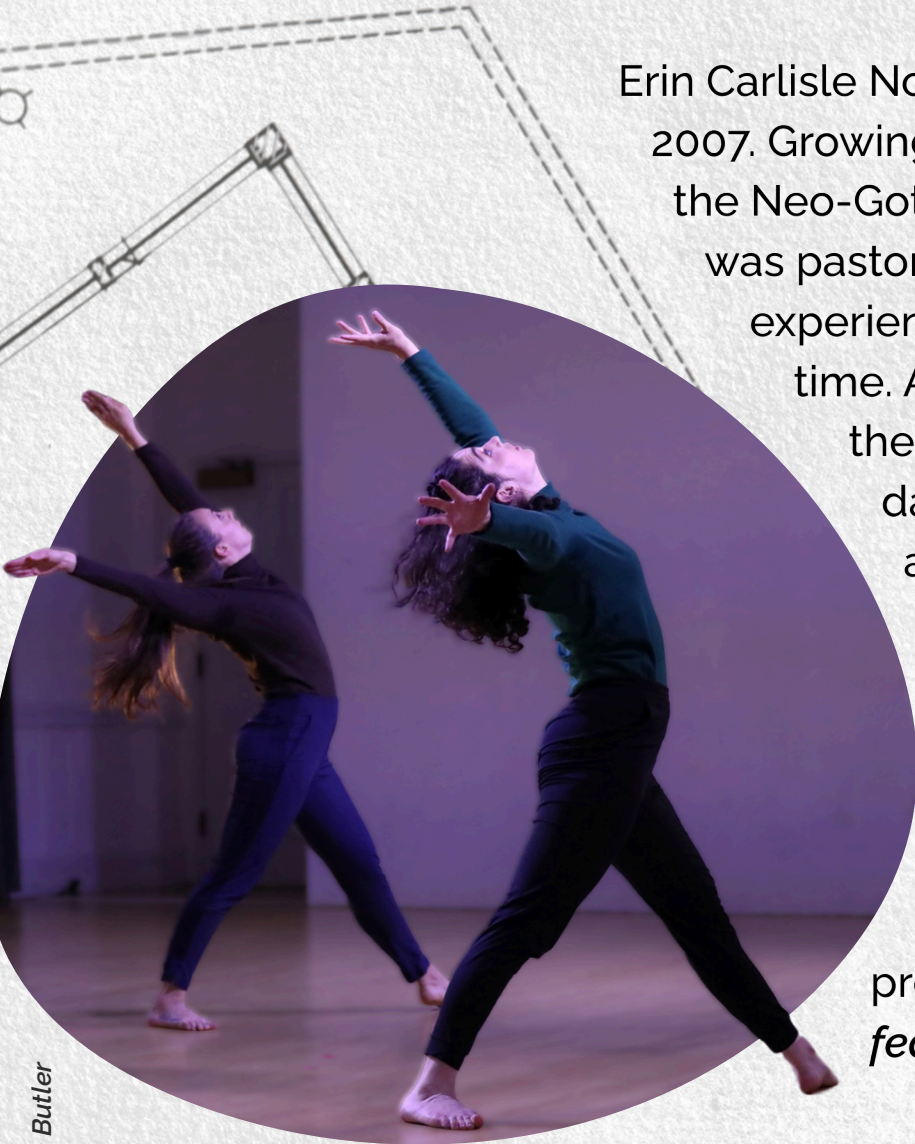


The Story

Erin Carlisle Norton founded *The Moving Architects* on New Year's Day, 2007. Growing up in the nooks and crannies of a Victorian house and the Neo-Gothic church outside of Pittsburgh, PA where her father was pastor, she developed a heightened awareness of her experience of physical spaces long-steeped in the passage of time. Adding to this her vigilance in exploring and promoting the female voice and form, TMA is now a female-centric dance company known for creating highly visual, architectural, physically dynamic, and innovative dance works.

TMA has taught and performed all over the United States, throughout Central Asia with the US Department of State, and across Morocco and Guatemala. The company regularly collaborates on projects praised by colleagues as "*brave and bold and fearless*" and by critics with a "*fresh and daring aesthetic*".

The Moving Architects is currently based in New Jersey/New York City.



Artistic Director

Erin Carlisle Norton

Erin Carlisle Norton is a distinguished dancer, choreographer, movement educator, podcaster, and arts administrator with a deep and enduring life in dance. She holds a BFA and MFA in Dance from The Ohio State University, a Graduate Laban Certificate in Movement Analysis (CMA) from Columbia College Chicago, and Pilates Certification.

Her vast experience has shaped a practice centered on collaboration and community in both teaching and choreography.

Notable achievements include 2014 and 2020 NJ State Council on the Arts Choreographic Fellowships, recent artistic residencies at Cedar Crest College/LVDE (PA), MOTiVE (Brooklyn), and MANA Contemporary (NJ), and selection for the 2021 Dance/USA DILT (Dance Leadership) program.

Her latest dance film was screened at Dance on Camera at Film at Lincoln Center and the Seoul Dance Film Festival, and she was nominated for a 2024 Women in Podcasting Award. Previously the Executive Director of Dance New Jersey, Norton now owns and operates Align Pilates in NJ, continuing to shape the field through her multifaceted contributions.



Whitney Browne

Vision + Values

from Erin Carlisle Norton, *The Moving Architects*

Grounded in deeply collaborative processes, my choreographic work centers on *feminist narratives* and ideologies. Embracing an *expansive definition* of the feminine, we explore layered relationships and identities—as mothers and caretakers, partners and friends—while examining power dynamics and gender traits. My work embodies both contemporary and historically lived perspectives on the *female experience*.

The heart of my work lies in the dancers themselves. Their relationships, trust, and openness to *engage authentically* in the creative process physically, emotionally, and artistically form the backbone of my work. My movement language is grounded in physical and emotional *power*, shaped by contrasting experiences of time—stillness, speed, and overexertion—and an *embodied exploration* of weight through force, resistance, and strength. With decades of choreographic experience, I have a keen eye for *nuance*, dynamic interplay, and the *subtle details* that shape a performer's presence and impact.

Collaboration with artists across dance, visual art, and sound is central to my creative process. Each performance is shaped by its *site and context*, incorporating textiles, interactive costumes, and objects to build *immersive* visual and physical environments. Layers of sound, instrumentation, and rhythm interact with these materials and the dancers, creating textured, *multi-sensory landscapes*. The historical, environmental, and cultural dimensions of each location inform the movement and deepen the work's *connection* to place, audience, and performer.

As both choreographer and director, I lead our collaborative processes with a spirit of *exploration* and *mutual trust*. Each ensemble brings their unique *perspectives*, contributing to the creation of rich, *immersive worlds*—spaces for audiences to enter, experience, connect with, and reflect upon.



Program Areas

Education

The Moving Architects teach and facilitate specialized classes and workshops for students, professionals, and community members who want to move. With community, inclusivity, collaboration, and exploration at its core, offerings range from pay-what-you-can programs for adults and children, to professional-level training workshops, to visiting artist residencies in schools and universities. Notably, the *TMA Performance Workshop* supports adult women returning to dance, creating space for renewed exploration, artistry, and performance. Recent offerings have included Norton teaching and creating with professionals at Dance Barn (MN), working with students at the University of Kentucky (KY), and serving as Artist-in-Residence at Cedar Crest College/LVDE (PA), alongside leading a range of *community movement classes* throughout Northern New Jersey.

Movers & Shapers: A Dance Podcast

Since 2015, TMA has delivered a free interview-style digital dance podcast to the public. Hosted by Erin Carlisle Norton, *Movers & Shapers: A Dance Podcast* interviews those who “shape” the dance field, including choreographers, dancers, arts administrators, writers, creative collaborators, and educators.

[Learn More about our offerings](#)



Whitney Browne

Performance Projects

The Moving Architects has a rich history of creating and presenting work for the *stage, screen, and site-specific* locations. In 2023, the company launched its second collaboration with textile artist Crystal Gregory, producer Kathy Imlay, and visual artist gwen charles on *Shapes of Movement*, an interdisciplinary project that began as visiting artists at the University of Kentucky with national tours from 2023–2026. *O My Soul*, presented in NJ and NYC during 2023–2024, is an intergenerational and interdisciplinary dance project grounded in the company's signature aesthetic of raw, real, and fiercely feminine movement.

The company's *site-responsive film projects*, including recent screenings at Dance on Camera at Film at Lincoln Center and the Seoul Dance Film Festival, extend its choreographic voice to new audiences and formats. In September 2025, TMA will premiere the *Crane House & Historic YWCA Performance Project* onsite in partnership with the Montclair History Center, *bringing to life the stories of women* and marginalized communities who helped shape its layered history.

[Learn More about upcoming projects](#) 



Collaborators

Kathy Imlay

Curator & Producer

Crystal Gregory

Sculptor



gwen charles

Visual Artist

Grace Liu Anderson

Musician & Photographer



Visit the links above to learn more about each Collaborator

Anthony Guerrero



the Dancers



Karma, Emily, Mariah, Cecilia, Kelly, Nicole

Learn more about the Dancers



Press

"The **impact** of the Moving Architects' program in Tajikistan was enormous and immediately visible...they are **versatile and adaptable**."

McKenzie Milanowski Louwe

Performing Arts Initiative Program, U.S. Dept of State

"a **fresh and daring aesthetic**"

Dance Informa

on the collaboration between Erin Carlisle Norton
and Visual Artist gwen charles

"I was frankly **blown away** by The Moving Architects...
[performance] showed impressive structural
invention and sound execution throughout;
the vocabulary suited its interpreters well and
the points of intersection were **thoughtfully**
and completely worked out."

Trailerpilot.com

"Norton and a band of **fierce performers**
churned out some of the city's freshest,
most polished, most unique choreography."

TimeOut Chicago

"Erin Carlisle Norton and The Moving Architects
generate an **amazing** amount of dance
vocabulary. **Quality** matches quantity, too."

Zachary Wittenburg, dance writer

"This podcast sounds so **vivid** and
interesting! I am really grateful to be able to
hear all these **stories** from all of these artists.
This podcast is a **work of art**."

Review from Listener

Movers & Shapers: A Dance Podcast

Past Presenters

Dance on Camera Festival
Lincoln Center (NYC)

BAM Fisher (Brooklyn)

Arts on Site (NYC)

Performance Garage
(Philadelphia)

Berrie Center for the Arts
@ Ramapo College (NJ)

21C Museum Hotel (Lexington, KY)

Spring/Break Art Show (NYC)

Wilson College Creative Residency
(PA)

Dancewave Artist-in-Residence
(Brooklyn)

Triskelion Arts (Brooklyn)

Bryant Park presents
Contemporary Dance (NYC)

Jersey City Theater Center (Jersey City)

Performance Mix Festival (NYC)

The Tank (NYC)

Links Hall (Chicago)

Past Classes

Cedar Crest College (PA)

University of Kentucky
(KY)

Valley Day School (PA)

Montclair Public Library (NJ)

Dancewave (Brooklyn)

Kenyon College (OH)

Pomerene Art Center (OH)

Gibney (NYC)

University of Chicago (IL)

Western Michigan University
(MI)

Links Hall (Chicago)

Past Tours

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan
(with US Dept of State and Embassies)
The Moving Architects
Teaching and Performance Tour

Lummi Island (WA)
Black Mountain College (NC)
Luigart Studios (KY)
"Shapes of Movement"

Morocco
Action Danse Festival

Guatemala
Danceform Productions

Actors Fund Theater (NYC)
Point Park University (Pittsburgh)
The Dance Complex (Boston)
*"Elevate: A Triple Bill of Female
Choreographers"*



Contact

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New Jersey Council for the Humanities
Essex County Division of Cultural Affairs
Ohio State University Dance Preservation Fund
Partners for Sacred Places with IndieSpace
Northern New Jersey Community Foundation
Investors Foundation

