

DIRECTED BY allison ort PRODUCTION DESIGN BY stephen pruit

**FORK  
LIFT  
DANCEWORKS**

PRESENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



**WATERSHED  
PROTECTION**

*the  
way of water  
onion creek*

INNOVATIVE LABORATORY PERFORMANCES  
WITH DOVE SPRINGS COMMUNITY AND YOUTH

June **23 & 24** at 8 pm

September **22 & 23** at 8 pm

## **THE WAY OF WATER: ONION CREEK**

### **CREEK BED**

**Choreography by** Francis Rodriguez

**Music by** DJGL

**Performed by** Applied Watershed Research Environmental Scientists: Bianca Perez, Julia Siegmund, Todd Jackson

### **TALL GRASSES**

**Choreography by** Allison Orr

**Music by** Vanessa Burden

**Rehearsal Assistant:** Rachel Nayer

**Performed by** Vegetation Management: Leah Gibson, Sean Patrick Parnell, Gabriel Perez, Branden Cervantes

### **TRAIL PATHWAY**

**Installation created with** Youth Performers and Collaborators  
Field Recordings by Will Heins and Rebeca Treviño

**Music by** Vanessa Burden

**Performed by** Niko Barbosa, Megan Davidson, Susan Garnett, José Guerrero, Elizabeth Laurence, McKayla Leary, C Martinez, Lexie Nelson, Elisa Perez, Vickie Pugh, Rebeca Treviño, Klarissa Viruete

### **PAVILIONS**

**Choreography & Direction by** José Ome Mazatl

**Music by** Orión García

**Performed by** Megan Davidson, McKayla Leary, C Martinez, Lexie Nelson

**Video and interviews collected by** Niko Barbosa, Megan Davidson, Will Heins, Elizabeth Laurence, McKayla Leary, C Martinez, Lexie Nelson, Elisa Perez, Rebeca Treviño and Klarissa Viruete

***Saturday Dance Party by DJ Shani***

## **THE WAY OF WATER: ONION CREEK**

### **Laboratory performances with Dove Springs Youth and Austin Watershed Protection employees**

**Directed by:** Allison Orr

**Production and Lighting Design:** Stephen Pruitt

**Musical Advisor:** Graham Reynolds

**Commissioned Artists:** Vanessa Burden, DJGL,  
Orión García & José Ome Mazatl

**Collaborating Youth:** Niko Barbosa, Megan Davidson,  
Will Heins, Elizabeth Laurence, McKayla Leary, C Martinez,  
Lexie Nelson, Elisa Perez, Rebeca Treviño, Klarissa Viruete

**Choreography Team:** Francis Rodriguez, Krissie Marty,  
Angel Monteiro, Rachel Nayer

**Producer:** Krissie Marty

**Production Manager:** Jessica Borda

**House Manager:** Tammy Whitehead

**Production Crew:** Trent Brown, Lisa Kobdish,  
Zackary Reed, Drew Silverman, Heather Túček

**Sound Editors:** Damian Flores, Buzz Moran

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Reggie Feagin

**Operations Manager:** Shobie Partos

**Development Director:** Vanessa Alvarado Flores

**Institutional Giving Manager:** Gretchen LaMotte

**Development and Administrative Assistant:** Marina Garbalena

**Communications Manager:** Penny Snyder

**Organizational Strategist:** Lisa Byrd

**Touring Project Coordinator:** Jane Hirshberg

**Graphic Design:** Zócalo Design

## BIOGRAPHIES

### ARTISTIC TEAM

**Allison Orr, Founder & Artistic Director**, creates award-winning choreography with the people whose work sustains our everyday lives. Inspired by the beauty and virtuosity in the movement of labor, and building on her background in anthropology and social work, Allison has honed a methodology of ethnographic choreography that engages community members as co-authors and performers in the creation of large-scale civic spectacles. Recently named a MacDowell Fellow, a Dance | USA Fellow in Social Change, and a Doris Duke United States Artist Fellow, Allison's recently published book, *Dance Works—Stories of Creative Collaboration*, reflects on her major collaborations and shares interviews with people she has made dances with over the past two decades.

**José Ome Mazatl, Guest Artist**, is a native of México City. He studied dance at the National Institute of Fine Arts in México, and has a B.A. in Anthropology from UC Berkeley and M.F.A in Dance from Mills College. He has studied dance with Sara Shelton Mann. In 2004, José Ome was the recipient of a Bessie Schönberg residency at The Yard, and a Djerassi residency. José is the recipient of a CHIME Across Borders fellowship with Ralph Lemon. He has taught dance and performance to youth and adults in Mexico, and in the San Francisco Bay Area at Berkeley High School, Marin Academy, Cal State East Bay, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. He was a 2018 U.S.-Japan Creative Artists Fellow, a 2019 Dance/USA Artist Fellow and a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow. José Ome's curatorial practice can be seen at the FRESH Festival and at Eastside Arts Alliance's Live Arts in Resistance (LAIR) initiative, which provides residencies and performing opportunities for artists of color in East Oakland.

**Francis Rodriguez, Choreographer & Programs Manager**, is a performer, choreographer and dance educator currently based in Austin, Texas. She is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin's UTeach Dance program and holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance. Currently, she serves as a choreographer and teaching artist with Forklift Danceworks, The Dance Gallery, and the 620 Dance Centre.

**Stephen Pruitt, Production and Lighting Designer**, is a photographer, visual artist, and theater designer based in Austin, Texas. He is the resident designer for Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance and Tapestry Dance Company; a company member with Austin's Rude Mechs, artistic director of Catastrophe Theory Arts, and has collaborated on more than a dozen productions with Forklift Danceworks since *The Trash Project*. His photography exhibit, *A Cartography of Solitude*, was presented at Prizer Gallery in the summer of 2021. For more information, visit [www.fluxiondesigns.com](http://www.fluxiondesigns.com).

**Vanessa Burden, Guest Musical Artist,** is a Multidisciplinary Creator, Visionary and Party Starter. Originally hailing from Houston, Texas, Vanessa earned her degree in Audio Engineering from San Jacinto College. Vanessa produced and hosted Beats of Burden, a Latin music show on KOOP 91.7fm from 2011-2017. The show's legacy lives on in each curated set that explores anything from mambo to salsa to baile funk and cumbiatronica. Her musical style is a journey through time and space while keeping the listener on their toes. When not DJing, she can be found performing with local Latin psych rockers, Los Alcos or cutting a rug on a dancefloor near you!

**Orión García, Guest Musical Artist,** is, at heart, an artist in every sense of the word. Orión García as the Dj has been performing and producing music for over 20 years. As a curator, he is the owner and founder of the art and music collective Peligrosa, a latin party that recently became the official djs of the Austin FC MLS team. He holds and runs one of Austin's longest running weeklies in east Austin at Volstead. The producer, engineer, and promoter works on his label, Discos Peligrosa, producing records and events supporting new and emerging artists. On occasion he will perform live with drum machines and samplers. Orión is also a visual artist, producing music videos, performing visuals live, and creating 3d art using a combination of generative art and 3d softwares. He also enjoys repairing and tinkering with electronics, creating unique devices for controlling music and visuals. He loves arts and crafts nights, listening to really sad old music and is a burgeoning woodworker.

**DJ GL, Guest Musical Artist,** is a musician from Austin Texas. DJ GL specializes in electronic soundscapes with danceable beats.

**DJ Shani, Guest Musical Artist,** Heavily influenced by the soul, funk & jazz scenes of Chicago's south side, DJ Shani's family taught her the roots of her sound (Zydeco, Blues, Jazz, Reggae, Funk, Soul), while the radio (Energy 88.7fm, B96, WGCI) taught her the future of her sound. In May of 1998, DJ Shani created & produced a Deep House radio show coined "The Groove Temple®" on WLWU-88.7FM that filled a void for the most prominent, yet canceled house music radio station, WBMX. After her graduation from Loyola in 2001, she was a freelance writer for various Chicago music magazines (5Magazine, L'Afrique) & worked at the famous Gramophone Records. In 2004, she moved to Paris & attended L'Universite de Paris - La Sorbonne. In 2013, she was diagnosed with MS and attributes the music & DJ culture to her healing. You can listen to The Groove Temple® on KUTX.

**Graham Reynolds, Musical Advisor**, performs and records music for film, theater, dance, rock clubs, and concert halls with collaborators ranging from Richard Linklater and Jack Black to DJ Spooky and Ballet Austin. Called “the quintessential modern composer” by The Independent (London), this is Reynolds’ tenth project with Forklift Danceworks. He received the Creative Capital Award for his opera “Pancho Villa From a Safe Distance,” which toured internationally. He recently scored the BBC comedy series “Out of Her Mind” and collaborated with renowned choreographer Deborah Hay on Cullberg Ballet’s *Horse*, which premiered in September 2021 in Gothenburg, Sweden. For more information, visit [grahamreynolds.com](http://grahamreynolds.com).

**Krissie Marty, Associate Artistic Director & Community**

**Collaborations Director**, engages working people in creating dances that ask audiences to reconsider their relationship to labor and laboring bodies. For Forklift Danceworks, Krissie directed *Way of Water: Waller Creek* and *RE Source*, a collaboration with the employees of the Goodwill Resource Center, and she has co-directed *My Park, My Pool, My City, PowerUP!*, *Play Ball Downs Field*, *Afoot: A Marching Band Extravaganza*, *The Trees of Govalle* and *PowerUP*. Her choreography has been performed at the Kennedy Center, Stratford Circus in London, and Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival.

**Angel Monteiro, Youth Supervisor**, is an interdisciplinary storyteller, movement artist, and educator from the Brazilian Amazon. She got her BA in Dance Education from Universidade Federal do Pará (Brazil), and her MFA in Dance and Social Justice from the University of Texas at Austin where she is currently a faculty member. Angelica combines movements from the umbrella of street dances, Amazonian traditions, visionary fiction, and poetry to create her art.

**Rachel Nayer, Rehearsal Assistant**, started working with Forklift Danceworks in 2018. She has collaborated on *Dove Springs Swims* and *Givens Swims* and is thrilled to be back for *The Way of Water: Waller Creek*. She is a yoga teacher and enjoys spending her free time two stepping and throwing the ball for her dog.

## **COLLABORATING YOUTH**

**Niko Barbosa**, was born and raised in Austin, Texas. He loves to work with his hands and is currently interested in woodwork. Niko appreciates all the people he’s met during this process, and being around nature.



**Megan Davidson,** Megan Davidson (she/her) is a Junior BFA Dance Major with a minor in African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her most recent credits include: Dance Repertory Theatre's *Emerge* (Spring 2023) and *Quake: The Revival* (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023). Megan has also choreographed and taught in various areas of Austin and Dallas, TX. This is her first time working with Forklift Danceworks and she is incredibly excited for this opportunity!

**Will Heins,** is originally from Vancouver BC, Canada. He enjoys competing in cross country mountain bike races across Texas, and indoor rock climbing at ABP. Will appreciates that this internship has kept him outdoors and finds it refreshing.

**Elizabeth Laurence,** Liz is an intern and fellow from Wesleyan University. This past semester, she took a class with Forklift and loved her experience! Liz is a theater major with a background in film as well as art history. Originally from New Jersey, she's worked with some local theaters and museums in New York. She is excited to come to Austin this summer and brave the heat.

**McKayla Leary,** is an intern with Travis County's Summer Youth Employment Program. She loves to sing and write songs, mainly on rainy days. McKayla is learning to expect the unexpected this summer through Forklift's bringing together of different peoples. She appreciates that everyone she's worked with here is calm and patient.

**Lexie Nelson,** is a performer, dancer, choreographer, and creator currently based in Austin, TX. Originally from Brownsville, TX, she holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance and a Minor in Arts Management and Administration from the University of Texas at Austin. Lexie spent her time at UT Austin being heavily involved with the dance department doing performances and projects as well as being a member in a dance organization known as Dance Action. She also has experience with creating skits and TikToks that required modeling and acting for a local college. Lexie also has an extensive background in music with singing. Lexie has worked with different choreographers and professors such as Leah Cox, Dorothy Overbey, Gesel Mason, Charles Anderson, Quilan Arnold, and Jesse Zarritt, who she learned various styles of dance from such as, contemporary, african, ballet, and house.

**Elisa Perez Olivares,** was born and raised in Austin. She is a very athletic person who's in between sports. She's been playing soccer for six years and is now doing volleyball. Elisa came to this project to try something different and been surprised that she enjoys the art making process.

**Rebeca Treviño**, is a Junior at Wesleyan University currently pursuing a double major in Art Studio and Dance with a minor in Art History. Rebeca is passionate about sharing her knowledge for Latin dance to her local community. She has served as a teaching artist at local community venues including The Free Center in Middletown. This past summer she had the privilege to initiate a dance program for residents of her current hometown Dallas, Texas. This program was launched at Samuell Grand Recreation Center and at The Oak Cliff Cultural Center allowing residents of all ages to experience the vibrancy of latin rhythms. With her background in design, Rebeca is currently working on her Thesis proposal that explores the dialogue between architecture and dance.

**Klarissa Viruete**, was born and raised in Austin, Texas. She loves to try new things, like her Internship with Forklift Danceworks. Klarissa is happy knowing she is helping her community grow a great environment for our city!

## **PERFORMERS FROM AUSTIN WATERSHED PROTECTION**

**Leah Gibson, Vegetation Management**, is the Environmental Compliance Supervisor[2] and has been working for the City of Austin for the past 13 years. She has a farm, and she and her family spend time taking care of their pigs and fruit trees!

**Jose M. Guerrero, P.E., Temporary Consulting Engineer**, Watershed Protection Department is a retired (2021) WPD Assistant Director, Field Operations Division, and a civil engineer with WPD for over 39 years. Jose hails from Galveston and has lived in Austin since he was a student at the University of Texas at Austin (B.S. Civil Engineering 1984). He is passionate about community engagement and organizing, teaching, singing in the Masterworks Choir, playing piano and singing in the music ministry at St. Ignatius Church, and traveling wherever and whenever possible. He collaborated with Forklift Danceworks on *The Way of Water: Waller Creek* in November 2022 and is excited to continue working and learning alongside his community and Forklift on *The Way of Water: Onion Creek*.

**Todd Jackson, Applied Watershed Research**, is an Environmental Scientist and part-time adventurer. For the past 15 years, the Watershed Protection lab where he counts and identifies roughly 25,000-30,000 macroinvertebrates each year that belong to about 1,000 different taxa. During COVID alone (2020-2021) the lab recorded 46,530 individual bugs from Austin creeks, reservoirs, and springs that belonged to 197 different taxa!



**Bianca Perez, Applied Watershed Research**, is an Environmental Scientist with the City of Austin. Her superpower is being a wildlife specialist and spends her time researching various animals, their habitats, and what they need to survive. Bianca was born and raised in Austin, Texas and is especially passionate about turtles.

**Gabriel Perez, Vegetation Management**, has been working with the City of Austin for nearly eight years. He is a Crew Lead for Vegetation Management and really enjoys working outside. Gabriel is a proud father of a son and daughter and grandfather to two granddaughters.

**Vicke Pugh, Community Engagement**, brings vast experience and a strong passion for working with youth and underserved communities throughout Austin and beyond. Her most recent role before joining WPD was with Pflugerville ISD where she served as a College, Career and Military Readiness Counselor for one of the largest high schools in the district. Vickie has a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies: Special Education that she earned from Huston-Tillotson University, as well as a Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. Vickie loves spending time with family and friends, visiting museums, traveling and listening to live music. She believes that kindness is the most inexpensive GIFT to give away, and should be given to someone daily.

**Julia Siegmund, Applied Watershed Research**, is an Environmental Scientist and has been with Watershed Protection for one and a half years. Her superpower is modeling and data science. She is currently learning lots about algae, and loves beavers.

**Branden Cervantes, Vegetation Management**, has been working with the City of Austin for four years. He is currently also getting his Bachelor's Degree from Texas State, and when not at work or studying, enjoys spending time with his family.

**Sean Patrick Parnell, Vegetation Management**, is a Landscape Technician with Watershed Protection. Sean has a Bachelors of Science from TAMUCC and studied Arbor Culture, Aqua Culture, and Hydroponics. He creates custom jewelry and likes doing photography and tattoo arts in his free time.

**Thank you to the following for their support of *The Way of Water –Onion Creek*:** Jorge Morales and Austin Watershed Protection, Josiah Wooten, Brent Bellinger, Andrew Clamann, Ramesh Swaminathan, Sarah Hartley, Katie Coyne, Janae Spence and Susan Garnett; Austin Parks & Recreation; City of Austin Office of Sustainability; City of Austin Office of Resilience; Travis County Summer Youth Employment Program, EcoRise; Dove Springs Proud; Ofelia Zapata; Gloria Lugo; Planet Texas 2050; University of Texas Department of Theatre and Dance; Wesleyan University College of the Environment; Manuel Flores and Mom & Pops Popsicles; Jonica Moore Photography; Corey Haynes; Christian Nelson and Austin Public and Austin Film Society; Miscellaneous Rentals; and our hardworking volunteers.

## **ABOUT FORKLIFT DANCEWORKS**

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 sanitation workers, warehouse employees, and power lineworkers—our dances show the skilled movement and tell the often unheard stories of the people whose work sustains our daily lives. Through our performances we seek to create opportunities for more informed civic dialogue, deeper understanding of the jobs essential to urban life, and greater connection amongst citizens and across communities. Often presented in large-scale outdoor settings, our free performances consistently play to capacity, with audiences of 500-6,000 people. Partners have included Six Square—Austin’s Black Cultural District, Austin’s Fire, Sanitation, Power, and Parks & Recreation Departments, Huston-Tillotson University, Goodwill of Central Texas, Wesleyan University, and Japan’s Professional Women’s Baseball League. The company has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Dance Magazine*, BBC Radio, PBS, and NPR. A national leader in community-based artmaking, Forklift has received support from numerous funders, including Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the MAP Fund, The National Endowment for the Arts and the New England Foundation for the Arts. To learn more, visit [www.forkliftdanceworks.org](http://www.forkliftdanceworks.org).

### **Forklift Danceworks Board of Directors**

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Manuel Flores, Secretary

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### **About Austin Watershed Protection**

Watershed Protection protects lives, property and the environment of our community by reducing the impact of flood, erosion and water pollution. Austin is particularly vulnerable to these problems due to our torrential downpours and rocky landscape. We have a multi-tiered approach including a wide variety of ongoing programs such as Grow Green and the Lady Bird Lake Cleanup Crew; construction projects such as stormwater ponds and streambank restorations; and regulations to help prevent future problems.

## ***Forklift Danceworks Heavy Lifters Club***

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*Thank you to these donors who contribute gifts  
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***[forkliftdanceworks.org/heavy-lifters-club/](http://forkliftdanceworks.org/heavy-lifters-club/)***

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**Forklift Danceworks' performances are free  
due to the generosity of our community.**

Make a donation tonight and help keep us dancing.



Thank You!



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*This project is generously funded by Mid-America Arts Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the state arts agencies of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.*

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Ofelia Zapata



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A UT Grand Challenge

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September **22 & 23** at **8pm**

*the*  
**way of water**  
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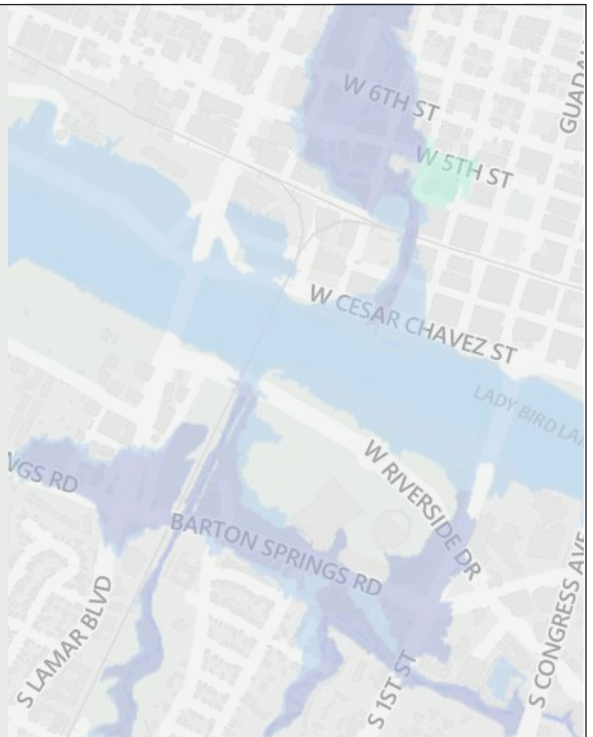


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To Keep our Water Clean



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the Poop



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Carry a scooper bag when you walk your dog.

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Use the baggie like a glove, scoop the poop, invert and seal the bag.

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