



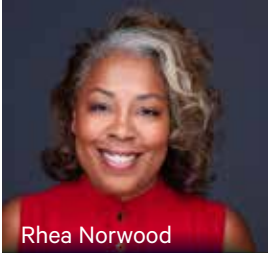
# EMBARC

Finding our way together



Cover Photo: Coyaba Dance Theater (DC). Credit: Unified Visions.

Photo: Family dancing on the 8th St Arts Park in front of Dance Place.



Rhea Norwood



Daniel Woofter



André Mazelin

## A Letter from the Board Co-Chairs

Dear Dance Place Community:

As we set our path forward, we also reflect on what led, in many ways, to a new beginning for this organization we all hold dear.

There is no doubting the difficulty we have all faced in recent years, in light of the changed and changing world we find ourselves in. On top of the challenges confronted by all arts organizations in these times, this past season Dance Place found itself navigating a leadership transition as well. We are immensely grateful to Interim Executive Director Shermica Farquhar, who's steady hand steered our day-to-day operations, while a team of Board and staff members, guided by executive search firm Good Insight, engaged in a national search to discover our next Executive Director. After an exhaustive, months-long search, reviewing dozens of qualified candidates from coast to coast, we found our new leader right here in our own backyard—André Mazelin, who has deep roots in the DMV, having worked extensively in both Baltimore City and Prince George's County.

Our newly-formed leadership team—rounded out with dani tirrell as the new Artistic Director, Shannon Quinn as the Education Director, and Emily Crews as the Finance Director—has been working tirelessly to shape Dance Place into a leader among arts organizations in a post-pandemic world. Our educational programming grounded us in our communities, and brought us back to the classroom. And our artistic programming forged ahead with renewed vigor in our EMBARK Season, which brought us back to the theater.

We are confident in and emboldened by the resilience of the Dance Place staff as we focus on evolving into a sustainable, more equitable, and more anti-racist organization. We are hopeful. We are excited. And above all, we are thankful to be together again.

Board Co-chairs,

Rhea Norwood and Daniel Woofter

## A Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings from Dance Place!

It is my great honor to serve as the third leader of this beloved organization.

As we reflect on our 2021-2022 EMBARK season, I want to commend, and also thank our dedicated staff past and present, committed board members, and the entire Dance Place community of audiences, artists, funders, students, partners, and neighbors for carrying this organization forward during a year of great transition.

What a year it has been! We invited audiences back to our theater for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. We welcomed dani tirrell to the newly created position of Artistic Director, separating organizational oversight and curation, a first for Dance Place. Through the generous support of our funders, we were able to ratify our commitment to pay artists and staff equitable wages for their work. We centered Disability Justice in our programming, implementing the first phase in creating an accessible and supportive environment for performers, students, and audience members of all abilities.

A very special thank you to Interim Executive Director, Shermica Farquhar, who worked tirelessly to ensure the continuity of our highly regarded programming and performances. This was a year of accomplishment and growth! I am so proud of the resilience of our staff, of the passion they bring to the work, and their continued investment in the communities we serve. I invite you to visit us as our journey continues, and we program for a bold and empowered tomorrow.

Onward!

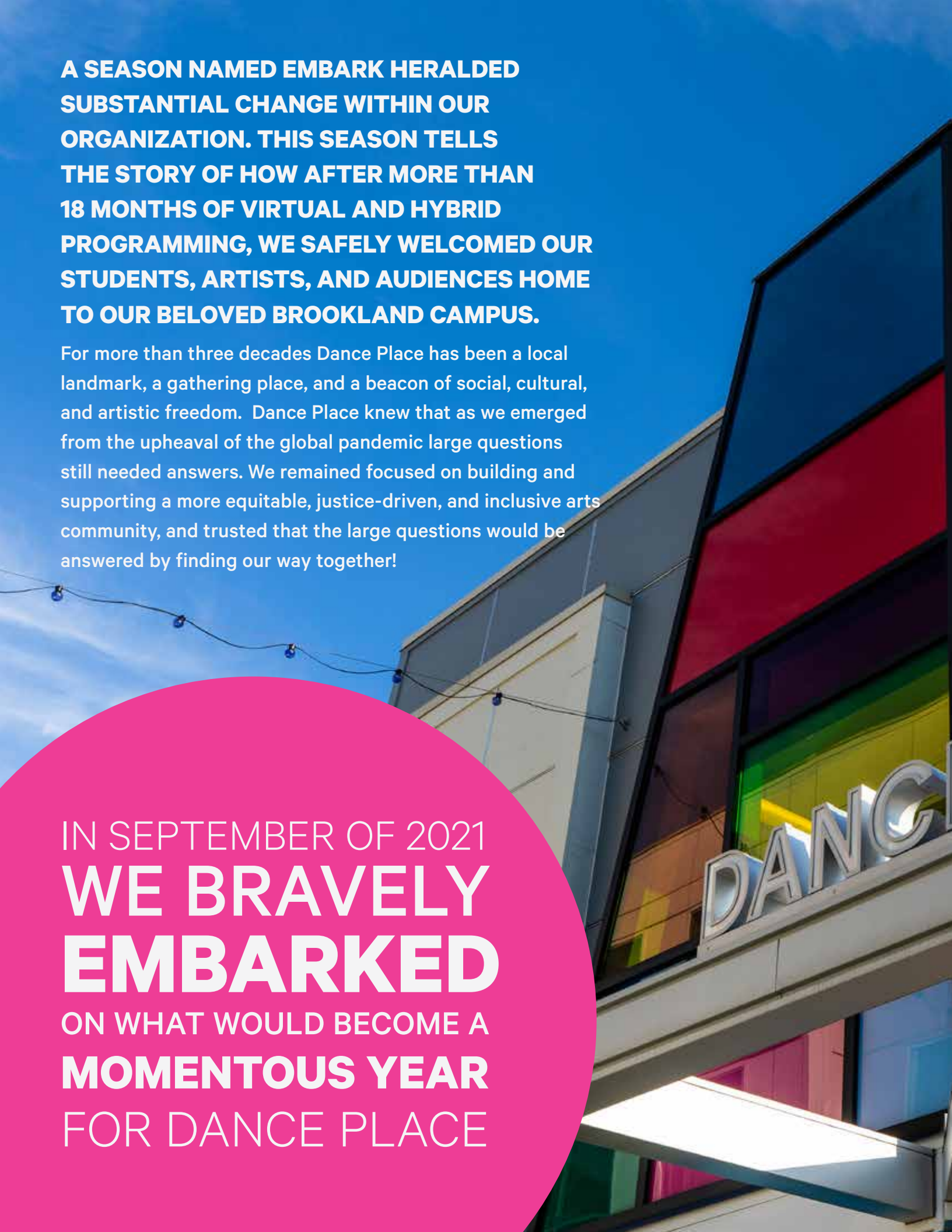
André Mazelin

Executive Director

**A SEASON NAMED EMBARK HERALDED SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE WITHIN OUR ORGANIZATION. THIS SEASON TELLS THE STORY OF HOW AFTER MORE THAN 18 MONTHS OF VIRTUAL AND HYBRID PROGRAMMING, WE SAFELY WELCOMED OUR STUDENTS, ARTISTS, AND AUDIENCES HOME TO OUR BELOVED BROOKLAND CAMPUS.**

For more than three decades Dance Place has been a local landmark, a gathering place, and a beacon of social, cultural, and artistic freedom. Dance Place knew that as we emerged from the upheaval of the global pandemic large questions still needed answers. We remained focused on building and supporting a more equitable, justice-driven, and inclusive arts community, and trusted that the large questions would be answered by finding our way together!

IN SEPTEMBER OF 2021  
**WE BRAVELY  
EMBARKED**  
ON WHAT WOULD BECOME A  
**MOMENTOUS YEAR**  
FOR DANCE PLACE





## CONTENTS

Compassionate Collaborative Leadership	2
Programming for a Bold, and Empowering Tomorrow!	4
Pause. Slowing down with dani tirrell	6
Happening Now!	7
Good Morning Saturday!	8
40 Years of Art, Friendship, and Community Revitalization	9
Resident Companies	10
In Residence with Dance Place	12
A Testing Ground for Big Ideas	15
Focus on Fun! Festivals for All	16
Educational Programs for All	18
New Partners and Old Friends	19
Foot in the Door	19
“Energized” for Generations to Come	20
A Summer to Remember	21
A Letter from our Summer 2022 Interns!	22
La Mezcla Fandango Jarocho -After Party	23
EMBARK Financial Highlights	24
We Are Dance Place	25

photo: Dance Place  
building on 8th St NE  
Washington, D.C.



Photo: André Mazelin, Executive Director of Dance Place in the HMP studio. Credit: Justin Williams

## Compassionate Collaborative Leadership

**FOLLOWING A NATIONAL SEARCH, LED BY WOMAN-OWNED, EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM, GOOD INSIGHT, DANCE PLACE NAMED ANDRÉ MAZELIN AS OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON AUG. 1, 2022.**

A visionary and veteran arts administrator and entrepreneur, André brought a wealth of artistic programming, financial management, and partnership development with him to Dance Place.

As Dance Place prepared for continued growth and increased community engagement, an internal reorganization was announced to enhance operational efficiencies, strengthen service delivery, and advance our mission to build a community of artists, audiences and students through high quality performances and educational programs.

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“For over forty years, Dance Place has shown that the arts are more than performance, they are how diverse communities can meet under one tent to share in creative expression. I am steadfast in continuing Dance Place’s legacy of amplifying the experiences of new voices, providing a safe and welcoming environment for our youth, and programming brilliant performances from our community of artists.”

—André Mazelin, Executive Director

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“The board could not be more thrilled with André’s vision and his appreciation of community and partnership as he leads Dance Place through the next era. His strategic vision and operational expertise will heighten our ability to advance the mission, and impact artists locally and internationally.”

—Rhea Norwood, Board Co-chair

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“This organizational realignment not only ensured Dance Place’s readiness for growth, but also highlighted our desire to ensure that artistic and educational programming aligned with our mission.”

— Janice Marks, Former Board Co-chair

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**OUR EMBARK GALA  
FUSED THE LIVE AND  
VIRTUAL WORLDS AND  
CREATED A HYBRID  
WEEKEND OF REUNION  
AND CELEBRATION.**



Photos, left to right: Daniel Woofter with ASL interpreter welcoming Embark Gala audience, performer Kevin Carroll in "How are you? No really?" by Tariq Darrell O'Meally, gala attendees arriving for the outdoor celebration.



On November 12th & 13th we were joined by Dance Place's Artists in Residence Tariq Darrell O'Meally & Britta Joy Peterson, nationally renowned artist slowdancer, artists from our Youth Performing Company, and long time friend of Dance Place, acclaimed choreographer, Gesel Mason!

Gala guests were greeted by the completion of our new lobby. The upgrades to the lobby, box office, and reception desk were made possible by visionary donors who dedicated more than \$20,000 to these long term enhancements. Dance Place is grateful to these donors and their continued commitment to creating a hub for community activity and gathering space for all who walk through our doors.





Photos, left to right: Drag Queen Pussy Noir hosting afterGlow, performers outdoors at Hillwood Estate, members of Red Sky participating in a post performance Q&A



## Programming for a Bold, and Empowering Tomorrow!

**LIKE MANY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC COMPELLED DANCE PLACE TO EVALUATE OUR DEFINITION OF WHAT IS “NORMAL.” EVERYTHING WE KNEW—FROM CLASSES TO EVENTS TO OUR COMMUNITY APPROACH—HAD TO BE REIMAGINED.**

Reopening our theater necessitated changes, such as ticketing at 50% capacity, testing performers and tech crew everyday, requiring masks and testing protocols for indoor audiences, and reactivating our outdoor spaces, like the 8th St. Arts Park, so that we could once again eat, drink, and be in community with one another.

As we moved bravely through our journey last year, we served over 675 local and non-local artists, technical staff, designers, and arts professionals through our presentation series and creative residencies. Artistic programming incorporated the theme of dance activism, using performances to share the viewpoints of artists that have traditionally been silenced and systemically excluded from the field. We presented work beyond our main venue, with partners beyond the borders of our neighborhood, to make our events more accessible and engage with audiences across the District.

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

City Dance  
Rose Powhatan  
D.C. Peace Team  
Women Artists of Color  
The Hillwood Estate Museum & Gardens  
TRJ Bridges  
Capo Deli  
The Kennedy Center  
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center  
Catholic University of America  
**and many other community partners for allowing us to share space with you.**



Photos, top to bottom: Red Sky Performance, credit Marc J Chailfoux. Performers from “Let ‘im Move You” interacting with community members.

**IN SEPTEMBER, WE WELCOMED AUDIENCE MEMBERS BACK INTO OUR THEATER FOR THE FIRST LIVE PERFORMANCE SINCE MARCH 2020 WITH A PHYSICALLY DISTANT PERFORMANCE OF *TRACE* BY RED SKY PERFORMANCE, A COMPANY LEADING THE WAY FOR CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS PERFORMANCE WORLDWIDE.**

*Trace* was the winner of two Dora Mavor Moore Awards and nominated for four Dora Awards. Red Sky Performance was a part of Dance Place’s Family Series, a series of shows in our EMBARK season programmed to be accessible to audiences of all ages!

### **POP UP PERFORMANCES! LET ‘IM MOVE YOU: THIS IS A FORMATION**

This series by jumatatu m. poe and Jermone Donte Beacham included not just an interactive onsite performance flowing out of the theater and into the Dance Place lobby, but pop up events across town at Union Market. *This is a Formation* was the latest performance work in a series, bringing together a group of 7 Black dancers for a multimedia work performed in black-box/white-box spaces, and on sidewalks and in alleyways in predominantly or historically Black neighborhoods, like those found here in D.C. Compelled by formation and order, this project confronted meanings, real and imaginary, of Black queered bodies in public assembly.





photo credits: Naomi Ishisaka and Victoria Kovios

## Pause. Slowing down with dani tirrell

In March, the weather outside was chilly, and inside an unusually quiet Dance Place a ‘history-making’ event took place. We welcomed our new Artistic Director, dani tirrell. dani sat down with us in front of the multi-colored glass of the famous Janney Corner at Dance Place to discuss a new curatorial vision for Dance Place.

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“I do my work for Black folks in particular. I do the work because I know how important it is to have a seat at the table. I do this work because someone did it for me. I do this work because I stand on very, very, strong shoulders. I do this work because I was called to do this work.”

—dani tirrell, Artistic Director

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dani’s vision for the next chapter of performance at Dance Place is meant to reconnect, reinvigorate, and celebrate risk. Dance Place’s opportunities are, by design, non-linear, giving artists freedom to move from one system of support to another, from early creative research, to commissions and presentations, our multi-year Artist in Residence Program, spots in our festivals, and teaching slots in our Foot in the Door Class Series. Artists re/encounter Dance Place at all different stages in their career, and by offering a range of varied support there is always a way to be in community with Dance Place.



A native of Detroit, Michigan and longtime resident of Seattle, Washington, dani tirrell uses dani’s background in street and club dance to combine culture and community. dani’s work centers itself in collaboration, community, and uplifting marginalized people and their voices. As a self-identified ‘queer, Black, 40+ year-old trans spectrum, movement artist, and person in the world,’ dani understands the importance of finding value, uplifting voices, and acknowledging how all of our lives and our experiences shape art and the art community around us.

## AFTERGLOW

Setting record box office numbers for Dance Place, afterGLOW closed out the three-day BlackLight Summit with a glitter-filled, wig pulling, lip-syncing, drag celebration. In continued support of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities, Dance Place and BlackLight Summit partnered to present this exciting evening of drag produced by Robert Woofter/haus of bambi. Hosted by the incomparable Pussy Noir and DJed by Rita Burns, with performances by some of the DMV's most dynamic drag artists including Cake, Bumper, Molasses, and Black Dynamite, afterGLOW affirmed that the future is Black, queer, beautiful, and happening now!

Photos, top to bottom: drag performers entertaining the sold out Cafritz Theater, DJ and guests battling on the Arts Park, Gesel Mason Performance at Hillwood Estate.



## DANCE PLACE/DC CYPHER

As the weather warmed up in April local DMV Hip-Hop/Street and Club dance artists were invited to the 8th St Arts Park for the first ever Dance Place/DC Cypher, an evening celebrating the rich history of Street and Club dance culture centering the experience of cyphering in social dance forms.

## GESEL MASON AT HILLWOOD

In July, Dance Place commissioned and presented Gesel Mason's *Yes, And*, a work centered on an expansive vision of Black womanhood as the operating force in the creative process and activated by the question: "Who would you be and what would you do if, as a Black woman, you had nothing to worry about?" This commission was made possible through the generous support of the Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation, and the Carla Fund for Choreography and Performance.



## Good Morning Saturday!

Last March, Dance Place's Founding Director Emerita graced our stage again with students and professional colleagues alike for a live performance celebrating Carla's long standing Saturday class and the history of Dance Place. *CLASS: The Carla Perlo Story* was accompanied by a documentary film that provided a glimpse into a distinct period in Carla's life and in the evolution of Dance Place.

The performance featured choreography based on the warm up and exercises from Carla's signature dance class, a live musical performance by Sam Turner, who has played for the Saturday morning class for over 36 years, and highlighted some of Dance Place's most dedicated students and community members.

**SINCE 1980, CARLA PERLO'S MODERN DANCE CLASS HAS BEEN A CONSTANT ON SATURDAY MORNINGS AT DANCE PLACE.**



Photos: Dancers performing warm up exercises and movement from Carla Perlo's modern dance class, Carla Perlo and longtime participants in a Q&A following the show.

## 40 Years of Art, Friendship, and Community Revitalization

In partnership with Dance Place, the film and live performance of *CLASS...the Carla Perlo Story* were produced by Karen Brooks Hopkins, President Emerita of the Brooklyn Academy of Music along with support from the Jerome L Greene Foundation. The documentary featured archival photography spanning Dance Place's rich 42 year history, and a musical score recorded by Duende Quartet, who joined us during the Sunday presentation and played live for the performance and reception.

Following the Sunday performance, Dance Place hosted Karen Brooks Hopkins and Carla Perlo at Busboys & Poets/Brookland for a ticketed reception and conversation about their parallel careers leading cultural institutions.

Photos: Donors and stakeholders enjoying a reading, book signing, and conversation with Carla Perlo and Karen Brooks Hopkins at Busboys & Poets/Brookland



Photos: Coyaba Dance Theater, Daughters of Coyaba, and members of Coyaba Youth Academy performing in the 25th Anniversary show.



## Resident Companies

**2022 WAS A LANDMARK YEAR FOR RESIDENT COMPANY COYABA DANCE THEATER AS THEY CELEBRATED 25 YEARS OF PROGRAMMING.**

Founded in 1997 by Artistic Director Sylvia Soumah, Coyaba presents traditional and contemporary West African dance and music focusing on the diverse ethnic groups and various humanitarian themes of West African culture. Coyaba's 25th was a jubilant celebration of music, drumming, theater, and the dazzling energy of West African dance!

Through our long standing relationships with ReVision Dance Company and Coyaba Dance Theater, our resident companies anchor our local community performances, education work, and offsite events. Last season Dance Place provided our resident companies with over 450 hours of free rehearsal space, administrative and marketing assistance, 2 presentations in our theater, performance opportunities in our educational/community programs, and positions on our teaching faculty.





Photos, top to bottom: students exploring the stage, props, and lights at a Student Matinee at Dance Place, Shannon Quinn, Artistic Director of ReVision.

**TOGETHER WITH DANCE PLACE, REVISION, COYABA AND OTHER TEACHING ARTISTS HAD:**

**4 year long school partnerships**

**6 short term partnerships**

**4 one day special workshops, and**

**over 20 Field Trip Experience Workshops**

generously funded by the D.C. Commission for Arts and Humanities and a 21st CCLC Grant.

**REHEARSALS BEGAN IN JUNE FOR REVISION DANCE COMPANY *PROPELLING VOICE*, DANCE PLACE'S FIRST EVER RELAXED PERFORMANCE, PRESENTED BY WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS FAMILY ART MOMENTS (FAM).**

Relaxed performances are shows that have been adapted to make performances more accessible for audience members. Performance elements such as sound and lights were shifted to make the experience more sensory friendly, and created a more accessible/relaxed environment. Audience members were free to come and go from the theater, leave their seats, utilize a designated calming space, and hold fidget gadgets throughout the performance.

Other relaxed elements included; brighter lighting design, with no full black outs, lower sound volume, multiple easy access routes to leave the performance and return at any time, and ASL interpretation.



**DURING OUR EMBARK  
YEAR WE WERE  
LASER FOCUSED ON  
ACCESSIBILITY.**

## In Residence with Dance Place

### **MADELINE MAXINE GORMAN - DANCE & DISABILITY RESIDENCY**

Dance Place welcomed Madeline Maxine Gorman (Max) of Gridlock Dance for our inaugural Dance & Disability Residency. This residency provided Max with 40 hours of rehearsal space over one week, an honorarium of \$4,000, plus an additional accessibility stipend of \$1,000. Dance Place's goals for this program are twofold: connect with and support the growth and vision of artists who identify as disabled in the Washington, DC region and utilize this program, along with our Disability Justice Forums, to increase our capacity for accessibility practices in all our programming. Many thanks to our 2022 curatorial and consulting panel: Ben Levine, Devin Hill, Tiffani Jackson, and Janice Marks.

Community members had the opportunity to see early stages of Max's newest work; inspired by a series of near-death experiences, terrible first dates, and childhood diary musings, a one-person show that explores the psychological journey of coming to grips with queerness, disability, and the corporate world.

### **CONGRATULATIONS MAX ON RECENTLY BEING INCLUDED IN DANCE MAGAZINE'S 25 TO WATCH IN 2023!**

#### **We hosted 2 **Disability Justice Forums****

Partnered with TRJ Bridges to provide live **ASL interpretation** at all performances

Formed a new relationship with **Accessible Integrated Media** to make our social media more accessible

Added persons with **accessibility expertise** to leadership and the Dance Place Board of Directors

Provided tablets with **Closed Captioning** for select performances, including working with AIR Britta Joy Peterson who wrote the captions for her January performance.

**Audio descriptions** for field trip services

Hosted the inaugural **Dance & Disability Justice Residency** in July

Added **image descriptions** in social media ads and performance programs

Made all programs available in **large print** for both digital and hard copy

Photos: Max sharing movement and ideas during an informal showing as part of the Dance & Disability Residency.



## Artists in Residence Program

**IN 2022 WE PRESENTED CAPSTONE PROJECTS BY BOTH BRITTA JOY PETERSON AND TARIQ DARRELL O'MEALLY AS THEY FINISHED THEIR TWO YEARS IN DANCE PLACE'S ARTIST IN RESIDENCE (AIR) PROGRAM.**

On May 7th we removed the first few rows of chairs in our theater to make space for Tariq Darrell O'Meally's **Performance Lab: Good Grief**. The Performance Lab was a residency testing ground for Tariq to workshop innovative & immersive performance concepts. Open rehearsals, process participation, and sharing occurred throughout the four-day performance lab as Tariq interrogated and exulted in the dynamic relationship between grief and praise in his ongoing development of his new work **Good Grief: Songs of the Moon & The UnBroken Circle**.

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"Grief is praise because it is the natural way love honors what it misses. Much of the work of an artist is to be a catalyst for people to reflect and process the complex experiences that come from living. But where does the artist reflect?"

—Tariq Darrell O'Meally

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**In June we announced Ronya-Lee Anderson and Robert Woofter as Dance Place's 2022 -2024 Artists in Residence.**

These two artists exemplify our continued advocacy for local trailblazers at pivotal stages of their artistic trajectories. Look for their performances at Dance Place in spring of 2023.

Photos, top to bottom: performers in Britta Joy Peterson's "And now, Hold Me," Performance Lab participant in process with mask, Britta in conversation with audience members following her presentation, Performance Lab group seated on the floor mid process, these solo photos of Ronya Lee and Robert have been added to the Dance Place lobby for their tenure as AIR's





Photos: brooke smiley rehearsing and working in the Cafritz Theater.

## ALAN M. KRIEGSMAN CREATIVE RESIDENCY

This season we welcomed two AMK artists, Maleek Washington and brooke smiley! Maleek and his collaborators visited Dance Place in March of 2022 as the first of two recipients of the Alan M. Kriegsman (AMK) Creative Residency.

Maleek shared his time and process with members of the Dance Place community through an informal showing, welcoming guests into the studio throughout the week and bringing his dancers outside the studio to explore Washington DC. Maleek, joined by Artistic Director dani tirrell, welcomed guests to participate in a Q&A about technology, art in the digital space, and creating places and experiences for the people we love.

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“Dance Place has been a home to many evolutions in my career. Young professional, dancer and now choreographer. The validation of being seen by an organization through its resources during a time of isolation was very moving to me and my collaborators. Thank you Dance Place!”

—Maleek Washington

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An intimate group of Dance Place community members were invited by second AMK artist, brooke smiley, into the studio for an informal sharing of her emerging work **EARTH.SPEAKS**. Participants moved and explored with brooke through an improvisational score she created while in residence. brooke is at the beginning of a decade-long project, which kicked off with a tour of National Monuments in the Western United States in late 2022 through the Bureau of Land Management.

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“The opportunity to take the first step in my most ambitious project to date is so deeply meaningful in the world of dance. To be supported in my vulnerability by sincere camaraderie as I began developing my dream project was deeply impactful! I am totally enriched by Dance Place’s dedication to my work.”

—brooke smiley

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## A Testing Ground for Big Ideas

This season Dance Place hosted two technical residencies, providing national artists with over 60 hours of time onsite in the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Theater at Dance Place. While in residence, artists worked with musicians, lighting designers, and large set pieces to explore and tackle the technical elements and ideas that require the support of technical staff and theater equipment to rehearse.

In April Dance Place's former Executive Artistic Director Christopher K.Morgan returned with CKM&A Company Members and Collaborators for a multidisciplinary creative residency at Dance Place to continue working on ***Native Intelligence / Innate Intelligence***.

Tom Truss, Matthew Cumbie, and visual artist Diane Samuels were at Dance Place in June for a technical residency for ***ReWritten***, a new work examining the intimate relationship between Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne to reflect on friendship, writing, social morés, and notions of queerness.



Photos: CKM&A performers running technical rehearsals with lights and set pieces



**TECHNICAL  
RESIDENCIES OFFER  
CHOREOGRAPHERS  
AND COMPANIES THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY  
BRING A DANCE TO LIFE AS  
WORK TRANSITIONS FROM  
CONCEPT TO REALITY.**

**ATTENDED BY  
500+ NEIGHBORHOOD  
RESIDENTS AND  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS,  
THIS FESTIVAL WAS  
FREE FOR THE PUBLIC  
AND FEATURED OVER 65  
LOCAL PERFORMERS AND  
CHOREOGRAPHERS.**

## Focus on Fun! Festivals for All

As we continued our journey to discover a new normal, we found ourselves remembering the times before. Looking back led to the creation of a new annual event, the District Choreographers Dance Festival (DCDF), an outdoor dance festival created in the same spirit as the previous Dance Place event, Contemporary Viewpoints. The District Choreographers Dance Festival, now fondly known as DCDF, celebrates the creativity and strength of the Washington D.C. metropolitan area's dance community. The Embark DCDF featured performances by BANDPortier, BREathe Dance Project, Culture Shock DC, DC Casineros, Heart Stück Bernie, PEARSONWIDRIG DANCE THEATER, and Xing Dance Theater.



Photos, left to right: DC Casineros, BREathe Dance Project, Xing Dance Theater, PEARSONWIDRIG DANCETHEATER



## 35 Years of DanceAfrica, DC

The sound of the drums marked the beginning of a week of dance, music, and tradition during our 35th Annual DanceAfrica, DC Festival.

The 2022 festival celebrated the legacy of Artist, Creator, & Historian, Baba Melvin Deal with performances by Malcolm X Dancers and Drummers, Osagyefo Dance Co, Keur Khaleyi African Dance & Cultural Institute, Coyaba Dance Theater, Taratibu Youth Association, Ni Dembaya, Soka Tribe, DC Casineros, Tam Tam Mandingue Youth Group, Akoma De Gado & Drum Performance Ensemble, Soul in Motion Players, Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company, and Sahel Music.

The festival closed with an evening celebration featuring the African Heritage Dancers and Drummers, Kankouran West African Dance Company, Farafina Kan Next Generation, and many others.

**HOSTED BY GRIOT MAMA SYLVIA SOUMAH, THE 35TH DANCEAFRICA,DC INSPIRED, INVIGORATED, EDUCATED, AND ENTERTAINED OVER 500 PEOPLE ON THE CAMPUS OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA.**

The 35th DanceAfrica,DC was sponsored by the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Busboys & Poets.

Photos, top to bottom: Candle Bearers, African Heritage Dancers and Drummers, Farafina Kan Next Generation, and community dancers joining on stage



## Educational Programs for All Ages

**DANCE PLACE'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SUPPORT CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS THAT RESIDE IN THE GREATER DC METROPOLITAN AREA WITH ARTS EDUCATION, LIFE SKILLS TRAINING, AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

During the EMBARK season the education team reorganized a little, merging our Adult Dance Classes with our always popular Kids on the Move Classes to bring all studio classes under the purview of Chloe Conway, our new Studio Education Manager. Bringing the adult dance classes into the education department aligned our adult and youth programming to create a more multi-generational approach to our education work through new class offerings, artistic opportunities, and workshops.

An average of 750 students, youth and adult, were served monthly on our campus last season. With a wide range of dance classes from beginning to professionals we provide students with daily opportunities to develop their artistic voices and refine their technical training. In total, our Studio Education classes served 4,290 adults and 573 youth last year. In order to foster equitable access to arts education, we provided 48 youth scholarships, ensuring participation for all regardless of finances.

Photos, left to right: ballet students listening to instructions during kids on the move class, Dache Green teaching adult heels class, Robert Woolfter teaching adult ballet, two young ballet dancers





## New Partners and Old Friends

**IN 2022 OUR PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE OFF SITE CLASSES AND PERFORMANCES IN EVERY WARD IN DC AS WELL AS SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA.**

11 virtual and in-person Student Matinees were held, engaging over 650 school students through interactive performance experiences in their own school settings.

Our new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington created the opportunity for us to partner with 4 new locations virtually: Jelleff Club - Washington, DC Ward 2, Germantown Club - Germantown, M, Hylton Club - Dale City, VA, Clubhouse 6 - Washington, DC - Ward 5

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“Thank you all for providing our Club members with an awesome dance program. Our kids looked forward to the sessions every Thursday. We hope to be able to participate again in the future.”

—Club Manager, Boys and Girls Club Germantown Location

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## Foot in the Door

This season we expanded our adult class offerings with a roster of new and exciting voices for our Foot in the Door adult class series. Guest teaching artists included Stephen Lyons, Zoe Wampler, Dylan Lambert, Amber Lucia Chabus, Jamison Curcio and Sarah Foucher, and Patricia “Patty” Mullaney-Loss. These classes offered new teaching artists the opportunity to hone their teaching skills and brought new voices, ideas, and innovative pedagogy to our adult class roster.



Photos, left to right: adult class faculty Sarah Beth Oppenheim, dani tirrell, Deborah Riley, Sarah Foucher & Jamison Curcio





**IN  
2021 DANCE  
PLACE BROUGHT OUR  
BELOVED “ENERGIZERS”  
BACK ON CAMPUS FOR IN-  
PERSON SCHOOL YEAR  
PROGRAMMING FOR THE  
FIRST TIME IN TWO  
YEARS!**

## “Energized” for Generations to Come

**DURING THE PANDEMIC, PROVIDING UNINTERRUPTED ACCESS TO THE ENERGIZERS CREATIVE ARTS TEEN LEADERSHIP AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS BECAME A TOP PRIORITY FOR DANCE PLACE.**

Teen Leader Jada Richards was excited to come back to Dance Place three days a week after school last year. Just down the block from her high school, Washington Leadership Academy, Jada and her peers in the Energizers Creative Arts Teen Leadership Program took dance classes, developed friendships, and practiced life skills such as cooking and time management during their after-school hours at Dance Place. At Dance Place Jada received homework help, a social-emotional learning space, and a creative outlet for her interests and passion for dance.

Dance Place provides a continuum of after school programs so that youth transition from participants in the Energizers Creative Arts After School Program to becoming Teen Leaders. After school time programming prioritizes Black and brown students by preserving the legacy of families with historic ties to the Brookland/Edgewood neighborhood through long-standing relationships generation after generation. Overall 42 students from 19 different area schools participated in our Creative Arts programming during the 2021-2022 school year.

Photos: Teen leader Mackenzie making a silly face during professional headshot day, Teen leader Jada Richards working on a holiday card for donors, group of teen leaders in their “Energizers” summer camp t-shirts.



## A Summer to Remember

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“I like everything! Here I can dance and see my friends and also make new friends. I’d rather stay in camp practicing my ballet than go back to school!”

—Harper (age 8)

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Dance Place’s Energizers Creative Arts Summer Camp is one of the only summer camps in the district that is 100% free for all families! With support from Out-of-School Time (OST) and the generous donors that gave to Youth Programs and the Hyman M. Perlo Fund for Education and Culture, Dance Place was once again able to craft a memory-filled summer for every camper.

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“What we do here is special, campers last summer took 8 classes a day for 6 weeks straight and then produced a community show at the end. A lot of kids come back year after year for this whirlwind energy and they end up growing up together.”

—Anastasia Johnson, Camp Director

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“Our youth play an integral part in shaping our vibrant creative arts space! The way our campus comes to life with joy and creativity during summer camp is unlike any other time of year at Dance Place. Our campers bring an incredible amount of energy and inspiration to our staff, studios, and stages.”

—Shannon Quinn, Education Director

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Photos, top to bottom: summer campers rehearsing their jazz performance, Nathaniel and Camren in West African drumming class, Jona, Nassir, and Torian performing in their summer camp talent show.



**67 Campers and Teen Leaders**  
ages 5-19

**22 Specialty teachers,  
counselors, and professional  
artists**

**7 Incredible field trips** to iconic  
DC attractions and museums



# A letter from our Summer 2022 Interns!

Dear Dance Place Community,

Thank you for welcoming us this summer and introducing us to Dance Place. We joined you from our colleges and universities, and the school of life, where we studied dance, history, arts administration, neuroscience, computer science, technical theater, sea turtles, cupcakes, ASL, and so much more.

We know that the myth that the arts and humanities are unproductive continues to prevail in society. But, despite our fears, we, your Summer 2022 Interns, continue to engage with and champion the arts because we believe that the arts are a worthy investment of our time and energy!

As creators, we hope to utilize our voices to address pervasive social inequities, to advance access to the arts and arts resources, to build a more equitable world, and to dismantle the systemic systems of racism and white supremacy built into all levels of our society.

During our summer with Dance Place we learned about the importance and vast responsibility Dance Place has to the Brookland community. We learned about connection, accountability, and encountered information that asked us to really think about what community means, and to be curious about how a Dance Place Internship related to each of our own artistic or academic journeys. Thank you for a summer of personal growth and connection.

With enthusiasm and gratitude, Your Summer 2022 Interns!



## **THE DANCE PLACE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM EXISTS TO INTRODUCE PARTICIPANTS TO LIFE AS PROFESSIONALS IN THE DANCE, ARTS, AND NONPROFIT FIELDS.**

During the EMBARK season we hosted **18 interns**, mentored by **8 members of Dance Place staff** across **5 different departments**, including Production and Curation, Marketing and Communications, Operations, Development, and Education. Inclusive of housing, our internship program **housed 9 of the interns** on site in a residential building owned by Dance Place just down the street from our campus in the heart of the Brookland/Edgewood neighborhood.

Photos, left to right: summer interns working the info tent at Dance Africa DC Festival, Intern Alexx Vieux performing with Gesel Mason

## **50 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT US!**

My choreography was performed at an NBA Wizards game!  
My favorite color is blue!  
I'm a people pleaser.  
My dream destination is Vienna, Italy!  
I went to a performing arts high school.  
My favorite movie is the Bee Movie! "Ya like jazz?"  
I love arts and crafts and anything DIY!  
Cooking for people is one of my love languages!  
The beach is one of my favorite places! Waves!  
I don't like pork!  
I love math.

I am the first of all my sisters to graduate from college.  
My favorite color is teal.  
I'm a dancer.  
I'm a retired dancer.  
My favorite animal is a sea turtle.  
I own so many sea turtle things.  
I am flexible.  
I'm Dyslexic.  
I'm queer.  
I have two cats.  
I've always wanted to dye my hair a crazy color.  
I just got a new puppy!  
I'm in graduate school!  
I'm a school shooting survivor.  
#MSDStrong '18

I love improvisation and am doing a research project about it!  
I have 6 piercings.  
My favorite color is baby blue.  
I started learning guitar in quarantine.  
I have never seen the Titanic or the Notebook and have no desire to...lol!  
I prefer coffee over tea.  
I have been dancing since I was 3.  
I will be 22 in 8 days!  
I love chicken alfredo!  
My name means strong, mighty, and awesome.  
I'm learning ASL.  
My favorite holiday is Halloween.  
I have a cat named Ella, who is 17.

I have a second internship!  
I'm obsessed with cupcakes!  
My name means morning dew.  
I just graduated college with a dance degree.  
I talk about sex, a lot!  
I'm originally from right outside DC.  
Sushi is my favorite food!  
I have 4 siblings!  
I'm the oldest child.  
I hate when the inside of pockets is sticking out.  
I'm a virgo, pisces, cancer, libra, gemini, capricorn.  
I have two moms!  
I want to learn how to mix music like a DJ!

## La Mezcla Fandango Jarocho -After Party

We closed our EMBARK season with ***Pachuquismo*** by Vanessa Sanchez & La Mezcla and a fabulous Fandango Jarocho afterparty at the Edgewood Arts Center on August 13th. The multi-disciplinary, rhythmic performance unveiled a forgotten history of Mexican-American female youth and explored the struggles that communities of color continue to face today. *Pachuquismo* is the recipient of the Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Production, with an all-female cast in full zoot suits. *Pachuquismo* pulls the narrative of the Zoot Suit Riots out of the male-centered context and portrays the experiences of las pachucas of the 1940's through movement, spoken word and video.

**A WEEKEND OF STORYTELLING AND COMMUNITY GATHERING WAS THE PERFECT WAY TO CLOSE THIS PART OF OUR JOURNEY. TO ALL THOSE WHO JOINED US ON OUR ADVENTURE LAST SEASON, WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF GRATITUDE AND EXCITEMENT, THANK YOU!**



Photos: La Mezcla at the Cafritz Theater and outdoors performing live music and movement at the Edgewood Arts Center following the show.



# EMBARC Financial Highlights

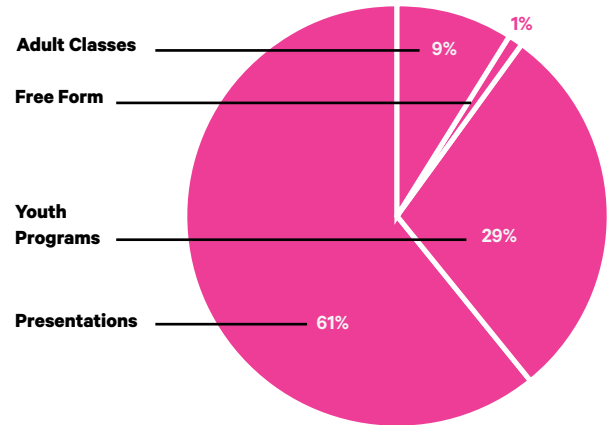
## DANCE PLACE PROVIDED OVER \$90,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2021 - AUGUST 31ST, 2022

	2022	2021
Ticket Sales	33,030	10,851
Contributions and Grants	1,230,119	1,883,313
Other earned income*	767,496	295,607
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>2,036,645</b>	<b>2,189,771</b>
Program Services	2,015,688	1,551,914
General and Administrative	265,999	210,454
Fundraising	201,664	169,242
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2,485,351</b>	<b>1,931,610</b>
Cash and Receivables	666,974	980,675
Property and Equipment	5,222,071	5,325,568
Investments	331,228	359,392
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>6,220,273</b>	<b>6,665,635</b>
Liabilities	1,999,733	2,184,160
Net Assets	4,220,540	4,481,475
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>6,220,273</b>	<b>6,665,635</b>

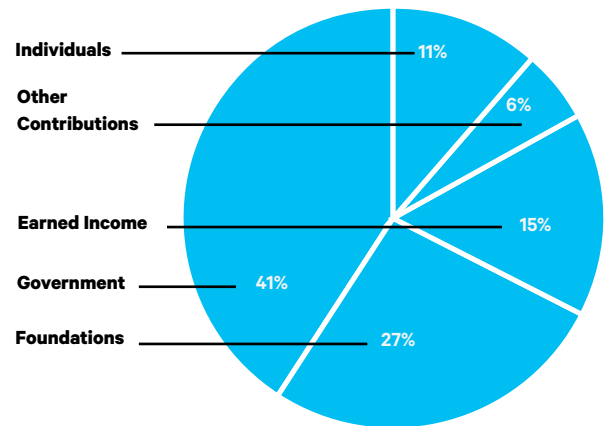
\*Primarily rentals, tuition, and concessions.

Dance Place is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, for more information, please contact [development@danceplace.org](mailto:development@danceplace.org)

### PROGRAMMING EXPENSES



### INCOME BY SOURCE



### EXPENSES

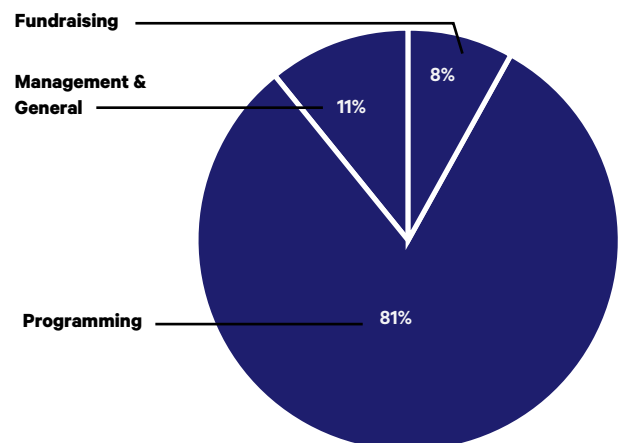




Photo: All staff retreat and visioning session

## We Are Dance Place

### **LEADERSHIP**

André Mazelin  
*Executive Director*

Emily Crews  
*Finance and Operations  
Director*

Shannon Quinn  
*Education Director*

dani tirrell  
*Artistic Director*

Special Thanks to  
Shermica Farquhar  
*Interim Executive Director*

### **STAFF**

Amber Lucia Chabus

Rinu Kuranga

Sarah Chapin

Ava Delasanta

Sarah Lewitus  
(Greenbaum)

Anastasia Johnson

Faryn Kelly

Rebecca Sproul-Gushue

Sadie Leigh

Mallory Miller

Rae Grey

Erin Lenahan

Ben Levine

Erin Sullivan

Jamison Curcio

AJ Johnson

Chloe Conway

Ashayla Byrd

Tiernan Damas

Elia Rodriguez

Duane Smith

Sylvia Soumah

Jon Townson

Delante White

Kevin White

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### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Rhea Norwood, Co-chair

Erin Skinner

JR “Nexus” Russ

Christopher Hornig

Maura Keefe

Makila James

Irfana Jetha Noorani

Daniel Woofter

Amanda Sweet

Anitra Androh

Louisa Buatti

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### **DIRECTORS EMERITI**

Carla Perlo, Founder

Deborah Riley

Christopher K. Morgan

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

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Wendy Shapiro  
Winnie Dreier  
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**And the many other individuals  
who generously made  
contributions of \$1-\$499!**



Photo: Community members trying out  
the outdoor stages during DC Cypher

Back cover: Performers in Gesel Mason's  
"Yes, And" at Hillwood Estate



**D** DANCE  
PLACE

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