

# ARTICLE

## **Kalamazoo Resident nominated for ‘Guvvy’ award**

**By Kelly Bacon**

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Cori Terry, founder and artistic director of Wellspring Cori Terry and Dancers Professional Modern Dance Company was named by ArtServe Michigan as one of three honorees across the state to potentially win the prestigious Michigan Lifetime Achievement Award. The Award will be presented at the Detroit Institute of Arts on Nov. 13 at the Guvvy’s Gala.

The Guvvy’s, or Governor’s Award for Arts and Culture, is Michigan’s highest honor for the arts. “I try to be as diverse as I can, bringing each piece to life,” Terry said.

Terry grew up in New York City and started dancing at age three. There, she was a member of the Erick Hawkins Dance Company. Terry moved to Kalamazoo where she taught dance at Western Michigan University in increments for two to three years.

“This is a very fabulous recognition of the dance company,” Terry said.

She founded Wellspring in 1981. In 1997 Terry was the main focus in a PBS documentary titled, “The Birth of a Dance.”

“I’ve known her for a little over 30 years and I’ve watched her professional growth.” said Judah Gesmundo, president of the Wellspring Board of Directors. “She’s a highly deserving candidate for this award.”

A 28-year resident and dancer of Kalamazoo, Terry had choreographed over 70 major works and has received numerous awards including the Kalamazoo Community Medal of Arts in 1987, the Women In Town award in 2006, and the Community Advocacy Award in 2008. Terry also received two choreography grants from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

“As an advocate of modern dance, she has done a lot for West Michigan,” Gesmundo said.

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Terry’s fellow nominees include fashion artist Chris Roberts-Antieau of Manchester and visual artist Lois Teicher of Dearborn. The awards ceremony will start at 8 p.m. The Gala is expected to have a total of up to 1,000 guests, and will be followed by a special student event on Nov. 14. The event will emphasize creativity in the arts to middle and high school students.

Wellspring Professional Modern Dance Company holds performances twice a year at the Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center. Their next Kalamazoo performance will be on the weekends of Nov. 14 and Nov. 20. Tickets can be reserved through Miller Auditorium.

The Wellspring Company of eight fully professional dancers instruct dance lessons for any member of the community who is interested in getting involved.

“There are a lot of people who told me I could never do this, but I’ve had perseverance and the determination to sustain it [the dance company] for all these years,” Terry said.