

CREATIVE INCUBATOR PROGRAMS REPORT 2024-2025

Velocity's **Creative Incubator Programs** provide resources to support the creation of new work by local and regional dancemakers, while also helping artists build long-term stable careers in dance.

Each incubator program engages artists at five sequential stages of their careers: locally emerging (**Bridge Project**), regionally emerging (**OUT THERE**), regionally established (**Co Production**), nationally emerging (**Made in Seattle**), and nationally established/mid-career (**Curating Artist in Residence**).

In 2024-25 these programs supported almost 150 artists, and incubated 23 new works, including full-length works by Keyes Wiley and Lavinia Vago, and a new festival, Mouthwater Disabled Arts Festival.



“Because of Bridge Project, I have become more clear about my purpose in this world, in the Seattle dance community, and in my art form. I am a dreamer that can often be scared of my own potential. Bridge Project was the perfect incubator to allow my dreams to flourish.”

– DaeZhane Day, Artist, Bridge Project 2025
(pictured above)

“I appreciate that the process itself was the research. It allowed me to experiment within the form of dance in new ways.”

– Keyes Wiley, Artist, Made in Seattle 2025

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

19 Lead artists

122 Collaborators (dancers, designers, etc.)

23 New dance works created

28 Performances

29 Workshops, showings + other events

2,217 Audience members, with **34%** attending for free or at reduced cost

\$362k Paid in artist and collaborator fees, with \$2,576 as the average fee per artist.

VELOCITY	CREATIVE INCUBATOR PROGRAMS		2024-2025
			
SHIFTING POWER Velocity’s 2024-25 Creative Incubator Programs centered artists from underserved communities. The 141 artists served identified as: • 51% Black, Indigenous, or People of Color • 79% LGBTQ+ • 38% Disabled • 78% Low income And in general our audiences identify as: • 39% Black, Indigenous, or People of Color • 63% LGBTQ+ • 18% Disabled • 58% Having a household income under \$75,000 These numbers reflect our continued commitment to taking small steps toward rebalancing power structures in dance, working towards an end to white supremacy, ableism, queerphobia and transphobia.	PROGRAM EVOLUTION The last two years were also an opportunity to adapt our programs to better serve our artists and audiences. Updates include: • Bridge Project’s expansion to include artists returning to the field after time away, not just early-career. • Next Fest NW’s evolution into OUT THERE, a split-bill platform for more ambitious mid-length works. • A new full-length program Co Production to support artists between OUT THERE and Made in Seattle. • Curating Artist in Residence lengthened to 24 months to allow the artist to grow projects more fully.		
ARTIST IMPACT + OUTCOMES Through surveys and interviews, we’ve seen significant impact in the five key areas our programs aim to address: • Artistic Mentorship • Access to Financial Resources • Local and National Relationship Building • Business Development Skills For example, before participating in Bridge Project 2025, 3 out of 4 artists reported they disagreed or strongly disagreed that they had the financial or business capacity to realize their work. After the program, all participants agreed or strongly agreed they had the skill and resources to make their work.	PARTNERS SEATTLE ART MUSEUM BASE: EXPERIMENTAL ARTS & SPACE ON THE BOARDS THE BEACON GEORETOWN STEAMPLANT SUPPORTERS THE RAYNIER FOUNDATION THE MELLON FOUNDATION BEIM FOUNDATION THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS 4CULTURE		
	“Community is genuinely built and supported at Velocity.” – Betty Wetter, Artist Founded in 1996, Velocity is an artist-led nonprofit in Seattle, WA that is dedicated to providing dance-makers with the resources, advocacy, and collaborative support they need to blossom their ideas into impactful art and community actions.		
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