

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan

 INAUGURAL SEASON  
**OPEN DOORS**  
CREATIVE ARTS SERIES

22  
23

# We welcome you to the inaugural season of the **Open Doors** **Creative Arts Series!**

The mission of the new Open Doors Creative Arts Series at First Presbyterian Church is to advance worship and community engagement through offerings that enrich, engage, and are inclusive of people from a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and identities. To that end we offer not just musical performances, but dance, art exhibits, and talks designed to complement and enhance the performance offerings.



OPEN  
DOORS  
CREATIVE ARTS SERIES

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EISENHOWER  
DANCE DETROIT



NOV 13 | 4 PM

THE PAUL KELLER  
JAZZ ENSEMBLE



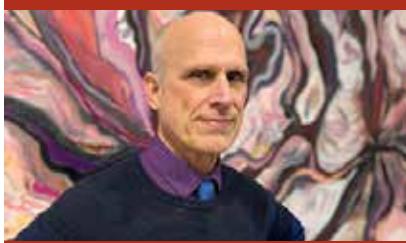
JAN 22 | 4 PM

EARTH'S BREATH AND BEAUTY  
ERIN PITTS, VIOLIST



APRIL 23 | 4 PM

DANCE UP THE WALLS:  
PAINTINGS IN MOTION  
PETER SPARLING



OCT - DEC

THE ARTWORK OF  
JOHN ONYE LOCKARD



JAN - MAR

THE CARTOGRAPHY OF LOSS  
LESLIE SOBEL

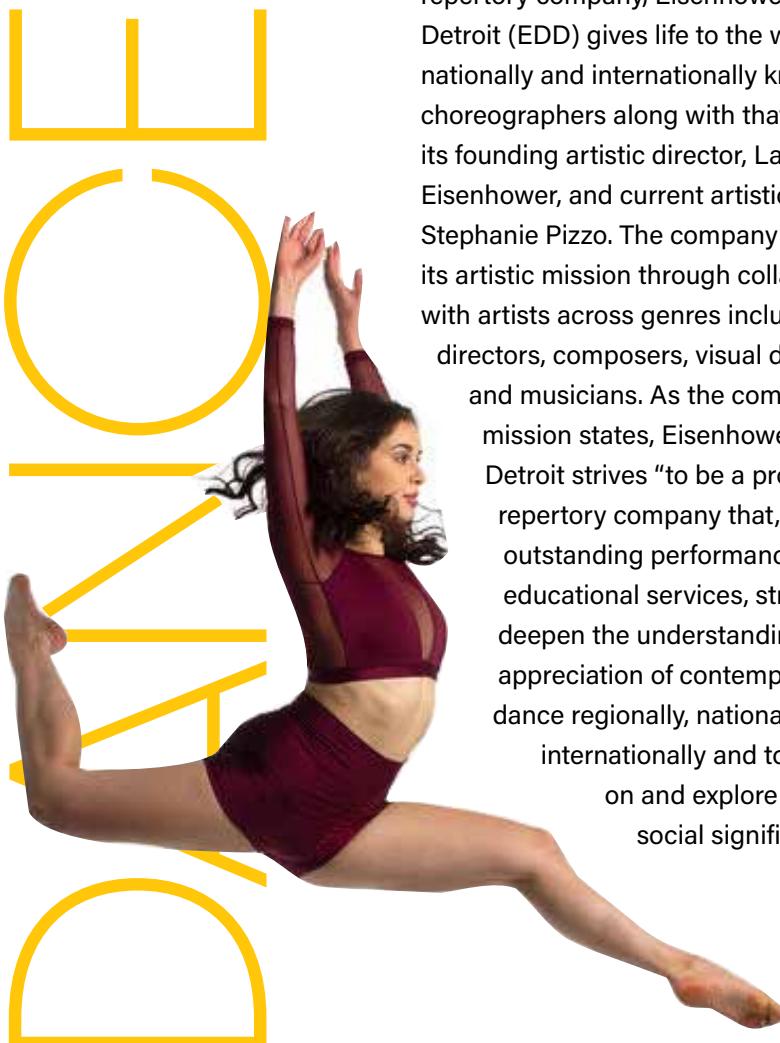


APRIL - JUNE

# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2022

## EISENHOWER DANCE DETROIT

4:00 pm | Sanctuary



Moving into its 31st season as a professional contemporary dance repertory company, Eisenhower Dance Detroit (EDD) gives life to the work of nationally and internationally known choreographers along with that of its founding artistic director, Laurie Eisenhower, and current artistic director, Stephanie Pizzo. The company continues its artistic mission through collaborations with artists across genres including film directors, composers, visual designers, and musicians. As the company's mission states, Eisenhower Dance Detroit strives "to be a professional repertory company that, through outstanding performances and educational services, strives to deepen the understanding and appreciation of contemporary dance regionally, nationally, and internationally and to reflect on and explore issues of social significance."



EDD engages in collaborations with arts organizations including the Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings, the Rackham Symphony Choir, the Immigrant Suns, Michigan Opera Theatre, the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, the Toledo Opera, and the Detroit Institute of Arts to name a few. Since its inception, Eisenhower Dance Detroit has grown from a small pick-up company into a thirteen-dancer roster employing nine professional company dancers and four apprentices. These artists have joined the EDD family from regions across the country.

Considered one of the finest contemporary dance companies in the Midwest, EDD has been hailed for its artistry from sources including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Hour Magazine*, and *Detroit Free Press*. Eisenhower Dance Detroit presents an annual Detroit Metro performance series and tours nationally and internationally. In 2015, 2017, and 2018, EDD was featured at the Ladek Zdroj International Dance Festival in Poland and Tel Aviv, Israel. In 2019, the company performed to a standing ovation at the iconic dance mecca, Jacob's Pillow, in Becket, Massachusetts.

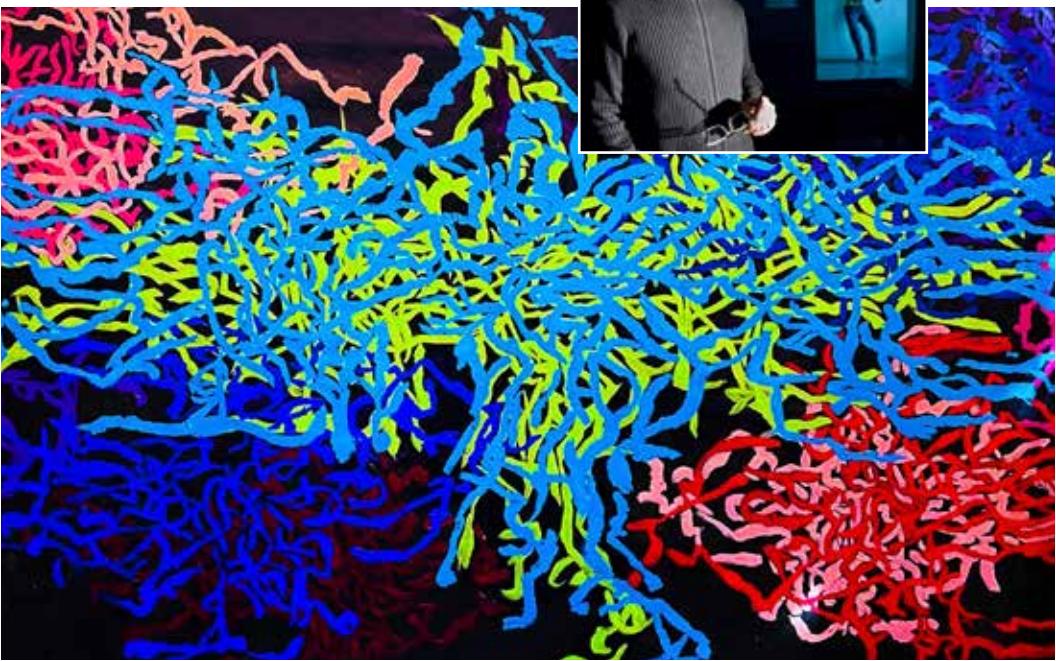
# OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2022

## **DANCE UP THE WALLS: PAINTINGS IN MOTION**

**PETER SPARLING**

Social Hall

Peter Sparling is the U-M Rudolf Arnheim Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Dance. A native of Detroit and graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and The Juilliard School, Sparling was a member of the José Limón Dance Company and principal dancer with Martha Graham Dance Company before returning to Michigan in 1984. He served as chair of the U-M Department of Dance, directed Dance Gallery/Peter Sparling Dance Company from 1993–2008 and was recognized with the 1998 Governor's Michigan Artist Award. A writer, video artist, and painter, his screen dances have been featured at numerous international film festivals. His paintings have been exhibited in three solo exhibits and group shows throughout Michigan.





**FRIDAY,  
OCTOBER 28, 2022**

**ARTIST RECEPTION AND  
TALK BY PETER SPARLING**

**7:00 - 9:00 pm | Social Hall**

The opening reception for the Dance Up the Walls: Paintings in Motion exhibit will occur on Friday, October 28, and will include a conversation with Sparling and a silent auction of nine new paintings of the Eisenhower Dance Detroit dancers.

# JANUARY 22, 2023

## THE PAUL KELLER JAZZ ENSEMBLE

4:00 pm | Sanctuary

String bassist, composer, arranger, educator, and bandleader Paul Keller is a familiar friend of First Presbyterian Church. Paul has expertly led the jazz bands for our summertime Jazz Vespers services. Paul Keller is well known as a long-time hero of the Ann Arbor/Detroit jazz scene. He leads his Paul Keller Orchestra and his quartet every week at Zal Gaz Grotto. Recently, Paul has had a busy travel schedule; he performed with guitar superstar John Pizzarelli at the famous Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London, England and seven concerts throughout Portugal. Just since 2022, Keller has performed with pianist Tamir Hendelman, saxophonist Harry Allen, vibraphonist Chuck Redd, guitarist Randy Napoleon and a host of other national jazz stars all over the USA. Even with all this extraordinary success and world-wide acclaim, Paul remains humble and grateful for his life as a local jazz musician and family man. He always brings great expertise and verve to all his performances. He also brings

the best musicians to play with him. Today's Paul Keller Quintet includes trombonist Terry

Kimura, pianist Ellen Rowe, drummer David Alvarez, and another familiar face, Sarah D'Angelo playing clarinet and singing.



# MUSIC



## JANUARY - MARCH 2023

**FROM THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL AND  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF WASHTENAW COUNTY**  
**JOHN ONYE LOCKARD**

Social Hall

John Onye Lockard's career spanned more than a half-century of painting, teaching, mentoring and exhibiting. He was a powerful and inspiring artist, muralist, master painter, educator, historian and story teller. His works may be found in many collections all around the world. Some of Lockard's murals and portraits are at Wayne State University, University of Michigan, Central State University and the Charles Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. Lockard was professor emeritus at Washtenaw Community College where he taught life drawing and portraiture for over 40 years. He was also a lecturer and founding faculty member of the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies at the UM. At the time of his death, he was completing a series of books for students, emerging artists and art appreciators encompassing more than 50 years of insights in the arts.



**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023**

**EARTH'S BREATH AND BEAUTY**

***ERIN PITTS, VIOLIST***

**4:00 pm | Sanctuary**

Atlanta native Erin C. Pitts is a passionate and dedicated violist whose goal is to promote the arts through solo, chamber music, performance, and teaching. A graduate of The Juilliard School, she was a proud recipient of a Kovner Fellowship, holding the fellowship for six years. Erin is currently pursuing a secondary master's degree under the tutelage of Lars Anders Tomter at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, Norway, having previously studied with Heidi Castleman, Hsin-Yun Huang, Cynthia Phelps, Misha Amory, Marilyn Seelman, and Manuel Díaz among others.

At age 15 she made her concerto debut with the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra as first prize winner of the concerto competition. She also served as a Principal Violist in the National Youth Orchestra of the United States, sponsored by Carnegie Hall.

Participation in summer music festivals and masterclasses has included Music Academy of the West, where she studied with the Takács Quartet in the prestigious String Quartet Seminar (2016, 2017). She was selected as an International Program Artist at Music@Menlo in 2018. Erin attended the renowned Verbier Festival Academy in Switzerland, in addition to the International Music Seminar at Prussia Cove, England, studying with Lars Anders Tomter and Thomas Riebl (2019). Most recently, Erin performed at the Krzyzowa Festival, an international chamber music event, bringing curated chamber music to Poland.

Other awards and engagements include the Samuel Fordis Competition, Johansen International Strings Competition, and American Viola Society Competition. Erin was featured on NPR's "From the Top" in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Pitts has participated in the First Hindemith International Viola Competition in Munich, Germany, and the 5th Tokyo International Viola Competition.

Erin plays as a substitute with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. Aside from playing the viola, Erin worked as the Government Relations intern for three years at Carnegie Hall. She also enjoys exploring cities and re-creating memorable restaurant foods and cocktails at home for her friends.



# APRIL - JUNE 2023

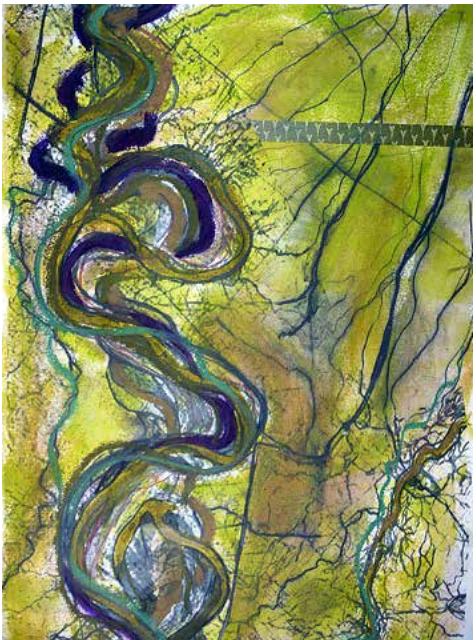
## THE CARTOGRAPHY OF LOSS

**LESLIE SOBEL**

Social Hall

Ann Arbor based multi-media artist Leslie Sobel's work addresses water and climate change, including the pollution, flooding, and environmental damage to our continental watersheds and the increase in harmful algae blooms in Lake Erie and other bodies of water — the overgrowth of microscopic algae or algae-like bacteria in fresh, salt, or brackish waters. As the daughter of two scientists, Sobel is finely attuned to scientific systems and often collaborates with scientists in the field. By combining components of both science and art in her work, she provides multiple perspectives on her subject matter.





Sobel has an MFA from the University of Hartford and BFA from the University of Michigan and has done the coursework for master's degree in interdisciplinary technology at Eastern Michigan University. A former tech entrepreneur, she uses digital tools as well as painting and printmaking in her work. She recently finished a residency with the remote sensing company Planet Labs as well as teaching climate scientists in the field in Alaska and is preparing for an artist-in-residence in the Arctic Circle aboard a tall ship.

ART



22  
23

First Presbyterian Church  
1432 WASHTENAW AVENUE  
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104  
[www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)

## DANCE

### **Eisenhower Dance Detroit**

Sunday, November 13, 2022  
4:00 pm | Sanctuary

## MUSIC

### **The Paul Keller Jazz Ensemble**

Sunday, January 22, 2023  
4:00 pm | Sanctuary

### **Earth's Breath and Beauty**

***Erin Pitts, Violist***

Sunday, April 23, 2023  
4:00 pm | Sanctuary

## ART

### **Dance Up the Walls: Paintings in Motion**

***Peter Sparling***

October–December, 2022 | Social Hall

### **African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County**

***John Onye Lockard***

January–March 2023 | Social Hall

### **The Cartography of Loss**

***Leslie Sobel***

April–June 2023 | Social Hall

# Our Vision

The Open Doors Creative Arts Series at First Presbyterian Church will be informed by the following guiding principles:

- **Celebrate God's creation** using a variety of forms of creative expression, i.e., music, art, dance, spoken word, and other means of engagement
- **Honor our roots** as a religious institution and seek to emphasize the Glory of God—in its infinite manifestations—in our offerings
- **Showcase local talent**—from within the church and beyond—appreciating the variety of talent that exists in SE lower Michigan
- **Champion true collaboration and inclusion** by not only extending invitations to individuals and groups outside the church but by providing a voice in all aspects of the collaboration
- **Extend the boundaries** of our existing programming, allowing others' talents and experiences to enrich those of our own congregation
- **Serve and represent** the breadth of the First Presbyterian community, i.e., children and families, teens, young professionals, and students as well as those who would traditionally be drawn to a church concert
- **Become a robust actual and virtual sanctuary**, welcoming and accepting all people: broadly inclusive, hospitable, fully accessible, and cultivating diversity.

The Open Doors Creative Arts Series shall reflect the stated organizational goals of the Mission and Vision Statements of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor and future policy yet to emerge.



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