

An aerial photograph of a vast, winding body of water, possibly a reservoir or a large river, surrounded by snow-dusted land and distant mountains under a clear blue sky. The water is a deep blue, and the surrounding land is a mix of brown and white, indicating a winter or late autumn setting.

the way of water a global project

EXPLORING WATER
AND THE WORK OF PEOPLE WHO STEWARD IT

Forklift Danceworks' *The Way of Water*, is a global arts-based project bringing together communities, civic organizations and advocacy groups to address climate-based water issues.

Forklift Danceworks, along with a team of artists from each participating city, will embed within local communities, including frontline workers and others with lived experience of drought, floods, or rising sea level. Together, artists and community members will co-create theatrical productions, telling the story of water through the voices of those most impacted by climate change. *The Way of Water* will deepen understanding of climate-based water issues and possible solutions, translating the science into understandable stories and using the magic of live performance as a catalyst for change.

The Way of Water will create a space for each participating city to imagine a future where innovative solutions for climate-based water issues are enacted.



Cities in first 5
years, engaging

50+

Artists and
Scientists

100+

Frontline Workers
and Government
Employees

200+

Youth and
Community Members

10,000+

Audience Members

Initial Sites

Austin, TX (2022 - 2026) | Miami, FL (2023 - 2025) | El Paso, TX (2024 - 2025) | Venice, Italy (2023 - 2026)

For more information, contact Lisa Byrd, Organizational Strategist lisa@forkliftdanceworks.org
or Allison Orr, Artistic Director allison@forkliftdancework.org

ACTIVATING COMMUNITIES THROUGH



A COLLABORATIVE CREATIVE PROCESS

“Finds rhythms in routines and elegance in the everyday.”

The New York Times

Founded in 2001 by Artistic Director Allison Orr, Forklift Danceworks presents innovative dance projects with people who are not typically thought of as dancers. Developed through collaborations with over 30 different partners so far—including Rotterdam sanitation workers, the Japanese Women’s Professional Baseball League, and Austin’s Electric Utility, Forklift’s projects share the skilled movement and tell the often unheard stories of the people whose work sustains our daily lives.

Often presented in large-scale outdoor settings, Forklift’s free performances consistently play to capacity, with audiences of 500-6,000 people. Through their artistic interventions, Forklift creates opportunities for more informed civic dialogue, deeper understanding of the jobs essential to urban life, and greater connection amongst citizens and across communities.

The company has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Dance Magazine*, BBC Radio, PBS, and NPR. In recent years, Artistic Director Allison Orr has been named a MacDowell Fellow, a Dance/USA Fellow in Social Change, and a Doris Duke US Artist Fellow, recognizing her as one of the most compelling artists working in the USA today.

