



Presently the curator of Audience Architects' Moving Dialogs series, **Baraka de Soleil** has been working within the live arts scene for the past two decades. Throughout his professional career, in addition to performing and creating original works, he has served as: a teaching artist for major organizations and institutions across the USA including The Brooklyn Academy of Music, Minnesota Center for Arts Education and Town Hall NYC; a consultant to independent artists, arts organizations and neighborhoods for the past 15 years; a curator of multi-disciplined exhibits that honor various cultural communities and legacies [such as Studies N Black for Links Hall, Brooklyn Arts Exchange & Patrick's Cabaret; Fry Bread & Chitlins for Intermedia Arts; and Intersections: Embracing the Spirit for MN Men of Color] for the past 12 years; and a facilitator of workshop processes that inspire creative flow and collaborative art-making nationally and internationally for the past 10 years in areas

including Chicago's Humboldt Park and Lakeview neighborhoods, Austin, TX, and Panama.

Baraka is the founder of D UNDERBELLY, an interdisciplinary network of artists of color. His poetics, reflections as an official blogger for the 2012 Chicago Dancing Festival can be found at [dunderbelly.wordpress.com](http://dunderbelly.wordpress.com). A newly named practitioner of the 'theatrical jazz aesthetic', his directing, performing, and creative endeavors speak to the expanse of contemporary performance, utilizing body-based techniques drawn from the African diaspora and post-modern tradition. For his choreographic work, he has been nominated and received the prestigious Katherine Dunham/ "Viv" AUDELCO Award for excellence in NY Black Theater. This past fall, Baraka developed a collaboration with Anthony Romero ["i don't know why i can't dance"] at Chicago Cultural Center. He presented a solo ["Step Into The Room"] through his curated evening, *Dance of Decay: Compositions of Decomposition*, for Dance Union. Access Living has commissioned a new solo dance for the upcoming Bodies of Work Festival.

Relocating to Chicago this past year, he has since joined on as consultant in audience and community engagement for The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, just prior to becoming the artist researcher/curator in dance for Chicago Artists Resource; has served as artistic associate for Insight Arts, curating a residency pilot project at Rumble Arts Center: A.I.R./R.I.A and co-produced/curated Reframe: A Gathering with Awilda Rodriguez Lora. As a moderator, he facilitated Difficult Conversations: Cultural Divides for Chicago Dancemakers Forum. Baraka de Soleil was recently appointed to the Cultural Advisory Council for The City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events.