Using Project: BECOMING as a model, Brown will speak to the broader work of Community Engagement projects across artistic disciplines and how the role of Social Entrepreneurship is used by artist to build community capital as a currently un-commodified reciprocal investment.

Sept 28
12:30 pm
Axinn 219

ENGAGING INVESTMENTS

part of the clifford symposium

on creativity and collaboration

Christal Brown
Associate Professor of Dance

Middlebury Center for SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
What is Community Engagement?
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*Community* describes the people and organizations that are related to a community arts education provider’s mission: students, parents, families, artists, partner organizations, schools, government agencies, and so on. *Engagement* describes an active, two-way process in which one party motivates another to get involved or take action—and both parties experience change. Mutual activity and involvement are the keys to community engagement.

Sometimes organizations interpret community engagement as collaboration, marketing to diverse audiences, or developing programs for underserved groups. While those are all worthy and necessary activities, an engaged community arts education provider does more. It promotes consistent community interaction that is a step beyond conventional programmatic partnerships. Consistent community engagement is not program based; it is part of organizational culture.

National Guild for Community Arts Education
Leveraging dance as a catalyst for social change & consistently seeking the broadest range of engagement possible has led UBW to train rigorously in dialogue facilitation, analyzing racism and its manifestations in group dynamics, and in the field of braincompatible dance education (a holistic practice rather than dance instruction as mimicry)—in addition to concert dance technique & performance.
Junebug Productions is a professional African American arts organization located in New Orleans, LA. Its mission is to create, produce, and present high quality theater, dance and music that inspire and support people who work for justice in the African American community and in the world-at-large.
THE LIZ LERMAN DANCE EXCHANGE

In choreographer Liz Lerman's view, no one is too old or too young to dance; no profession or calling is excluded. For more than 25 years, Lerman has used her innovative art to build community and encourage insight and healing. Her remarkable Dance Exchange has brought new vision to towns and cities across America, through participatory events that move all kinds of people - from shipyard workers to museum tour guides - to dance.
What is an Investment?
An investment is something done with the expectation of gain, that upon thorough analysis, has a high degree of security for the principal amount, as well as security of return, within an expected period of time.
You cannot guarantee the return on an investment that has free will.

The best we can do is to educate the commodity on the liabilities they face and hope they make the choices that yield gain for themselves and the communities they inhabit.
REBUILDING WHAT IS BROKEN

Creating a Culture of Engagement
Leveling the playing field in terms of information, access, and opportunity
Breaking down and exposing the perceived barriers between internal and external communities while keeping culture and tradition in tact
Prejudice is socialized; extends beyond race, class and gender into the reach of self definition

Strategies begin with dialogue
excavating personal and cultural truths and participating in an ethnographic and anthropologic process of uncovering, who are we, what makes us different, why are the differences valuable in our collective development, and how can we create equity