

Artist Statement

The rapidly changing environments of dance practice propel me into heightened awareness of my physical body, other dancing bodies, and navigating shared space. Honing this three-dimensional awareness empowers my ability to engage with ephemeral and unexpected transformation. This dynamic consciousness informs my daily life. Like Omi Osun Joni L. Jones, I also “dream of a world where dancing is part of a healthy lifestyle, a community-building tool, and a way to connect with Divine energy.”

Dance is an act of ideation key to liberating myself from the systems that do not serve me. Through dance I practice physicalizing the imagination of new systems. I share this work with others because “the more people that collaborate on [ideas that liberate all of us] the more that people will be served from the resulting world(s)” (Emergent Strategy, adrienne maree brown).

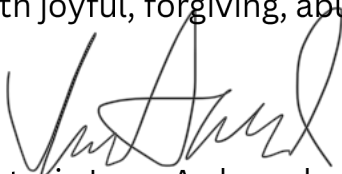
My choreography is heavily framed by visuals, textiles to lighting, and surrounded by music. I follow in the footsteps of Black queer communities who have long done their own make-up, crafted their own sets, and adorned their own costuming. My crafting is in collaboration with my choreography, informing the world I build on stage. I also work in tandem with musicians, theater artists, and designers to develop these multi-disciplinary threads. Partnering multiple mediums builds many entry points for my family and community to recognize themselves within my work and experience familiarity even within its abstraction.

While dance is a unique pathway for crafting a brighter society, I also see my role as an advocate for dancers and artists, especially those with marginalized identities. It’s my goal to encourage government and private foundations to spread wealth equitably both in and surrounding the arts. Projects like, Harvesting Our Gardens, help to fortify and verify the artists who live and work in my community, highlighting our need for continued support. Secondly, I aim to shift the cultures within contemporary art that are oppressive. I remind my collaborators of the aesthetics that encourage care of body/mind/community, differences as key to a healthy community, resource abundance, and individuality that can support the collective.

As a Queer Black Artist I’m Honored To Dance
To Embrace Space

To State: *“I am here, and you will not forget me, you will not forget us”*

With joyful, forgiving, abundant, and honest humanity



Victoria Lynn Awkward

*This artist statement was last updated 4/21/2025, and is subject to grow and change**