

Source: Detroit Institute of Arts, http://www.dia.org/portrait_studio/wall.html#



The Jitterbugs, Jit Happens at the DIA, 2014

Johnnie (middle): “Can I tell you about the word Jit? Today Jit is the newer generation associated strictly with dance, but no. Back when we were performing it was a criminal who was a jitterbug; who would beat you up; who would steal and they refer to us in that neighborhood, they said there are them jitterbugs. I’m not ashamed to say we were criminal. But dancing took us away from being criminals. And now, after these generations, when they think Jit they think dance. But the music actually is the real origin, you know, groups like Average Whiteband with Schoolboy Crush—ching-a-ling, ding-a-ling-ling, it born the group and it formed us. From songs like Larry Graham and the Graham Central Station—it was era – that was the era.” **[Tracey interjects]** “Rehearsing, after rehearsing, I’d say the origin was those baggy pants and that music.” And that music.

Tracey (right): “Funk music. You know, back then they didn’t have CDs and so we put, the records – put the needle on the record and prayed nobody bumped into it while we was performing cause the record would scratch and then you can’t get that back. So, the era was a different generation.”