

MENTORSHIP COACHING PROGRAM



DEADLINE EXTENDED

A MENTORING/COACHING PROGRAM OPEN TO A
PRE-PROFESSIONAL DANCER OF COLOUR TO
SUPPORT THE DANCER'S TRANSITION INTO THE
PROFESSIONAL DANCE WORLD.

[APPLICATION OPENS MAY 1, 2023]

PHOTO BY MICHEAL SLOBODIAN OF ALANNA MORRIS
CHOREOGRAPHY BY KYLE ABRAHAM, COURTESY OF TU DANCE

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The I A.M. Arts mentoring/coaching program is a **one-year mentorship** open to a young professional entering their junior year of high school in Fall 2023 and graduating in the class of 2025. This program is for a self-driven, self-motivated and focused young dancer looking to pursue a career in dance.

The mentee will work with I A.M. Arts Artistic Director and independent Dancer-Choreographer, **Alanna Morris**, on post-secondary school/college-preparedness as well as life and business skills.

This mentorship includes **research on scholarships (\$\$\$); a solo dance commission** (for auditions and scholarships); **college essay review and editorial assistance; and letters of recommendation** (as needed). The mentee will have access to Alanna's global network of dance artists, including top educators at leading educational institutions, directors, dancers and choreographers working in a multiplicity of backgrounds—companies as well as freelance—encompassing a wide range of aesthetics, and geographies.



PHOTO BY CANAAN MATTSON
CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE BY ALANNA MORRIS, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



APPLICATION FAQ

HOW TO APPLY

Fill out the application form, including a reference by an educator or dance professional. (Name and contact information only. No letter is required.) and attach your resume.

ZERO COST

A \$3,000 value, this is a one-year commitment provided to the selected mentee free of charge due to a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. Rehearsal space is included in the mentorship program. The following is not included: housing, travel to and from meetings, living expenses, or relocation fees.

LOCATION

The program consists of virtual or in-person meetings (for life and career coaching) as well as in-person rehearsals. All rehearsals take place in the Twin Cities. Applicants need not reside in the Twin Cities but will need to have the ability to travel. Applicants will need to be available for some evenings and/or weekends.

COMMITMENT

While this is an agreed-upon schedule set by Alanna and the mentee, (guided by their goals), the program includes an intense rehearsal period in the beginning of the mentorship in late September at approximately 6 hours/week or 18 total hours over 3 weeks to prepare for the YoungArts (and other) scholarship auditions. Rehearsals (for coaching) then shift to approximately 4 hours/month to the end of school year. Meetings for goal-setting and life coaching occur weekly until January 2024, and then as often as needed throughout the school year.

DURATION

Application opens **May 1 and closes July 1**. Those applicants selected for an interview will be notified by July 15. Interviews will be held July 15-29. Final decisions will be made by July 30. Mentorship begins August 2023-August 2024. This is a one-year commitment.

Making a career in the arts, and in dance specifically, is a rewarding but heavy undertaking. Many factors come into play that can discourage a young artist from even trying—not to mention the artistic, strategic and personal skills one must have to reach their full potential in this field. Additionally, the landscape post-COVID is one of both major promise and uncertainty. This program arose out of a need to support young people to possess the tools they need to achieve success as defined by them. Over my 16 years as a professional dancer and decades of dance training I have amassed a range of experience that I wish to share and look forward to this opportunity to learn as well. My vision with this mentorship is not to recreate the mold or reproduce myself but to support, educate and empower your achievement. Because somebody did it for me.

It's important to me that as a mentor I am able to share my lived experience as a Black woman-identifying person, and the ideal candidate would share some or all of these identities, with the knowledge that expressions of femininity and womanhood are fluid and can be expansive of normative gender ideals. I also acknowledge that social constructs of race can be experienced quite individually and inclusive of a range of experiences. Please consider these ideals and values when considering the commitment of working with me as a mentor.

For more on my work visit www.iamartss.com

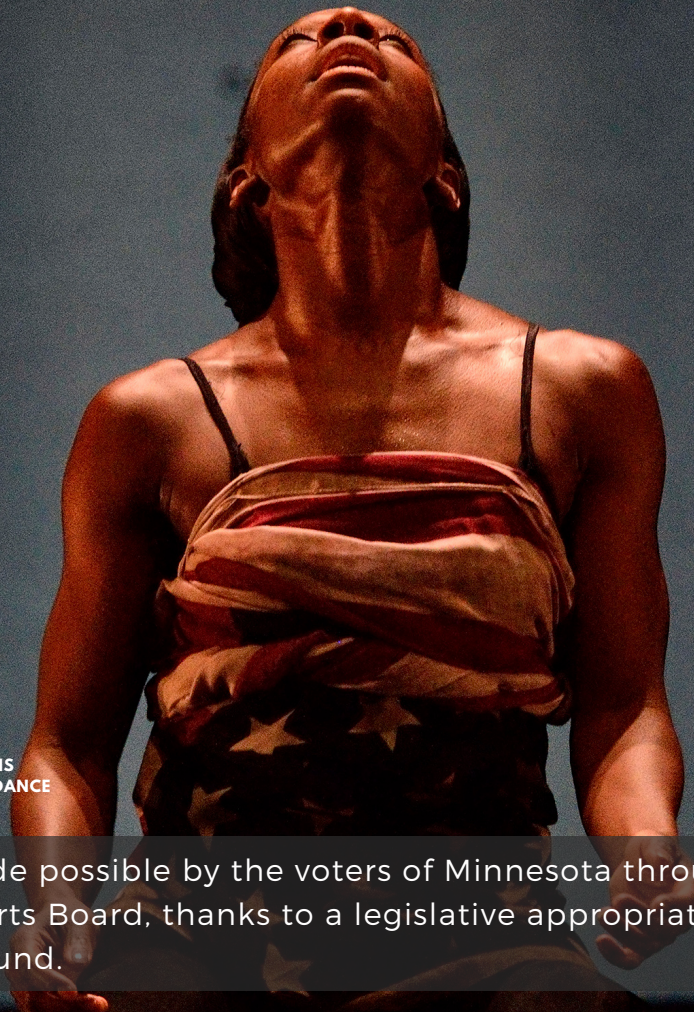
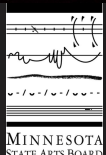


PHOTO BY MICHEAL SLOBODIAN OF ALANNA MORRIS
CHOREOGRAPHY BY URI SANDS, COURTESY OF TU DANCE



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.