

# STEPPING INTO HOPE & CHANGE

Stepping Into Hope & Change started as a concept in the fall of 2009 when our ongoing national financial crisis began to deeply affect the dance and not-for-profit worlds: performing arts budgets were slashed or running at deficits, dance companies closed, a wide spectrum of our dancers were unemployed for longer periods of time, and the trickle-down effect impacted training for new careers, side careers and life/family decisions.

## Career Conversations Calendar

### New York City

Sep TBA Performance and parallel career resumes

Oct TBA Creative careers from creative people

Dec TBA Teaching careers

### Chicago

October 2 Stepping Into Hope & Change

For more dates, time, locations and details, please visit our schedule of events page at: [CareerTransition.org/OnlineResources/Schedule](http://CareerTransition.org/OnlineResources/Schedule)

services for all dancers, at any point in their careers, at no charge, whenever they start, stop, touch base or resume. No cookie cutter approach for us!

When our annual Stepping Into Hope & Change conferences open the doors, I am passionate about our dancers leaping or gliding into the room, full of expectation, both those who will have joyful reunions and those who are making their debuts with us (58 new clients this past April in NYC). I am filled with passion for the WE and US: our team/our community.

As a staff, we are moved as our dancers speak from their hearts; tell and show their new skills and ongoing stories; whether as a main speaker panelist, or through spontaneous sharing – with another dancer or within the community. They express thanks that they can do this at these events.

I am full of pride for my colleagues as we take risks with new ways of offering career tools and services, nurturing one's passion, finding "right fit" speakers and panelists, and how to share this information during the event and online for our dancer communities around the country. I know that our dancers trust us to provide the forums and do as much as we can in any given day.

We knew we had to dramatically address our dancers' changing work environments. Career Transition For Dancers' Executive Director, Alexander J. Dubé, brought in an idea from Michael Kaiser, CEO of the Kennedy Center and Career Transition For Dancers' National Advisory Committee Member, to present our signature brand of career counseling to the dance community.

As the only full service career development program for dancers across the United States, we ramped up the volume to provide a full day of programming to remind our dancers we are their home base and safety net, in good times and bad, for both practical and emotional aspects of change.

I am passionate about Career Transition For Dancers' philosophy: unlimited lifetime/career span development

I am elated as the day ends with each dancer's journey continuing while knowing that our community is alive and well. I wake up the next day and I know that our labor of love continues. No one is alone.

We have had two Stepping Into Hope & Change events in NYC, 2010 and 2011, one Los Angeles and one scheduled in Chicago on Sunday, October 2, 2011! We then continue to step into hope and change both to prepare in the present and as steps to the future.

- Lauren S. Gordon

MSW, LCSW, NYC Career Counselor