

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Generating Ripples around the World:
Inspiring world dance event to raise consciousness about water crisis
Global Water Dances June 24, 2017**

On June 24th 2017, artists, environmentalists and community members in more than seventy cities around the globe will come together to celebrate, reflect and inspire solutions for our most beloved resource in Earth: Water.

Unequal Access

The United Nations has long recognized that access to fresh water is brutally unequal. Almost one billion people, roughly one person out of every 8, do not have access to clean water. On July 28, 2010, the General Assembly passed UN Resolution 64/292, The Right to Water and Sanitation, declaring that the United Nations: "Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights." The United Nation's figures show that unsafe water kills more people every year than all forms of violence, including war. As of 2015, about 1.8 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water and 2.4 billion people to improved sanitation facilities.

Pressure on water is rising, and action is urgent. Growing populations, more water-intensive patterns of growth, increasing rainfall variability, and pollution are combining in many places to make water one of the greatest risks to poverty eradication and sustainable development. Floods and droughts already impose huge social and economic costs around the world, and climate variability will make water extremes worse. If the world continues on its current path, projections suggest that the world may face a 40% shortfall in water availability by 2030. The consequences of such stress are local, transboundary and global in today's interconnected world.

In response to these facts and issues, a group of movement experts gathered in 2008 and developed a project to create awareness about water using a more effective medium of communication than the verbal one: the language of dance. The project took the name of "Global Water Dances". The template would be based on Marylee Hardenbergh's project, "One River Mississippi," which connected seven sites along the Mississippi River in the United States through movement, performing at the same time.

Global Water Dances was first launched in June 2011 and has been organized every other year since then. The Steering Committee, made up of Marylee Hardenbergh, Karen Bradley, Martha Eddy, Antja Kennedy, and Gretchen Dunn, used their professional network and were able to recruit choreographers from more than 60 cities from the six continents that shared their vision. They performed their dances at rivers, lakes, beaches, parks, pools and other places related to water, bringing audiences and performers together in a single universal dance. Choreographers are encouraged to couple with environmental education

organizations: through panel discussions, inviting scientists and environmentalists to give a speech, or organizing calls to action in the form of petitions, cleaning rivers or beaches, marches, and other forms of environmental activism. The performances are free of charge, so everybody has the opportunity to enjoy the performance.

Global Water Dances 2017 event

Global Water Dances, a project now housed at the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies*, is calling to dancers and choreographers around the world to create a dance about water in their own communities. “Making connections between local dancers and local organizations is powerful”, says Vannia Iburguen**, current Artistic Director of Global Water Dances.

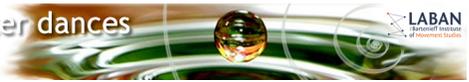
On June 24th, more than 90 cities will perform, including Delhi, Lima, Paris, Washington DC, Flint, Seoul, Tamale (Ghana), Mexico DF, Sydney, New York, Berlin, just to name a few, and they will be live streamed online. Each location has its own professional choreographer who will produce an outdoor performance next to water, a four-part site-specific performance. The first two parts will reflect the importance of water as seen by the local community. In the third section, about a thousand dancers in all locations will perform the same movements, and it will conclude with the audience joining part four, performing simple movements that reflects the water cycle.

Global Water Dances is an event that pairs art and environment in almost a hundred cities in six continents around the world. “We aspire to cultivate a new generation of socially aware artists, and to use dance to care about our planet and people”, affirms Iburguen. “I think dance is a powerful channel that connects human beings and makes visible what is invisible. Like water, we don’t see the importance of dance until we don’t have it in our lives.” This year, Global Water Dances is encouraging its “Water Ambassadors” to focus on big groups of dancers and audience members, although small-scale performances will also be featured and embraced. “There is a hidden power in a big group of people moving together with an intention”, she adds.

Ripples into Waves since 2011

What makes this project unique is the intersection of three areas: the geography (relationship of the local and global actions creates unity); the activism through environmental actions; and the creative arts that lead change and finding new solutions.

Global Water Dances has demonstrated effectiveness since first launched in 2011: many dance organizations are using the GWD model, and former participants continue to work on water activism through the arts: Dance Ecology (Taiwan), Caudal (Mexico), Rio Danza Comunitaria (Peru), Artichoke Dance (New York, USA), TREE (Bangladesh), GWD Bogota (Colombia), National Water Dance (Miami, Florida), Dance Alchemy (Baltimore, USA), Dancing Earth (USA/Canada), Marikina Theatre/Water Warriors (Philippines), Flood/Turn the tide (Hawaii), AgapeBelgium (Belgium), Eurolab (Germany), Moving on Center (New York, USA), Droplet Dance (Maine, USA), Global Site Performance (Minneapolis, USA), Artichoke Dance (New York, USA), among others. Also, there are many ecological agencies



giving their support, like Parks and Recreations (New York, USA), Sustainable Coasts Hawaii, Center for Global Environmental Organization, Surfrider Foundation, to name a few.

To find the closest Global Water Dances location, make a donation, volunteer, or join our mailing list, visit www.globalwaterdances.org

“Do what you can, do it with others, do it with passion” – Guy Rider, Chair of UN-Water, on the power of individuals to change the world.

* The Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies is a world-renowned nonprofit organization based in NYC with an extensive global network of Certified Movement Analysts (CMAs). Since 1978, when LIMS was founded by somatic educator, dancer, and pioneer dance therapist Irmgard Bartenieff, this women-led organization has been exploring and presenting traditional and new forms of dance, developing interdisciplinary research in Movement Studies, and educating professionals in the Laban Movement System, revealing the impact of movement understanding in cross-cultural interactions, and making a difference in the way people perform, communicate, learn and adapt to a fast and ever-changing world. Choreographer/CMA Regina Miranda is LIMS CEO and Director of Arts & Culture

** Vannia Ibarguen is an International Performing Arts Consultant, choreographer, and dancer. She has received awards in United States, Peru, Argentina, Cuba, Colombia, and the NDEO Excellence in Education Award (National Dance Education Organization). Vannia also directs her own dance troupe called VIDA dance, and organizes "Encuentros de Pura Danza", an annual contemporary dance festival held in Lima, Peru since 2012. Vannia holds a MFA in Dance from the University of Maryland.