

## **safety & boundaries**

- Be aware of what your partners and other participants are communicating to you by using full body listening and paying attention to the multiple ways that someone can signal yes or no. **We are responsible for the safety of one another** on the dance floor and we all may decide when and if we choose to interact with others. Improvisational dancing can be a very physically and emotionally demanding practice. We are all interacting with dancers of varied skill, ability and experience.
- Practice awareness about how identity, background, and experience level can create complex dynamics that affect people's ability to proactively indicate or verbally say "no" to interactions. **Do not assume that people want to be touched or do contact in any specific way just because they showed up for this event.**
- Everyone has the right to step out of an exercise at any time, and break off contact with anybody at any time without having to give a reason for why. **It's always ok to say "No" or "Stop"**. You can always leave a dance or conversation, no apology needed. Sexual behavior, regardless of whether it is consensual or not, is not welcome.
- Discriminatory behaviors towards others including violence, sexual harassment or assault, or offensive comments related to sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, mental illness, physical appearance, body size, age, race, religion, nationality, lifestyle choices and practices, will not be tolerated at the festival. **Discriminatory behaviors could be grounds for being asked to leave the festival.**

## **focus & intention**

- We strive to cultivate an environment that centers dancing. **Therefore please keep social and casual conversation outside the dance space.** Feel free to remind others of this when they want to talk with you. **Please keep cell phone usage off the dance floor, and do not photograph or video other participants without their consent.** Please move interactions beyond focused movement to the side of the room - **the dance floor is a "no parking" zone.**
- Solos, duets, trios, quartets, and melees are all part of the greater dance of the whole room: enter dances with a spirit of attending to what is already there. The

floor is your first partner, and at all times, regardless of who is touching whom, **the whole room is in a dance together**. Observing the dance is a good way to participate in and support the space. It is also an excellent opportunity to learn.

- Though improvisational dancing is a practice involving sense perception, tactility and empathy, it is differentiated from sexual behavior. **Sexual behavior is not welcome in classes or jams at the festival.**

#### **diversity & dialogue**

- A jam is an evolving environment. We cannot ignore issues of disparity that color our practice, both in terms of who is or is not in the room, and in terms of power dynamics between the people dancing. Our intention is to foster awareness, accessibility, diversity, and dialogue. **If you experience or witness unsafe or harassing behavior, or something that just doesn't feel right, please contact the *Response Team* who will be attending each jam.**

#### **explore**

- There is no one way to dance or to improvise. **Explore. Experiment. Enjoy!**