

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF DANCE™

The International Museum of Dance Announces Leading-Edge Archives, Exhibitions and Education Initiatives, Celebrating Diverse Artists and Dance Forms

From Gene Kelly to hip-hop to Indigenous dance, IMOD safeguards legacies, builds community and guides the public through the past, present and future of dance

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San Francisco, November 15, 2023 — In an age where technology meets culture, the [International Museum of Dance](#) is announcing several technological milestones and visionary partnerships, positioning the organization to become a global cultural beacon.

Under the leadership of Hilary Palanza Gutkin, IMOD's CEO and founder, the organization has forged timely, game-changing alliances with technology leaders, educational institutions and a spectrum of renowned dance artists and companies. Revolving around three pivotal pillars—Archives, Exhibitions and Education—IMOD is creating an immersive, interactive museum experience that inspires the exploration of diverse dance forms and artists from around the world.

IMOD is marking its recent milestones with a series of [panels, classes and performances](#) through 2024 in San Francisco, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and other locations in the United States, as well as with the launch of its dance education program in Philadelphia public schools.

“At a time of strife and suffering in so many parts of the world, IMOD offers a much-needed sanctuary to celebrate our common humanity through this universal art form,” said Palanza Gutkin, who founded the nonprofit in 2018. “Our partnerships with visionary technology leaders, leading educational and cultural institutions, and a diversity of dance artists and companies, are creating a vibrant, inclusive dance ecosystem that reimagines the way we learn, teach, share and safeguard dance.”

Harnessing proprietary technology in partnership with Microsoft and Adobe, IMOD is building a sweeping online multimedia platform to spotlight diverse artists and dance forms and surfacing never-before-shared collections from legendary dance artists including Gene Kelly, Eiko Otake and Indigenous visionaries. The online platform, along with IMOD's in-person exhibitions and school education program, will connect dancers, choreographers, educators, students and audiences across cultures, countries and generations.

IMOD's archives will launch with a legend; IMOD has secured the commitment from Gene Kelly's widow Patricia Ward Kelly, for the storage and use of a personal collection that the dancer, actor, choreographer and film director entrusted to his wife.

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“For decades, I have been concerned about what to do with Gene’s collection. I wanted to assure that it would be protected, properly preserved and that it would be available in perpetuity around the world,” Kelly said. “When I connected with the International Museum of Dance, it was a dream come true. Through IMOD, I will be able to present Gene Kelly and his work with an eye toward his own creativity, innovative spirit and drive for excellence.”

Powered by an innovative system being developed by IMOD’s design team, the archives represent an open invitation to other artists and estates from diverse backgrounds and locations to choose IMOD as protector and advocate of their artistic legacies. IMOD aims to make digitized collections available to museum subscribers starting in 2024, with fee structures designed to be fair and affordable, prioritizing accessibility for both dance artists and dance enthusiasts.

In another major development, IMOD has entered into a partnership with Amy Denet Deal, the Diné (Navajo) fashion entrepreneur and founder of Diné-owned brand 4KINSHIP, to support Indigenous artists and host education programs, exhibitions and archiving of their stories.

“We are immensely honored to welcome the International Museum of Dance as a partner in the [4KINSHIP Indigenous Futures Fund](#), enhancing visibility and opportunities for Indigenous talent and creativity,” Denet Deal said. “This collaboration empowers the bridge between the past, present and future of our people, while also celebrating the emerging artists who bring their unique beauty to the world.”

Hip-hop is the initial focus of IMOD’s new school education program. Led by hip-hop ambassador to the United Nations, Clyde Evans, Jr., who is also IMOD’s education director, the program blends professional dance instruction with a revolutionary use of [3-D dance education technology](#) developed in partnership with Microsoft alumnus and digital innovator Jason Waskey. Hybrid in-person and online tutorials connect top dance educators with students who otherwise could not afford or access dance instruction. IMOD’s hip-hop curriculum is scheduled for introduction in more than 200 Philadelphia-area public schools in 2024, with a goal to expand to 15 states by 2030. Global styles will be introduced into the schools on a biannual basis, ensuring students are exposed to a broad base of universal dance forms.

IMOD’s programs build on partnerships with more than a dozen international cultural institutions and more than 50 dance artists who have spearheaded IMOD initiatives to date. Longer term, IMOD plans to build a series of bricks and mortar spaces where dance from a variety of cultures and eras can thrive and inform new generations of visitors.

“IMOD bricks-and-mortar spaces will be responsive to the cultures they serve, in their design and content, prioritizing local communities and their economies,” said Palanza Gutkin, IMOD’s CEO.

In the immediate future, IMOD will focus on community events and dance exhibitions that include the following:

- To introduce IMOD to the wider Bay Area community, the museum has launched a “Drop-In Series” featuring IMOD’s CEO Palanza Gutkin and other members of the

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leadership team. More than 100 entrepreneurs, business professionals and artists attended the inaugural event on Oct. 25 at [SHACK15](#) in San Francisco's Ferry Building.

- IMOD is holding a series of classes, workshops and panels through May 2024 at the [Yerba Buena Center for the Arts \(YBCA\)](#) in San Francisco in conjunction with [Bay Area Now 9](#), YBCA's triennial exhibition highlighting Bay Area artists. IMOD's activities will feature San Francisco Ballet dancers, as well as Indigenous and hip-hop artists.
- In 2024, IMOD is launching its [ROOTS](#) interactive exhibition series, which traces the evolution of African-American body percussion through storytelling, performance and interactive technologies. ROOTS is curated by Jason Nious, IMOD's artist-in-residence, and is supported in part by Hewlett's [Creative Work Fund](#).

About the International Museum of Dance

The [International Museum of Dance](#) (IMOD) creates transformative digital and in-person experiences that cultivate, safeguard and share the art and language of dance across cultures, communities and generations. Through technology, storytelling and public engagement, IMOD's Archives, Education and Exhibitions celebrate diverse dance artists, protect legacies and trace the evolution of different dance forms. Founded in 2018 by dancer/choreographer and entrepreneur Hilary Palanza Gutkin, IMOD collaborates with technology companies, artists, dance organizations and educational institutions to create an inclusive dance ecosystem that encourages exploration and inspires social change. IMOD is a 501(c)(3) organization with chapters in San Francisco, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Philadelphia.