



AMPLIFY

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you Dance Place's annual report for the 2019-2020 AMPLIFY Season. During a year that has been unlike any other, this report reflects Dance Place's swift responsiveness to create new modes of programming that enabled us to continue serving our community in the midst of a global pandemic, the effects of which were further compounded by continued racial injustice and economic insecurity

across the country. Prior to the temporary closure of our physical building in March 2020, Dance Place's AMPLIFY Season consisted of our signature broad and inclusive programming that brought local, national, and international dance artists, audience members, youth and adult students, and our neighbors in Brookland/Edgewood together in our space.

We were heartbroken that we had to cancel or reschedule all remaining live performances in our 2019-2020 AMPLIFY Presentation Series, our youth programs, adult dance classes, and artist residencies this past March, but we felt that the health and safety of our community must be prioritized. While losing nearly all earned income during the pandemic, I am proud that Dance Place has been able to support our administrative staff, teachers, and artists. Since March 2020, we have maintained the entire staff on full salary without any furloughs or layoffs, paid all affected artists in our AMPLIFY Presentation Series 50% - 100% of their fees (this reflects a range of fees for postponed, canceled, or virtualized presentations), and paid all youth and adult class teachers.

The conclusion of the AMPLIFY Season also

marked the end of Dance Place Board Chair Denise Rollins' three-year term. I am so grateful to have worked with Denise these past three years. I celebrate her incredible leadership and lasting connection with Dance Place that dates back to when Dance Place was located in Adams Morgan. Thank you Denise for your incredible support.

Along with my appreciation of Denise, I am also grateful to all of the artists, students, youth, families, donors, neighbors, staff, and board members who make our work possible. Dance Place's current and future outlook remains strong, and I am looking forward to the day when we can all congregate in our space once again.

Wishing you continued health, safety, and dance,

Christopher

CHRISTOPHER K. MORGAN
EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Dance Place community members,

As I reflect on our 2019/2020 AMPLIFY Season, I recall the anticipation and excitement as Dance Place kicked off its 39th year with tremendous fanfare. In September 2019, we were poised to present 36 weekends of performances, festivals, and showings by D.C. area, national and international dance companies; continue to feature talented performers with a strong community-based presence; and to robustly engage with educational institutions, our neighborhood, Washington D.C., and the larger national landscape. Halfway through the season, the crisis hit. Dance Place, along with every other arts organization, had to shutter its doors. I had no idea that my last year as Board Chair would end amid such upheaval. I am heartened that we have a phenomenal board leadership team in new Co-Chairs Janice Marks and Adam Weers, who will lead Dance Place into a positive future.

Dance Place's strength throughout the AMPLIFY Season solidified our role as an anchor institution in our neighborhood and city and marked us as a leader in the national field of dance. As we assessed our status during the closures caused by the pandemic, we clarified our commitment to identify and address systemic racism in our work while raising our voice for social justice. We met with our staff, community representatives, and

artists to get a better understanding of how we could become more proactive and actively model the change we desired. Our annual Board-Staff meeting in July 2020 focused on social justice and inclusion, listening to our staff express their frustrations and recommend actions. We have been serious about this undertaking and the need to address the frustrations of our community and function as a source of renewal and renaissance.

Under the astute and dynamic leadership of our Executive Artistic Director, Christopher K. Morgan, Dance Place's finances have remained consistent and strong during an extremely difficult year. This was due, in part, to receiving a Paycheck Protection Program Loan (that was fully forgiven), and obtaining a highly competitive National Endowment for the Arts CARES Act Relief Grant (only 25% of the 3,200 nationwide applicants were funded). Our stability throughout the health crisis and its economic impact have been incredibly meaningful for the youth, artists, audiences, and staff that connect with Dance Place.

I am writing these comments after the January 6, 2021 assault on the citadel of our democracy: The US Capitol. I and many other Americans were appalled at the brazen attempt to nullify the votes of Americans. I am, however, both chastened and inspired by the words of our Young Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman:

"And so we lift our gaze, not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another. We seek harm to none and harmony for all. Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true. That even as we grieved, we grew. That even as we hurt, we hoped. That even as we tired, we tried."

Wishing you all well,

Denise

DENISE ROLLINS
BOARD CHAIR



MISSION: Founded in 1980, Dance Place builds a community of artists, audiences and students through high quality performances, commissions, training and educational programs. We are committed to enriching the field of dance locally, nationally and internationally. Our thriving arts campus serves as an anchor in our Brookland/Edgewood neighborhood in Washington, DC.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Kicked off our AMPLIFY season with Ben Levine's *I made this dance and nobody cares but you*

SEP 2019

AXIS Dance Company hosted a teacher training on leading supportive and inclusive physically integrated dance classes

NOV 2019



Photo credit: Jonathan Hsu

Weekly prizes were given out as part of our Adult Class Raffle Challenge

JAN 2020

We transitioned to virtual adult and youth classes and held our first virtual presentation of PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER

MAR 2020

Latinx Roundtable with DMV artists Colette Krogol, Juliana Ponguta, Gabriel Mata, & Adrian Valdivia streamed on our digital platforms

MAY 2020

Project ChArma presented *TIDES*, our first live-streamed virtual presentation

JULY 2020



National touring artist Charles O. Anderson visited our campus and held workshops with our Junior Staff and community artists

OCT 2019

Coyaba Dance Theater's Annual *Kwanzaa Celebration* took place

DEC 2019



Cie Hervé KOUBI's United States debut of *Boys Don't Cry* was featured in *The Washington Post*

FEB 2020

Our shift to all-virtual programming was featured on Washington D.C. PBS affiliate WETA's ARTS program

APR 2020

SOLE Defined hosted the first of their live conversations and town halls addressing systemic racism in the dance field

JUNE 2020



34 campers performed in the end of summer virtual Camp Showcase with Artistic Direction by Mama Sylvia Soumah

AUG 2020

PRESENTATION SERIES

As DC's foremost presenter of movement arts, Dance Place is a lynchpin of dance in the Metro DC area. The 2019-2020 AMPLIFY Season's curatorial vision was rooted in the organization's values of breadth, support, and equity. Dance Place is part of a diverse community, and we crafted our AMPLIFY Season to reflect that reality, where any person can come to our building and see themselves reflected on stage or in the studio. Between September 2019 and March 2020, we presented 22 weekends of live work by 41 companies, including 5 national and 2 international touring artists. Of the companies contracted for the AMPLIFY Season, 65% were led by artists of color and 57% were women-led.

By amplifying the voices of these artists, Dance Place provided audiences with the chance to hear new stories, reflect on their perspective, and connect with those around them. Season highlights include 3 new commissions by Artist in Residence SOLE Defined and Carla Fund recipients Baakari Wilder and Orange Grove Dance, as well as the US premiere of Cie Hervé KOUBI's *Boys Don't Cry*, pictured on the cover of this report in a photo by Jonathan Hsu.

Cover Photo credit: Cie Hervé KOUBI by Jonathan Hsu

PRESENTATION SERIES CONTINUED... We were devastated that we had to cancel and/or postpone the remaining 31 performances in our AMPLIFY Season at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. Despite this, several artists, including Heart Stück Bernie, PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER, Unit Souzou, and Christopher K. Morgan & Artists, chose to present virtual engagements of their work in late spring, reaching 1,211 viewers across the globe. Dance Place also remained committed to supporting artists financially throughout this public health crisis, paying all artists whose presentation was affected by the pandemic 50% to 100% of their contracted fees, depending on whether the performance was cancelled, postponed, or virtualized.

These statistics reflect our in-person programming prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

22

WEEKENDS

42

PERFORMANCES, SHOWINGS & MORE

7

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL TOURING ARTISTS

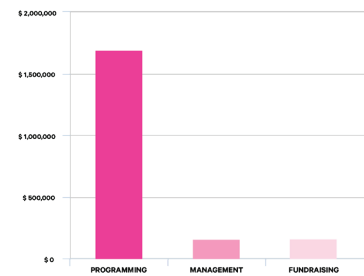
40%

WOMEN-LED COMPANIES

53%

COMPANIES LED BY PERSONS OF COLOR

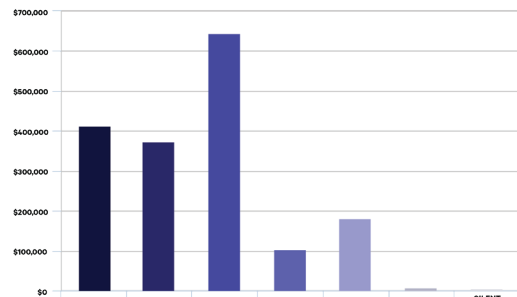
EXPENSES*



TOTAL \$2,009,205*

*Total expense accounts for \$147,855 in non-cash depreciation, which is allocated across all three expense categories.

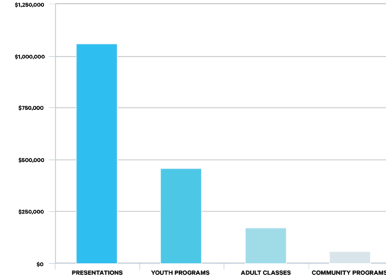
INCOME BY SOURCE



TOTAL \$1,894,149

*Does not include one-time Paycheck Protection Program loan \$168,605

PROGRAMMING EXPENSES



TOTAL \$1,680,086

ARTIST SUPPORT SERVICES

Support for dancemakers at all stages of their careers and every stage of the creative process remained a cornerstone of Dance Place's service to artists in the 2019-2020 Season, as we sought to provide flexible, nonlinear opportunities that gave artists freedom to move from one support structure to another as best serves their vision.

In February 2020, Dance Place hosted San Francisco-based Patrick Makuakāne, pictured right, as an Alan M. Kriegsman Creative Resident, during which he received a week of focused time for creative research and the development of new work. Five local dance artists presented early-stage choreographic ideas through our Works In Progress (WIP) Series, which brings dancemakers and audiences together to learn about the creative process, share feedback, and participate in facilitated discussion.

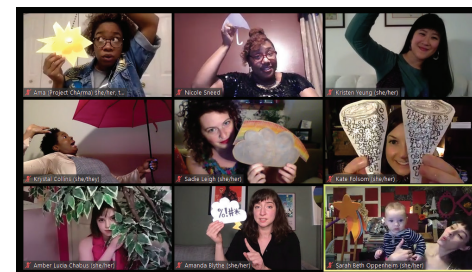
"In my almost 35 years as a choreographer, I have never experienced a residency. The idea of a week-long residency, where one is financially supported and creatively stimulated, is not part of our cultural landscape or hula director dialogue." - Patrick Makuakāne



Photo credit: Jonathan Hsu

ARTIST SUPPORT AT A GLANCE:

- 3 RESIDENT COMPANIES:** CHRISTOPHER K. MORGAN & ARTISTS, COYABA DANCE THEATER, AND REVISION DANCE COMPANY
- 2 ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE:** HEART STÜCK BERNIE (pictured left) AND SOLE DEFINED
- 2 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:** CULTURE SHOCK DC AND DC CASINEROS
- 1 ALAN M. KRIEGSMAN RESIDENCY:** PATRICK MAKUAKĀNE
- OVER 680 HOURS OF FREE REHEARSAL SPACE PROVIDED TO DMV ARTISTS BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2019 AND MARCH 2020**
- 2 WORKS IN PROGRESS (WIP) SHOWINGS** THROUGHOUT THE SEASON



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Dance Place believes in the transformative power of the arts and education to create strong critical thinkers and connect us to the wider world. Through our youth and adult dance classes in modern, hip-hop, African, Cuban, tap, ballet, and more, we provide students of all ages with daily opportunities to develop their artistic voices and refine their technical training. Throughout the 2019-2020 Season, we offered both in-person and virtual dance classes via Zoom, Facebook Live, and Vimeo to 7,459 adults and 4,066 youth. In order to foster equitable access to arts education, we provided \$93,798 worth of aid to youth and adult class students, ensuring participation for all regardless of finances.

Dance Place's Education staff upheld their commitment to helping young people realize the creative possibilities in their lives with performances, dance instruction, academic enrichment, life skills, and job training, offered through our Energizers youth development programs. These three programming initiatives (the Energizers Afterschool Club, Junior Staff, and Creative Arts Camp) seek to empower the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and creators. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Energizers programs moved into the digital space for the second half of the season, resulting in our first ever fully virtual Creative Arts Camp. To ensure that all youth were able to participate in camp, we provided technology to 20 families so that they could access the program's content, which included installing six Wi-Fi hotspots to provide internet connections where there had previously been none.

27

CHILDREN IN AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

48

TEENAGERS IN JUNIOR STAFF PROGRAM

34

CAMPERS IN ENERGIZERS CREATIVE ARTS CAMP

14

INTERNS IN ARTS ADMINISTRATION, TECHNICAL THEATER, AND EDUCATION

4,066

KIDS ON THE MOVE AND VIRTUAL YOUTH DANCE STUDENTS

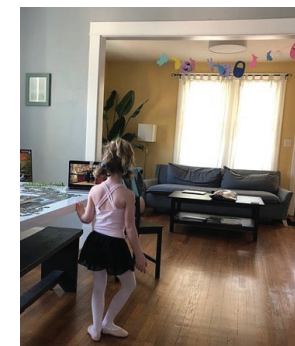
7,459

ADULT DANCERS ATTENDED IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL DANCE CLASSES

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, 472 students from area schools experienced the magic of movement and live performance through our interactive, low-cost on-site performances. 372 children and families participated in our Family Series initiative, which provides youth under 12 who are accompanied by an adult with free tickets to select matinee performances. In total, we subsidized an estimated \$41,000 worth of free and discounted tickets to families and the community.



Photo credit: Jonathan Hsu



BIG NEWS! DANCE PLACE CAMPUS EXPANSION

In March, Dance Place purchased a \$1.55 million newly constructed two-unit condo building on 8th St. NE, just steps away from our main building, to be used as housing for our internship program. With 3,125 total square feet of living space, the property includes seven bedrooms and six bathrooms, as well as a parking space, front yard, and 400-square-foot rooftop deck.

Though we had previously rented two different properties for intern housing, Dance Place has a long history as a property owner in our Brookland/Edgewood neighborhood following the purchase of our current building in 1986 and its complete renovation in 2014. In addition to continuing this tradition of holding property, our new housing will greatly bolster the organization's long-term financial stability and will centralize all interns at a single location, which has been a significant concern in recent years.

We were thrilled to welcome our summer interns as the building's first residents in May!



Photo credit: Jonathan Hsu

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With a wide range of community-centered programmatic offerings, Dance Place has long served as an anchor for the artistic community of Brookland/Edgewood that we proudly call home. Our free community programs, consisting of dance classes, performances, and arts workshops, invigorate our neighborhood and facilitate opportunities for connection. In June 2020, we launched Free Form, a new series of free virtual events that was streamed on our website and social media channels and included conversations, performances, classes, screenings, and more. Highlights from Free Form include our second annual Dance on Film series, the virtual adaptation of Project ChArma's *TIDES*, and *SOLE Defined Live!*, a collection of live-streamed conversations responding to the recent and historic violence against Black people and systemic racism in our dance community that reached 9,382 global viewers. In a time when we were not able to physically share space with our Dance Place family, Free Form allowed us to stay moving, engage in conversation, and thrive in community with one another.

Prior to the onset of the pandemic, we continued to provide our signature in-school educational programs, residencies, and performances to schoolchildren throughout the district. Dance Place's teaching artists taught 316 classes for 866 students, while 160 audience members experienced a live dance performance by ReVision dance company through two in-school presentations.



We would like to extend a huge thank you to our 22 Community and School Partners who made this and all of our other work possible through the course of the AMPLIFY Season.

2019-2020 SEASON COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- American University
- Bridges Public Charter School
- Center City Public Charter School - Brightwood Campus
- CityDance
- Dance Exchange
- DC Bilingual Public Charter School
- DC Prep - Edgewood Campus
- Elsie Whitlow Stokes Public Charter School
- Embassy of France
- Gallaudet University
- Howard University
- Inspired Teaching Demonstration School
- John Burroughs Elementary School
- Lee Montessori Public Charter School
- Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute
- Mary McLeod Bethune Day Academy Public Charter School
- Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School - J.F. Cook Campus
- River Terrace Education Campus
- St. Coletta of Greater Washington
- Sousa Middle School
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University Park Elementary School



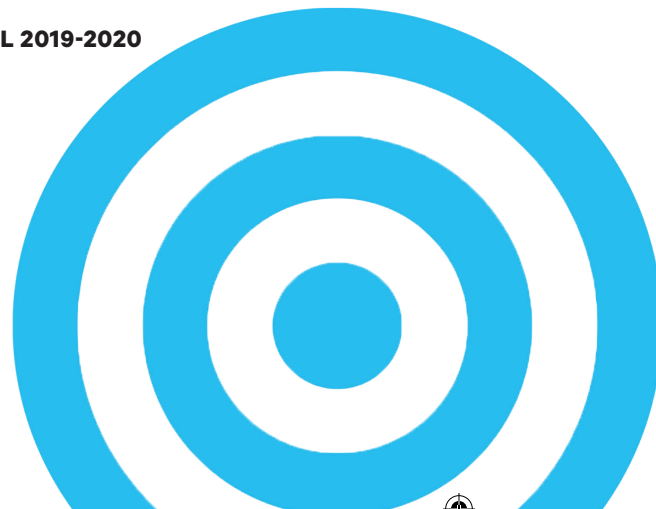
Photo credit: Hannah Weissler

DANCE PLACE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020:

- Denise Rollins, Chair
- Jannes Waples Gibson, Vice Chair
- Adam Weers, Treasurer
- Julia Johnson, Secretary
- Carol Bradwell
- Louisa Buatti
- Joseph Gangloff
- Makila James
- Maura Keefe
- Janice Marks
- Christopher K. Morgan, ex-officio
- Rhea Norwood
- Nexus Russ
- Erin Skinner
- Amanda Sweet
- Michael Walton

ADVISORY COUNCIL 2019-2020

- Edward Apple
- Richard Bernardi
- Elinor Coleman
- Jim Epstein
- Nancy Garruba
- Chris Hornig
- Lesa McLaughlin
- David Sparkman



DANCE PLACE STAFF 2019-2020

- Amanda Blythe
- Amber Lucia Chabus
- Sarah Chapin
- Hannah Church
- Krystal Collins
- Emily Crews
- Ava Delasanta
- Sarah Greenbaum
- Jonathan Hsu
- Anastasia Johnson
- Faryn Kelly
- Sadie Leigh
- Erin Lenahan
- Ben Levine
- Christopher K. Morgan
- Shannon Quinn
- Alex Roberts
- Elea Rodriguez
- Duane Smith
- Sylvia Soumah
- Stephanie Stoumbelis
- Alison Talvacchio
- Jon Towson
- Delante White
- Kevin White

- Carla Perlo, Founding Director Emerita
- Deborah Riley, Director Emerita



BOARD SPOTLIGHT RHEA NORWOOD

Rhea Norwood has been a supporter of Dance Place in many capacities including pro-bono consultant, patron, donor, and now board member since 2018. Here is what she has to say about the AMPLIFY Season:

"My proudest moment has been the AHHHAmazing response to the pandemic and social injustices throughout 2020. Dance Place is not simply surviving, but rather thriving through each and every challenge. I cannot share enough how awesome it is to be affiliated with a group that is so passionate for the craft and the community!"

"The passion for diverse dance forms and the diverse and vibrant Brookland-Edgewood community is one that stretches throughout Dance Place and friends of DP alike. That passion is contagious -- my colleagues at Capital One regularly receive updates and invitations and no one has ever been disappointed when they have an opportunity to participate in a DP event!"



STAFF SPOTLIGHT JONATHAN HSU

Jonathan Hsu joined the marketing team in 2017 after several years as a member of the Dance Place community as a performing artist, dancer, photographer, theater patron, and teacher. When asked about his most memorable moment, Jonathan shared:

"My favorite memory as a dancer was getting to perform with Rennie Harris Puremovement in 2017 in Rennie's new work "Lifted". It was a full circle moment having first seen the company on the Dance Place stage so many years ago and then being able to work with Rennie and perform with the company as an extra. Some of my friends that I had gone to see the show with in 2012 came to see me perform!"



Zoom capture from Dance Place's virtual board meeting in March 2020.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our generous foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individual donors who contributed to Dance Place's ongoing programs and general support fund!

\$80,000 AND ABOVE

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
US Commission of Fine Arts/NCACA Grant Program
Bloomberg AIM
The United Way of the National Capital Area

\$50,000-\$79,999

National Endowment for the Arts
Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation

\$20,000-\$49,999

Mid Atlantic Arts
SHARE Fund
Shubert Foundation
Hanover Development
Clark-Winchcole Foundation
Kay Family Foundation
John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation

\$10,000-\$19,999

Janice Marks & Damien Agostinelli
Reston CenterStage
Joseph and Joan Cullman Foundation for the Arts, Inc.
New England Foundation for the Arts
CityDance
Jerome L. Greene Foundation
National Performance Network
Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts

\$5,000-\$9,999

Carol & Willis Bradwell
Sylvan C. Coleman Trust
Congressional Sports for Charity
Dimick Foundation
Jannes Waples Gibson
Corina Higginson Trust
Daniel Hitchcock & Linda Arvin
Eugene M. Lang Foundation
Joseph & Lynne Horning
HumanitiesDC
Julia Johnson
Nancy Peery Marriott Foundation
Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs
Charles H. Miller Charitable Foundation
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
Sydney Polakoff Charitable Fund
Nora Roberts Foundation

Denise Rollins
International Monetary Fund

\$2,000-\$4,999

Louisa Buatti
Barbara Burton
Jim Epstein
Joseph Gangloff
Giant Food
Makila James
Maura Keefe & Mark Witteveen
Sali Ann Kriegsmann
Dorothy Dort Levy
Mikael Manoukian & Emily Crews
Anne McGuirk
Carla Perlo & Richard Pilkinton
Amanda Sweet
Michael Walton
United Way of the National Capital Area- Workplace Giving
George Wasserman Family Foundation
Adam Weers

\$1,000- \$1,999

Bonnie Ann Brooks
Rose Ann Cleveland
Aldrich G. & Ibe' Bulinda Hereford Crawley
Kathy & Gerald Freshley
John Greifer
Ann Jackson & Dean Wooden
Kyle Lang & Christopher K. Morgan
George Andy Miller
Jennifer Motruk & Dave Wissman
Stacy Murphy
Irfana Jetha Noorani
Northrop Grumman ECHO
Rhea Norwood
Melinda Salzman & W. Sherman Edwards
Wendy Shapiro
Carol Shuster-Polakoff Family Foundation
Bill & Karla Stoner
Jill Weiler
Daniel Woofter
Kathryn Zyla & Brian Scott

\$500-\$999

Dawn Amore
Annie's Ace Hardware
Daniel Perlo Bloom
Thomas Bridge
Margot Ellis
Judy Estey
Adriane Fang

Jack Gerard
Bill Hillegeist
Ann Jimmerson & Larry Klein
Ryan Kellett
Robert and Arlene Kogod Family Foundation
Lesla McLaughlin
Buchi Offodile
Shannon Quinn
Deborah Riley & Mary Beth Flournoy
Andy & Marjan Shallal
Mary Ellen Signorille
Victoria Stanley
Njambi & Earl Wynn
Allen Xing & Dennis Chyba

DONOR SPOTLIGHT BETSY LOIKOW



As a lifelong Washingtonian, Betsy has memories of performing at Dance Place as a child and calls Dance Place her local dance home. When asked about this past year, Betsy had this to say about her experiences:

"At the risk of overusing this word -- community. 2020 tore apart dance as we knew it, and there were many times I found little desire to tune in for yet another virtual presentation. However, Dance Place kept me coming back because I wanted to be with this community. Knowing this community of movers would bring a smile to my face kept me coming to virtual class even when the idea of class in a too-small living room was hard to face. Dance Place is such an important hub of our DC dance community."