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Arts4All Florida  
University of South Florida  
[www.arts4allflorida.org](http://www.arts4allflorida.org)

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**Arts4All Florida presents *A New Definition of Dance featuring Antoine Hunter and the Urban Jazz Dance Company***

*[Zoom press coverage and interviews available by appointment]*

*(Tampa, FL) October 6, 2020*

We often understand dancing WITH our bodies...but what about THROUGH our bodies? Using their refined sense of rhythm, balance and sound vibrations, Antoine Hunter and the Urban Jazz Company are coming to Florida to perform, educate and enlighten, virtually.

Arts4All Florida headquartered at the University of South Florida, will host a continuation of their collaborative work on *A New Definition of Dance* statewide. This program highlights the accomplishments of internationally renowned dancers with disabilities and offers community engagement opportunities that integrate people across a wide spectrum of differences and raises the consciousness around issues of disability.

“When we look to where radical innovation in the dance field is happening, we can look at how dancers with disabilities are revising traditional assumptions of *dance* and *dancer*,” shares Merry Lynn Morris, Assistant Director of the Dance Program at USF and Arts4All Florida Board member. “I am so glad to partner with Arts4All Florida on this event, bringing accomplished dance artists like Antoine Hunter to work with our USF dance students and local dance community”.

A San Francisco Bay Area native, Mr. Antoine Hunter, also known as Purple Fire Crow, is an award-winning and internationally renowned African American/Indigenous Deaf dancer, choreographer, actor, instructor, speaker, and producer as well as a Deaf and social justice advocate. In light of Covid-19, Arts4All Florida was recently granted a 6-month extension to their previously awarded National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grant to develop a fully virtual community outreach program with Mr. Hunter.

Mr. Hunter and his company will facilitate Artist in Residence programs at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine, Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf in St. Petersburg and at schools in the Miami-Dade School District. He will conduct master classes at the University of South Florida’s School of Theatre and Dance, Hillsborough Community College, and the Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Additionally, Arts4All Florida has planned professional





development for teachers who work with Deaf/hard of hearing students, inviting Mr. Hunter to share his views, techniques and skills for learning best practices in Deaf culture.

This project has been generously funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America program, South Arts with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Gbioff Foundation, and the Rolling Dance Chair Project at USF.

### **More about Antoine Hunter and the Urban Jazz Company**

Mr. Hunter strives to create opportunities for people with disabilities, Deaf and hearing artists and produces Deaf-friendly events. He founded the Urban Jazz Dance Company and Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival.

Antoine has received numerous grants and awards including the inaugural Jeanette Lomujo Bremond Award for Humanity, Isadora Duncan (Izzie) for Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival, and SF King of Carnival. Antoine's work has been performed globally, most recently in the Turkey, UK and Russia. He has lectured across the U.S. including at VSA at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Harvard and Duke University, and the National Assembly of State Arts. In 2019 alone, his company Urban Jazz Dance Company, an ensemble of professional Deaf and Hearing dancers, performed for and engaged more than 4,200 schoolchildren. His shoe company DropLabs and Susan Paley just released an innovative product to help people feel music through their shoes. He is Vice President of Deaf Counseling, Advocacy and Referral Agency (DCARA's) Board. Established in 1962 as one of the first deaf-run agencies in the country, DCARA is a non-profit, community-based social service agency serving the deaf community.

[www.RealUrbanJazzDance.com](http://www.RealUrbanJazzDance.com)

### **More about Arts4All Florida**

Arts4All Florida provides, supports and champions arts education and cultural experiences for and by people with disabilities. A private not-for-profit organization, Arts4All Florida conducts art education programs in schools, Department of Juvenile Justice facilities, and community centers; promotes the accomplishments of artists with disabilities through our artist registry, exhibitions, and performances; and increases access to the arts through professional development workshops. Arts4All Florida is headquartered in the College of Education at the University of South Florida.

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