

Laurel Sears

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Education

Arizona State University 2013
Masters of Fine Arts in Dance

University of Montana 2007
Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts, emphasis in Dance
Bachelor of Arts in Print Journalism

Extended Movement Education

Missoula Summer Dance Intensive 2015
Nicole Wolcott, Kitty Sailer

Missoula Summer Dance Intensive 2014
Zoe Scofield

Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation 2013
Sara Shelton Mann, Shelley Senter

Ponderosa Movement & Discovery 2012
Participated in PORCH Performance Module, Stolzenhagen, Germany
Studied with: Jess Curtiss, Mary Pearson, Jules Beckman, Meg Stuart, Stephanie Maher, Saliq Savage, Keith Henessy

PIA Mat Foundations Certification 2011
Completed a Pilates Institute of America Level I Mat Foundations course with certified fitness instructor Pam Paley

Move-It, Ririe-Woodbury 2009
Eric Handman, Graham Brown, Charlotte Boye-Christensen

Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation 2009
Nita Little, Susan Schell, Brad Stoller

Seattle Festival of Dance Improvisation 2008
Nancy Stark Smith, Barbra Mahler

MELT, Movement Research 2005
Tere O'Connor, John Jasperse, Barbra Mahler, Miguel Gutierrez, Irene Dowd, Chris Aiken

Professional Performance & Choreography

- 2015-2016 season **Bare Bait Dance**, Missoula, MT
Core member of the contemporary dance company Bare Bait Dance. This season the company will co-create and perform works for “Solo/Solo”, a round robin evening of original solos created and performed by Dance Professionals in Missoula, Art Gala, an evening of site-specific original dance works created in response to a piece of visual art, and “All About Moon” an evening-length work created by director Joy French.
- 2015 **On My Way to America**, Missoula, MT
Performance art piece conceptualized by Janaina Vieira-Marques commenting on gun violence in schools in America. Solo movement by Laurel Sears, soundscape and visual elements created by Janaina, performed at the Underground Studio Showcase, Headwaters Dance Company’s home.
- 2015 **to...**, Missoula, MT
A re-staging of Laurel Sears’ multi-media original choreography for the Headwaters Gala Concert “Beginnings and Endings,” set on company members Kaitlin Kinsley and Joy French.
- 2015 **Headwaters Dance Company**, Missoula, MT
Performing as a core company member in the annual Gala Concert “Beginnings and Endings” at MCT Center for the Performing Arts, including work by director Amy Ragsdale, Brian Gerke, Joy French, Laurel Sears, and Anya Cloud, and performed by current and former members of the company.
- 2015 **While We Walk**, VonCommon 9/11 Art Show, Missoula, MT
Collaborated with visual artist Janaina Vieira-Marques to create and perform in a Dance Theater/Performance Art piece entitled “While We Walk,” which responded to the events of the September 11 attacks through mixed media, and a scored improvisation.
- 2015 **The Best Kind of Dance**, Downtown Dance Collective, Missoula, MT
Collaboration between Laurel Sears and Megan Schnneberger creating a 15 minute original dance work exploring their lifelong friendship and history in dance training, performed at the Missoula Summer Dance Intensive in Concert.
- 2015 **refuge**, Downtown Dance Collective, Missoula, MT
As the Artist in Residence at the Downtown Dance Collective in Missoula, Montana I collaborated with two other professional dancers and two musicians to create an evening length interdisciplinary dance performance. *refuge*

included video excerpts of the natural landscape of Montana alongside highly structured improvisation and choreographed movement exploring the refuge of nature, love, togetherness, the night club, and being.

- 2014-2015 season **Headwaters Dance Company**, Missoula, MT
Member of the professional contemporary dance repertory company based in Missoula, Montana. Performed as a core company member in the Gala Concert in Missoula and toured to Bozeman and Dillon Montana. The Gala Concert was themed "Power and Strength," and the company collaborated with poets and astrophysicists for the performance project "Rhythms of the Universe," Bozeman.
- 2014 **Transient Things, A Billion Separate Strings**, Bozeman, MT
Performed as a part of Rhythms of the Universe, a collaboration between Headwaters Dance Company and Bozeman-based poets. This performance was a multidisciplinary exploration of astrophysics that took place at the Emerson Theatre November 7 and 8, 2014. Choreographed by Laurel Sears and dancers, performed by Kaitlin Kinsley, Elizabeth Martin, and Ellie Weinman. Music by Olfur Arnolds "Frysta."
- 2014 **The Act of Listening**, Underground Studio Performance, Missoula, MT
A live collaborative improvisational performance work including spoken word, piano, and dance. Performed in an intimate setting, this work focused on the act of listening and responding in various mediums. Physical listening, interpretation, and story building were explored in an improvisational structure with Jill Alban, Robert Sears, and Laurel Wall-MacLane.
- 2013 **spark! Creativity Festival**, Elizabeth Johnson, Mesa, AZ
Collaborated on and performed in a 25-minute multi-generational publically engaged public arts work at the Mesa Arts Center choreographed by Elizabeth Johnson exploring the origins of creativity and collaborative dance making with community members, raging in age from 3 to 70.
- 2013 **Fabric of Space: Phase I**, Yong Wei Li, Phoenix, AZ
Performed in an evening length collaborative dance improvisation centered around ideas about quantum physics, the use of fabric in set design, and contact improvisation at Phoenix art space the Ice House.
- 2012 **Mesa Takes Flight**, Elizabeth Johnson, Mesa, AZ
Interned for and performed in a 30-minute community engaged public arts work at the Mesa Arts Center choreographed by Elizabeth Johnson inspired by stories of flight that incorporated 30 members of the public, raging in age from 8 to 75.

- 2012 **Apparatus Sculptoris**, The Icehouse, Tempe, AZ
Performed the self-choreographed solo *I want to be a Princess Too* as a live performance installation as a part of a group exhibition featuring sculpture and intermedia arts.
- 2012 **Breaking Ground**, Carly Conder Dance, Tempe, AZ
Performed a duet *To...* with Anthony Gonzales in the student showcase curated and produced by Conder Dance at the Tempe Center for the Arts.
- 2010 **Da Floresta**, Open Field Artists, Missoula, MT
An evening length work incorporating live music, theatre, clowning, and dance exploring concepts of social evolution.
- 2009 **Viva!** Missoula, MT
A collaborative showcase of dancers, actors, and playwrights including *Tre Terra*, choreographed by Laurel Wall-MacLane and an interdisciplinary performance by the Open Field Artists including site-specific elements.
- 2009 **On the Boards**, Seattle, WA
Performed in *100 Miles from Forsyth*, choreographed by Donna Uchizono with Headwaters Dance Company.
- 2009 **Headwaters in Concert**, Headwaters Dance Company, Missoula, MT
Performed in work by Donna Uchizono, Eric Handman, Heidi Latsky and Lawrence Goldhuber, and Director Amy Ragsdale.
- 2008 **Views from Abroad**, Headwaters Dance Company, Missoula, MT
Performed in an evening of original works by Director Amy Ragsdale concerning the international community's social and political views of the United States.
- 2007 **Body Parts**, Missoula, MT
An evening of dance works and improvisation from local artists, including *The Loneliest Number*, choreographed by Laurel Wall-MacLane, a multi-media piece incorporating live painting.
- 2006-2009 **RizkProv**, Missoula, MT
An improvisational dance group founded with co-collaborators and risk takers Kitty Sailor and Jen Stearns DeLong committed to performing impromptu site-specific works.
- 2003-2004 **University of Hawaii Dance Ensemble**, Honolulu, HI
A University of Hawaii student-run dance group dedicated to performing dance in community venues. Performed in work by Betsy Fisher and Wayles Stapor Haynes.

Instructional Activity

- 2015-216 **Adjunct Professor, University of Montana, Missoula, MT**
Currently acting as Adjunct Professor for the UM School of Theatre & Dance. Instructor of Internship: Children's Dance, which offers Creative Movement classes to Missoula-area children aged 3-10 in three different classes, and offers college students credit for interning the classes, and getting feedback on their teaching.
- 2015-216 **Adjunct Professor, University of Montana, Missoula, MT**
Designed curriculum, lessons, assignments, and am currently instructing Introduction to Dance, a fully online class, which offers students a background in dance as a performing art while generating a series of Movement Studies throughout the semester.
- 2013-2015 **Roots Dance Studio, Director, Missoula, MT**
Directed the dance instruction at a performance-oriented gymnastics facility. Duties include training teachers, lesson planning, and creating and implementing a mission statement for the dance curriculum as well as teaching movement classes to children aged 6 to 17.
- 2013-2014 **Fitness Instructor, The Women's Club, Missoula, MT**
Taught Mat Pilates and BAR Blast, a dance fitness class to adult women of a variety of fitness and experience. Worked independently to develop classes, build a clientele, and worked as part of the Group Exercise team at a women's only gym.
- 2014 **Intensive Teacher, Missoula Summer Dance Intensive, Missoula, MT**
Taught a four-day intensive in Somatics entitled "Moving with Ease" for the first annual Missoula Summer Dance Intensive. Created a class that was inclusive and informative for a variety of movement backgrounds, focusing on the disciplines of Laban Movement Analysis and Alexander Technique.
- 2014 **Teacher, ACDF, University of Montana, Missoula, MT**
Taught classes "Intermediate Contemporary Technique," "Introduction to Contact Improvisation" and "Conditioning for Dancers" to university students from the Northwestern United States. Implemented somatic approaches, partnering techniques, and democratic pedagogical practices while teaching varied subject matter to dancers of mixed ability and dance backgrounds.
- 2013 **Intensive Teacher, River Street Dance Theater, Hamilton, MT**
Developed and implemented 1 week intermediate and advanced Modern Intensive to students aged 10-adult. Incorporated elements of improvisation and contact improvisation with a rigorous exploration of dance technique and performance studies.

- 2013 **Teacher, ACDFA**, Scottsdale Community College, Scottsdale AZ
Taught classes “Improvisation and Partnering” and “Dance Conditioning” at ACDFA, West. Worked with dancers with a variety of skill levels and experience and created a welcoming, creative atmosphere in a new environment. Facilitated discussion about practices of dance improvisation and utilized somatic approaches to partnering, improvisation, and mindbody conditioning classes.
- 2013 **Co-Teacher**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Co-Taught Post Modern Contemporary II with faculty member Becky Dyer in Spring 2013. Developed and implemented an advanced-level technique class focusing on developmental movement patterns stemming from the Laban Movement Analysis framework, which Dyer is a practitioner of. Worked together to integrate movement patterning into contemporary movement vocabulary and technique. Contextualized feedback on performance quality and movement execution within the LMA structure.
- 2013 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Taught Contact Improvisation to 15 students twice weekly in Spring 2013. Developed a pilot class for Contact Improvisation for ASU’s curriculum. Created and facilitated a semester-long practice focusing on dance improvisation and partnering with a class of both dance majors and non-majors, graduate and undergraduate students. Utilized skill building and movement exercises, readings, guest teachers, and video to contextualize and teach the form.
- 2013 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Taught Introduction to Dance to 60 students twice weekly in Spring 2013. Developed and taught an introductory dance lecture course, covering an historical overview and present day practice of a wide range of movement forms to students with a wide variety of exposure to dance. Utilized lecture, discussion, movement classes, video, research papers, student-led presentations, and concert reviews to teach material.
- 2012-2013 **Mature Moving Me Co-Teacher**, Mesa Arts Center, Mesa AZ
Co-taught Mature Moving Me, a movement class designed for adult and elderly participants, with Elizabeth Johnson. Developed movement and creative, and compositional, and movement generated exercises appropriate for the ability and age of participants, worked in a community development capacity.
- 2012 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Taught Yoga Pilates to 60 students twice weekly in Fall 2012. Developed a semester-long lesson plan for students a wide range of abilities and interest level. Utilized journaling, research papers, partnering, and experiential anatomy classes to teach material.
- 2012 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Taught Modern Dance II to 10 students twice weekly in Fall 2012. Developed and taught a semester-long lesson plan for non-major dance students with an intermediate technical ability, emphasizing individual artistry, somatic perspectives on movement, composition, and articulating how one views dance.

- 2012 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Taught Yoga Pilates to 60 students twice weekly in Spring 2012. Developed a semester-long lesson plan for students a wide range of abilities and interest level. Utilized journaling, research papers, partnering, and experiential anatomy classes to teach material.
- 2011 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Taught Modern Dance I for non-majors to 30 students twice weekly in Fall 2011. Developed a semester-long lesson plan for students a wide range of movement experience, which included assigning self-reflective and performance review papers, student- led presentations and incorporating somatic practices and experiential anatomy in contextual classes.
- 2011 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Taught Yoga Pilates for non-majors to 10 students four times a week for an intensive summer session course in Summer 2011. Developed a session-long lesson plan for students a wide range of ability and fitness, including assigning readings pertaining to Yoga and Pilates, self-reflective writings and incorporating and experiential anatomy that applied to Pilates in class.
- 2011 **Apprentice**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Apprenticed Eileen Standley's Introduction to Movement Language Sources class in Spring 2011. Provided classroom support in lessons about various somatic practices including Alexander Technique, yoga, and Body Mind Centering. Facilitated/ taught sessions in experiential anatomy, contact improvisation, and authentic movement.
- 2011 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
Taught Modern Dance I for non-majors to 25 students twice weekly in Spring 2011. Developed a semester-long lesson plan for students a wide range of movement experience, including assigning self-reflective and performance review papers and incorporating somatics and experiential anatomy in class.
- 2008-2010 **Dance Teacher**, River Street Dance Theatre, Hamilton, MT
Developed lesson plans and taught an advanced modern technique class once weekly for ages 14 to adult, utilizing strong understanding of contemporary dance vocabulary and technique, organizational skills, communication and leadership ability.
- 2008 **Modern Intensive Instructor**, River Street Dance Theatre, Hamilton, MT
Taught a five day intensive in modern dance technique and co-taught contact improvisation with Jen Stearns DeLong, developing a lesson plan incorporating technical understanding and creative application.
- 2008 **Creative Movement Teacher**, Missoula Community School, Missoula, MT
Taught creative movement classes to 3-6 year olds in a progressive pre-school. Created and adapted lesson plans focusing on space, time, energy and creativity.

2004-2005 **Modern Workshop**, Ballet Bitterroot Performing Arts, Corvallis, MT
Taught an introductory level modern technique class at two consecutive summer intensives focusing on ballet. Found creative ways to explore new movement concepts.

University Choreography

- 2012 **Roses Don't Need Perfume** (15min)
Sound: composition by Kevin Ernste performed live by Hudson Lanier. Solo performed by Laurel Wall-MacLane utilizing an improvisational dance score created in collaboration with Hudson Lanier for his Doctorate of Musical Arts recital series, focusing on paralleling the feeling tones and qualities of the live and recorded sound. Performed at the Oregon Hall in the Music Building and The Dance Annual at Arizona State University.
- 2012 **arrive, create: a Dance made by Many** (55 min)
Sound: live performance by Robert Sears and cast. Evening length collaborative interdisciplinary piece exploring the collaborative dance making and creating a generous performance paradigm, including film projection, live piano accompaniment, sound score by dancers, text, and dance improvisation. Co-creators are Hannah Cooper, Kiah Singleton, Anthony Gonzales, Angel Streitman, Susan Amatouri, Robert Sears, and Laurel Wall-MacLane. Performed as a part of the Emerging Artists series in the Fine Arts Center Dance Lab at Arizona State University as an applied project in partial fulfillment of a Masters in Fine Arts.
- 2011 **I want to be a princess too** (7 min)
Sound: original composition by Laurel Wall-MacLane. Solo performed by Laurel Wall-MacLane investigating the personal experience of female archetypes and the vulnerability of flesh. Performed at the Graduate Project Presentations at Arizona State University.
- 2011 **speak/ hear**
listen/ tell (10 min)
Live text. Octet. Text sourced from the dancers' lives and movement created through an original process working with story, relationship, and movement invention. Performed at the Graduate Project Presentations and Dance Annual at Arizona State University.
- 2011 **Red+Blue=Purple** (20 min)
Sound: live synthesized environmental sound, designed by John Mitchell.

Sextet. Interactive site specific dance installation utilizing improvised scores surrounding ideas about territory, color, texture, and water. Performed on site at Arizona State University.

- 2010 To... (5 min)
Music: original composition by Laurel Wall-MacLane with assistance from Rob Kaplan. Duet utilizing video projection on the dancers as the main source of light. Performance and movement invention by Laurel Wall-MacLane and Anthony Gonzalez. Performed at Graduate Project Presentations and the Dance Annual at Arizona State University.
- 2007 One (6 min)
Music: Amy Mann. Duet. Performance and movement invention by Laurel Wall-MacLane and Helen Derheim. Performed at University of Montana Spring Dance Showcase.
- 2007 Lunchbox (6 min)
Music: We. Five dancers. Process-oriented work exploring dancers' relationships with each other. Performed at ACDFA and selected for the Gala Concert, University of Montana Dance Concert, and UM Fall Dance Showcase.
- 2006 Surface (7 min)
Seven dancers. Performed in silence with three floor fans providing sensorial information and white noise. Performed at ACDFA Informal Concert and University of Montana Fall Dance Showcase.
- 2005 Come on In (7 min)
Music: Blind Willie Johnson. Trio exploring the momentum of falling and working collaboratively. Performed at the University of Montana Dance Concert and Fall Dance Showcase.

University Performance

A Sense Of, evening-length thesis work by Kathryn Ullum, Arizona State University, 2011

190/192, dance improvisation installation by Eileen Standley and John Mitchell, Arizona State University, 2011

Sensorial Meditations, site-specific work by Kathryn Ullum, Arizona State University, 2010

72° and Freezing, Nicole Bradley Browning, University of Montana, NW ACDFA ,2007

There You Are, Kayla June Guidley, University of Montana, 2006

ETA TBA, Jen Stearns DeLong, University of Montana, 2006

The Porcelain Funnel, Brian Gerke, University of Montana, NW ACDFA, 2006

Sof Slippa ,Peggy Adams, University of Hawaii, 2004

Spring Polynesian Music and Dance Performance Showing, University of Hawaii ,2004
Hula and Chant, Vicky Takamine

Fall Polynesian Music and Dance Performance Showing, University of Hawaii ,2003
Javanese, Ben Arcangel; Tahitian, Jane Moulin

Waiting For..., Florin Fieroiu, University of Montana, 2003

Service and Affiliations

Organizer, Missoula Summer Dance Intensive 2014/2015

Planned and directed the first ever Missoula Summer Dance Intensive in Summer of 2014 and 2015 at the Downtown Dance Collective in Missoula, Montana. Contacted, negotiated, and facilitated the guest artist commission, including applying for and receiving funding from the Montana Arts Council. Created a schedule that included a full day of professional level contemporary dance training. Designed posters, advertised for, and produced classes, jams, and a final Dance Laboratory, coordinating with the ZooTown Fringe Festival.

GRADS Representative 2012

Represented graduate students at the Faculty Assembly meetings on a monthly basis. Communicated between graduate students and faculty, worked together to resolve issues in an academic setting.

Contact Improvisation Jam Facilitator 2011-2013

Facilitated a Contact Improvisation jam for ASU students and Tempe community members on a weekly basis for one academic year. Aimed to create a safe creative environment in which and led an improvisatory warm-up and facilitated an hour-long jam that drew a diverse community of ages and movement experience together.

Student Adjudicator 2012

Helped select the dance works presented at the annual adjudicated concert the Dance Annual, alongside a board consisting of an undergraduate student, a faculty member, and the director of the School of Dance.

Co-Artistic Director 2011

Co-Artistic Directed the Graduate Project Presentations at ASU in Fall of 2011 with Inertia DeWitt. Organized students and production schedules, got funding from the Graduate Professional Student Organization for professional printing and photography, assisted stage manager during the performance.

NDEO Member 2010

Attended 2010 NDEO conference “Creativity, Innovation, and 21st Century Skills” in Tempe, AZ. Attended lecture/demonstrations with Simon Dove, Susan Lee, Robin Lakes, Susie Thiel, Raquel Cavalcanti, Karen Schupp, Donna Dragon, Karryn Allen , Ashlee Ramsey, and Becky Dyer.

University of Montana Dance Club President 2007

Organized group meetings, wrote grants and lobbied for funding from the Associated Students of the University of Montana for student participation in ACDFAs. Secured funding for, and organized, a weekend intensive with guest artist Antonietta Vicario.

Publications

“Ethical Issues Raised by Strategies of Collaborative Dance Making”

written and presented by Laurel Wall-MacLane

National Dance Educators Organization in Miami, October, 2013

Scholarships and Awards

Significant Contribution , University of Montana Dance Program	2015
Strategic Investment Award , Montana Arts Council	2014
Top Paper Citation Award , National Dance Educators Organization	2013
Graduate College Travel Grant , Arizona State University Graduate College	2012
Student Enrichment Grant , Herberger Institute, Arizona State University	2012
Hope and Robert Heimann Summer , School of Dance, Arizona State University	2012
K. Herberger Scholarship , School of Dance, Arizona State University	2012
Herbert Smith Fellowship , School of Dance, Arizona State University	2010
Special Talent Award-Dance , School of Dance, Arizona State University	2010-2013
Outstanding Senior , Department of Dance, University of Montana	2007
Odyssey of the Stars , Drama/Dance Department, University of Montana	2007
Bonhomme Scholarship , University of Montana	2006
Partial Tuition Waiver , Outreach College, University of Hawaii	2004