

How are you doing?

Doing okay considering

World turned off, turned online

In category of not loving the internet

Making do best that we can

A few weeks in so I'm getting used to it

Went into hibernation

Back alive now

Resurfacing

Things have been so crazy

Turned on its head

Settled but still gonna be weird

A weird time to be a student and an artist

All the kids I teach

What an interruption to education

In person interaction missing it

Crazy energy of classroom

Mid to late Fall

Consensus artists feeling squeezed in greater Boston and Boston area

What did you see from your end?

Closure of Green St affected everyone

Personally, I have always been at The Dance Complex

Immediate circle, sucks that it's closing

I have extensive background in arts admin

Used to work there at The Dance Complex

I know its not know it works

We have an ecology of dance

The way the pieces fit together make the craft sustainable or not sustainable

With the closure, it made it nearly impossible to get rehearsal time at The Dance Complex

Impossible to be a dancer in Boston and not feel the hit from Green St closing

Green St was a home for hip hop

Ashton Stackz kicked out of where he was at

Green St closed

MIT closed its doors

Hip hop community predominately people of color

Ripples it was creating

Hard as a white modern dancer

How much harder it is when you are in much more marginalized forms of dance like hip hop

Boston is super white

Sheds light on privilege in a real way

Who within the arts manages to survive with support

And who doesn't

Were you involved in any city meetings ?

Or the walk around Green Street?

Cambridge arts council meeting

I did go to one forum at Green Street before it closed

Good insight from others

Activist from cyclist community

How they organized for biker advocacy

Interesting being a passive observer

It affects me differently without a brick and mortar place

Heard a lot about what's going on with city gov

Problem with gentrification pushing out art

What public sees isn't what it really is

A lot more nuanced than what it is

People aren't sitting in those rooms

Conversations coming to light

Crisis for years

Whether Cambridge will listen or not

Meetings have been happening for years

To make sure that The Dance Complex is in the ecology of Boston dance

Gov has so much power

People with money have so much money

How are you being affected?

It sucks for people like us

I do four things in dance

I make dance, I perform dance, I teach dance and I produce dance

Hit on artistry, hit on money

Losing rehearsal money as well

Double hit

Really good for my yoga practice

Very grounding for me

Otherwise it sucks haha

For teaching lucky to still have teaching income for all 3 places

Teaching switched to virtual classes

I'm paying for my own Zoom, my internet

Lucky I have an income

Also had to shell out a lot more money to keep that income

Affected my ability and desire to create

Haven't been feeling very inspired

Producer biggest effect and lump sum of money lost

Little gigs building up to biggest event

"That's what she said" event

Was going to be third and final year

The event this year got cancelled 45 minutes before curtains opened

On opening night

What?

Boston Center for the Arts, March 12th

In constant contact

Thought show was to run through the weekend

Payed for all production week and programs

Show supposed to be at 7:30

Last minute decision at 6:45 to close building and kick everyone out

One of the worst experiences I have ever had as an artist

Lost \$4,200 of ticket sales

Had to refund

Show cost \$10,000 to put on

And ethically still need to pay the artists

Don't know how to do it

Snapped away from us right at the last minute

I don't know why that happened if everyone was in the building anyway

It was not fun

Very valid so sorry that happened

How are you as an artist moving forward?

Teaching online

Bigger projects helping me stay motivated

Admin associate for Peter Dimuro who runs The Dance Complex

Work for Public Displays of Motion modern movement company

Fortunate to get NEFA creative city grant

New project "Stones to Rainbows, Gay to Queer Lives"

Based on concept of connecting young queer people to older gay people

Big age divide in LGBTQIA+ community

Dialogue based performance project

Interviews and workshops

Project transitioned online

Intergenerational cross sectional dialogues

Internet as new world

Originally all Boston based

Now world wide which is really cool

Collab LadyBos Productions with Russ Condon to create small artist relief fund

Create a visual album, singers create songs, dancers respond to those songs

People who tune in will donate to relief fund

Artists will have some money

People who are not fitting into relief fund boxes

Trying to help

Feeling motivated and excited

Good for morale

This project sparks something

Hard to feel purposeful in a world that's frozen

Glad that we created it for ourselves

Awesome that you are using online to your benefit now

I knew deep down that people like you were trying their best to make a positive impact

Helping others and creating projects to help spread the art word virtually

It's good to know that you can't ever really kill art. It will always find a way.