



*The Rolling Dance/Mobility Chair Project*

In a place where assistive mobility technology and creative performing arts innovation collide, Merry Lynn Morris is re-designing possibilities with *The Rolling Dance/Mobility Chair Project*. The project explores ongoing research about innovative assistive technology for physically integrated dancers by means of a highly adaptive wheelchair. In Morris's publication, "Mobilizing Possibilities: Dance, Disability and Technology" (2015), she explains in detail the relevance of specialized performance assistive technology for dancers. She also expands on her motivations and personal shared experiences with individuals with physical disability and what the project has accomplished thus far. Many collaborators including: physical therapists, kinesiologists, and engineers,

balanced with dancers of varying abilities have worked together to design and test the chair. Unlike most wheelchairs used by adaptive sports athletes or personal wheelchair users, *The Rolling Dance/Mobility Chair's* design was conceived from the desire for a dancer's wheelchair to display dynamic movement qualities and texture in a multidimensional spatial range. Using patented technology, the chair is guided by smart phone user-interface control with simple tilting actions and the chair itself is equipped with seat rotation, footholds for partnering, adjustable height, and omnidirectional wheels. In her publication, Morris not only invites the performing arts community to re-imagine how dancers can utilize technology like *The Rolling Dance/Mobility Chair* to enlighten our experience of choreographic artistry, but also demonstrates a commitment to the long-term health concerns of wheelchair users. For a video of this kinetic, cutting-edge wheelchair in action and details about the project, check out her article!

Morris, Merry L., "Mobilizing Possibilities: Dance, Disability and Technology" (2015). Theatre and Dance Faculty Publications. 13.

[https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/the\\_facpub/13](https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/the_facpub/13)

WomenArts. (2017, January 26). *Merry Lynn Morris invents a wheelchair fit for dancing* [Photograph]. WomenArts. <https://www.womenarts.org/2017/01/26/merry-lynn-morris-invents-a-wheelchair-fit-for-dancing/>