



ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

Donna Sternberg & Dancers (DS&D) is a contemporary dance company founded in 1985 by Donna Sternberg, who worked and toured in the companies of Donald Byrd, Mary Jane Eisenberg, Yen Lu Wong, and Dance/LA. DS&D connects scientific inquiries and discoveries to human life, opening new areas of awareness and plumbing the emotional and psychological aspects of STEM. Diverse collaboration is a key element in the fabric of DS&D's programming. Our programs and services are guided by the belief that the arts can be a vehicle for learning, creating community, providing inspiration, and transformation, and are tailored to provide these experiences.

DS&D performs in site-specific locations, in traditional theaters, and has been presented throughout California, Minnesota, Italy at the Venice Biennale, and Mexico. Our life-long learning program educates and involves audiences by presenting lectures/demonstrations, panel discussions with scientists and artists, teaching classes and workshops, conducting post-performance discussions, and initiating participatory community creative projects.

The company's work spans the gamut from dance/science collaborations to environmental and social issues. *Ancestor's Voices* examines epigenetics or inherited intergenerational trauma. This work was presented by the Skirball Cultural Center and included community workshops partnering with the Skirball, the Holocaust Museum, and local temples that explored body-held trauma. *Warming*, a site-specific work based on global warming, was a partnership with the environmental group Sustainable Works presented in Tongva Park in Santa Monica. *The Vortex*, commissioned by the Mondavi Center for the Arts at UC Davis, looked at race, gender, and sexual orientation in the science community and was a collaboration with visual artist Meredith Tromble and geobiologist Dawn Sumner.

The company has been in residency at the Djerassi Artist Residency program, developing new work with scientist Devavani Chatterjea. Additional residencies include Macalester and Carleton Colleges in Minnesota, where they have taught classes, given lectures, conducted community workshops, created student site-specific performances, and been part of a documentary film. DS&D has been invited to perform and give workshops at major conferences like the Leonardo/ISAST (International Society for Art, Science and Technology) 50th anniversary convening in San Francisco, and Artistic Director Donna Sternberg has spoken at several events presented by organizations like Kinetech Arts and a2ru (Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities).

DS&D also presents performances featuring diverse dance companies and choreographers. Our signature Awe & Wonder series pairs 4 choreographers with 4 scientists to create new work inspired by the scientists' field of study. We have included choreographers from a wide range of dance forms, including tap, folklorico, bharatanatyam, hip hop, butoh, contemporary, and cultures from the Philippines, the Middle East, India, Mexico, Japan, Peru, and Maori.