

Atlanta Regional Commission  
Culture and Community Design Project

“Increase Arts Accessibility  
in the Atlanta Region”

May 9, 2023





# Who is Full Radius Dance?

- Full Radius Dance is Atlanta's professional physically integrated modern dance company for dancers with and without disabilities.
- Full Radius Dance believes that your body is perfect, has undiscovered movement, and can experience dance.
- Our Mission: Redefining the boundaries of dance by bringing together disabled and nondisabled dancers through performance, education, and advocacy.



# Full Radius Dance History

- Founded in 1990 by our Artistic and Executive Director.
- The organization was originally known as Dance Force.
- The company began as a 'traditional' dance company in which all members were professional dancers without disabilities.
- In 1998, E=Motion merged with Dance Force to create Full Radius Dance, with Douglas serving as the Artistic and Executive Director and Ardath as Artistic Associate.
- The company is committed to redefining the boundaries of dance through performance, education, and advocacy, and constantly seeks opportunities to promote its core values for body positivity.

# What is a Physically Integrated Dance Company?

- Physically integrated dance combines dancers of different abilities.
- Physically integrated dance is comprised of dancers with and without disabilities.
- A professional company that varies from six to nine dancers, depending on the works being performed.
- While many of the dancers with disabilities use wheelchairs, other dancers have performed using crutches, prosthetics or power chairs or have hidden disabilities.

The physically integrated dance movement is part of the disability culture movement, and disability social model which recognizes and celebrates the first-person experience of disability through art and culture.

## In Person Event Accessibility

- Accessibility request email
- Audio Description services
- Pre-show Tours
- ASL and captioning services
- Site Visits before attending
- ADA building and location

'It's not just about blind people buying tickets. It's about blind people having access to culture and imagining themselves as artists and community members.' — Jess Curtis

<https://www.kqed.org/arts/13921184/jess-curtis-gravity-dance-accessibility-disability-justice>

## Virtual Event Accessibility

- Accessibility request email
- Audio Description services
- Email sign up confirmation
- Email reminder, post survey
- ASL, language translator, live captioner
- StreamText link and Transcript provided
- Zoom, Google Meet, Teams
- Send presentation before/after
- Send recording after with captions, interpreters, and transcript

If you can't access the program through different devices that is not a computer than it isn't accessible. Start accessibility from the beginning and not when there is a issue in the middle.

<https://www.arts.gov/impact/accessibility/resources-to-help-ensure-accessibility-of-your-virtual-events>

## The ARC project:

- \* Understanding the barriers for participation in both virtual and in person programming for community members with disabilities, both visible and invisible.
- \* How to best/effectively reach and draw greater audiences?
- \* Develop solutions, including funding alternatives, to address identified barriers.
- \* Community collaboration to support Equal Participation in Cultural Experiences.

## The ARC project team:

Douglas Scott, FRD Founder/Artistic Director

Lindsey Flax, FRD Community Engagement Manager

Marcelo Roman, FRD Board Member\*

Jaehn Clare, FRD Board Member

Ginia Taylor, FRD Board Member

\* FRD Team Leader \* CCD Team Member



# Social Model

- Social Model understands disability as the lived experience of barriers. Developed by disabled people to identify and take action against discrimination, the Social Model puts equality and human rights as a central focus on our understanding of disability.



<https://disstudies101.com/perceptions/models-of-disability/>

# Reframing disability and advocating to end Ableism and Inspiration Porn

## **Ableism:**

The world wasn't built with people with disabilities in mind, and because of that, the world we live in is inherently "ableist."

## **Inspiration porn:**

Is a term coined by the late disability activist Stella Young. It refers to **the objectification of disabled people in the media, which serves the purpose of making non-disabled people feel better about themselves.**

Thank you!