



## **Jill Vasbinder Morrison**

### **Biography**

Jill Vasbinder Morrison, BA (Barnard College), MFA (SUNY Purchase), is a dancer, scholar, and community activist teaching dance studies at UMBC. She centers her research on the decolonization of Dance Studies courses, working to incorporate embodied knowledge and learning into the practice of traditional lecture format coursework. Her research examines the intersections of dance, open licensing, and copyright, questioning how historical practices of exclusion have brought us to this ambiguous place. Jill has presented at the Inclusion Imperative Symposium, DSA and MDEA annual conferences. Her article “There’s a long history of dances being pilfered for profit and TikTok is the latest battleground” was featured on the Conversation and is being adapted for Actively Learn. She led the Humanities Teaching Lab: Movement Relationships bring the concepts of Embodied Practice across disciplines. Her community organizing centers on equity in public education funding and policy, pandemic relief, food access and developing young leaders.

### **Statement of interest and intent**

I am interested in supporting the work of MDEA to further connect the dancers and educators in Maryland to each other, to their communities, and to opportunities for leadership. My personal and professional research is in creating diverse, equitable and inclusive spaces in the practice of

dance education and dance studies education. I am currently focusing on Open Access materials and appropriate attribution to artists and their work. I believe that I can bring this perspective and knowledge into the work of MDEA through this position to support the policies, practices and programs. To further support the MDEA mission, I have experience in non-profit arts administration, grant writing, and DEI training. I have taught in independent studios, community dance programs, and higher education, and have been artistic director of a local dance company, as well as, been assistant director of a university based community dance school. I feel this diverse range of experience, that is shared by many of MDEA memberships, will give me the range of understanding to fulfill this role with confidence and compassion.