



# Dance for All

The mission of Capitol Movement, Inc. (CMI) is to build better lives through dance by partnering with community organizations to provide disadvantaged youth and underserved citizens the chance to participate in and patronize the arts in Washington, DC. CMI also creates opportunities for underprivileged DC area dancers to train and perform at the professional level. CMI represents dance in all its forms and styles as this transcends all boundaries and nurtures CMI's mission.



Stephanie Jojokian, CoFounder  
(photo by Anthony Vazquez)



Image Courtesy - Tony Powell

CMI co-founders Amber Yancey and Stephanie Jojokian decided in 2005 that it was time to help elevate the quality and integrity of dance training and opportunities in the District of Columbia by producing an annual dance concert titled "The Capitol Movement Project" (CMP). It was their dream to create an outlet for the DC dance community to train with and perform at the elite level. Now beginning its fourth season, CMI has become a multi-faceted organization. CMI's outreach includes dance scholarships, camps, classes, and workshops for disadvantaged schools and children, and arranging for DC residents of all ages to patronize CMI's annual dance concert free of charge. CMI's training program is unique in that it encourages dancers from all techniques to experience all forms of dance. CMI's performance company reflects this vision with a cast of more than 80 dancers, with ages ranging between 8 and 45, making it the largest and most diverse dance company and outlet for dancers in Washington, DC.

It is the dream of Capitol Movement, Inc. (CMI) to assist young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds via a scholarship program and training they can receive at CMI's Summer Camp Intensives, Summer Convention, and outreach classes. All of these are made possible through partnerships with 'DC Aftercare for All' and the 'Horizons at Maret School.'

To bring this dream to fruition, in 2005 Amber and Stephanie began hosting master classes, workshops, and auditions with choreographers from New York and Los Angeles including Darrin Henson, Liz Imperio, and Lee Martino, as well as locals like Adrain Bolton, Tony Powell, and Tim Roberts. They then commissioned the choreographers to create original works to give local dancers an opportunity to train with these professional artists. After months of auditions and rehearsals, these new works were performed at the 1st Annual Capitol Movement Project at the historic Lincoln Theatre in the heart of the U Street corridor.

CMI is fulfilling part of its mission by providing local dancers the opportunity to showcase their talents at major media events. On August 17, 2006, CMI company members had the honor of performing at the 25th Anniversary Gala for Radio One. The company was commissioned by Cathy Hughes, founder and owner of Radio One, to choreograph and perform with award-winning gospel harpist, Jeff Majors. CMI's company members were also invited to perform with jazz musician, Gerri Allen at the 2007 Congressional Black Caucus, and CMI was commissioned to perform the opening member for the CBC's Annual Gala. Since 2006 CMI has also coordinated and directed the NBA Washington Wizards Junior Dance Team during the basketball seasons. This group is now known as "Capital Kidz".

CMI's wide range of company classes are taught by its company members and directors and are open to the public. CMI represents dance in all its forms and styles as this transcends all boundaries and nurtures CMI's mission. Thus, CMI's company classes incorporate a full range of dance styles.

CMI is endlessly searching for rehearsal space for its various appearances, shows, and children's programs, as well as space to house company classes, workshops, and auditions. In addition, CMI is continuously seeking out opportunities to partner with community organizations, schools, and programs to further its mission of "Dance for All".



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Amber Yancey, Co-Founder  
(photography by Studio Diana)



Image Courtesy - Tony Powell