



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Urbanity Dance Announces Stacy Handler as Managing Director



BOSTON—Urbanity Dance is proud to announce the addition of Stacy Handler to its staff in the role of Managing Director. In conjunction with the Board of Directors and Urbanity Founder & Director Betsi Graves, Stacy will be a key component to expanding Urbanity's reach throughout the Greater Boston area.

"I am thrilled to announce and welcome Stacy Handler as the Managing Director of Urbanity Dance. Together, I look forward to partnering to strengthen Urbanity's programs, impact, community, and our place in Boston's arts and culture ecosystem," says Graves.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are excited for Stacy to join the Urbanity Dance team. Her significant accomplishments in senior development roles at nonprofit arts organizations on the East Coast, make her well-qualified to work with Betsi as Urbanity continues to make a positive impact—empowering our community through the art of dance and movement," says Board Chair Anmol Mehra.

"I am excited, proud, and grateful to begin my new role as Managing Director with Urbanity Dance. Urbanity truly believes in the power of dance to foster community and create change, and I am honored to be able to help further its strategic goals throughout Boston and beyond," says Handler.

Stacy Handler is a passionate arts administrator and arts advocate. Prior to joining Urbanity as Managing Director, she served in senior leadership roles with several NYC-based institutions, including Gibney Dance, Lumberyard Center for Film and Performance (previously American Dance Institute), and The New York Pops. Stacy specializes in fundraising strategy and has extensive experience in expanding donor networks, securing institutional support, and implementing special events.

Stacy received her M.A. in Performing Arts Administration from New York University and her B.A. in Psychology from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Originally hailing from Miami, FL, she is a classically

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trained mezzo-soprano and a graduate of the Ballet Etudes Company of South Florida. Today, singing and dancing remain beloved hobbies of hers, as she is a member of Chorus pro Musica and enjoys the occasional contemporary class. Stacy is also proud to have completed her first marathon, the New York City Marathon, in November 2015. She and her husband, Jesse, live in Boston with their cat, Catniss.

For more information or to coordinate an interview, contact jason@urbanitydance.org

Urbanity Dance exists to engage, inspire, and empower through the art of dance and movement.

Urbanity Dance is committed to empowering individuals and strengthening diverse communities through dance. It aims to engage people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, both in their own communities and in its own studio space, by helping them discover the joy of movement. Its wide range of partnerships with schools, health centers, local arts institutions, enrichment camps, and juvenile detention centers allows the organization to share quality dance experiences with the Boston community. Urbanity Dance is a nonprofit dance organization with three studio locations headquartered in Boston's South End that is comprised of three programmatic pillars: Company, School, and Community.

Under Founder Betsi Graves' leadership and in tandem with its incorporation in 2011, the Professional Company at Urbanity Dance has been recognized as Boston's leading contemporary dance company. Urbanity Dance's professional company aspires to push the limits of contemporary dance technique, inspiring audiences with its cutting-edge artistry and startling unpredictability. The Company is dedicated to providing provocative, visually arresting and musically stimulating performances for diverse audiences of all ages. Multisensory works spring from collaborations with composers, visual artists, architects, fashion designers, and light designers. Our dancers are lifelong learners chosen for their sharp adaptability, dancing prowess, and creative vision.

Offering quality dance training and specializing in contemporary and hip hop classes, the School at Urbanity Dance serves 700 students of all ages and levels each week, and has been recognized by both *Boston Magazine* and *Improper Bostonian* as offering "Boston's Best Dance Classes." Through an Access for All Program, Urbanity aspires to never turn a student away due to financial need, supporting those who would not otherwise be able to dance in a studio setting.

Urbanity's Community pillar builds on three core programs: Urbanity in the Community (in Boston Public Schools), Dance with Parkinson's, and Movement Mends (workshops in juvenile detention centers and Women's Lunch Place). Serving 500 students weekly and thousands annually, Urbanity is the largest independent presence of dance in Boston Public Schools.

To learn more, please visit urbanitydance.org or call 617-572-3727.

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