



Annual Report 2024

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Since 1987, Young Dance has encouraged youth in our community to build body and spirit through the art of dance.

Our mission is to transform lives through movement.

We are an inclusive community where creativity flourishes, encouraging personal and artistic excellence through diverse forms of dance.

Values

- Young people are **artists with something important to say.**
- **Social justice** is an embedded component of our classes and organization.
- **Every body is capable of creative expression.**
- The **creative process** is a model for **civil discourse.**
- A **healthy somatic dance practice** is grounded in a **developmentally appropriate curriculum.**



Letter from the Directors

Young Dance is proud to reflect on a year marked by growth and community impact. In the 2023–24 fiscal year, we expanded our reach, serving over 1,500 individuals of all ages and abilities. Our commitment to *transforming lives through movement* includes work at our studios and beyond, offering classes and strategic partnerships with schools, libraries, and community organizations.

A significant milestone in August 2019 was acquiring a more permanent space in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood of St. Paul. This investment allowed for greater control over the space's accessibility and continues to provide convenience for our students, teaching artists, and parents. The space also serves as a community gathering place, hosting workshops, space rentals, and events that enrich the cultural landscape of the Twin Cities.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Young Dance remained steadfast in its mission. We pivoted to virtual learning, offering diverse classes prioritizing wellness, self-expression, and connection. By emphasizing dance's physical and mental benefits, we gave our students essential tools to navigate uncertainty and maintain strong social connections. As we look ahead, Young Dance is poised to continue its upward trajectory, inspiring future generations of dancers and impacting the community.

We are so thankful for your interest in Young Dance's success and the many people who are part of the story. Keep reading for more information about our activities and the people who help *transform lives through movement*.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Pick



Anat Shinar



Photo: Sara Haley

Gretchen Pick
Executive Director



Photo: Sara Haley

Anat Shinar
Artistic Director



All Abilities Dancing Initiative

Our innovative All Abilities Dancing Initiative has impacted people and organizations regionally and nationally. In April of 2024, Executive Director Gretchen Pick and Teaching Artist Gabriel Rodreick led an online All Abilities Dancing class for the National Dance Education Organization's annual conference. In tandem, Pick created an All Abilities Dancing teacher training and implemented the workshop in two sessions for teachers in the Twin Cities.

In addition to our All Abilities Dancing programming, our classes are open to everyone of all levels and abilities, supported by our collaborative and creative approach to dance education.

Performing Company

Young Dance's roots are in its Performing Company, a group of passionate dancers committed to exploring themselves and their world through dance. The 2023–24 company was eleven young artists ages 9 to 16 who took weekly classes and rehearsals from September through May. They created pieces with Emily Gastineau, Gabriel Rodreick, Meridian Movement Collective, and one student work using the theme of Mind:Body.

“ You have influenced my daughter to expand her view of the world, fight for justice, and to love dance. I started to observe that when she was able to be free in her movement, her thoughts and her voice soon followed. You offered her a foundation and a springboard at the same time. ”

—Young Dance Parent (2020)

School Classes

Young Dance offers classes at our Saint Paul home over a school year session and in various summer classes and camps. Many of our classes are multi-aged, spanning 3 grade levels or more. This allows students to be learners and leaders, two aspects of education we deeply value at Young Dance.

**1,080
Class
Meetings
Offered
in the 2023-24
School Year
Session**

**By 37
Teaching
Artists**



**7-10
Community Partnerships
Averaged Per Week**



Community Partnerships

Young Dance partners with artists, community organizations, and government institutions to engage youth in developing self-confidence, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and leadership skills through dance. Partnerships allow us to bring dance programming to diverse groups, supporting and empowering youth to improve their lives and strengthen their communities.

**1,399
Students
Served
Outside our
Studio Walls**

**385
Hours of Community
Partnership Programming
offered in the 2023-24
School Year**

“ I know several Young Dance alums, and every one of them talks about how important and positive Young Dance was in their development into adulthood. ”

–Young Dance Parent and Volunteer (2022)

Impact

In 2023, Young Dance initiated a strategic plan focused on expanding dance access across the Twin Cities. Key objectives included developing an inclusive curriculum and forging new community partnerships.

To realize these goals, we diversified our class offerings, introducing adult, disability-specific, and specialized technique classes. We also developed an All Abilities Dancing curriculum and provided training for educators to implement this inclusive approach.

Additionally, we strengthened our community partnerships by offering dance programs in schools, libraries, juvenile correction facilities, and community education programs. A notable partnership with St. Paul Public Schools expanded access for students with disabilities through Extended School Year classes.

In early 2024, we initiated a collaboration with the Minneapolis Institute of Art, offering monthly Family Dance sessions for young children and their caregivers as part of the Mini Mia program. This popular program has since expanded to two monthly sessions and will continue into the future.

“The Young Dance All Abilities 2 dance performance this spring was extraordinary, moving me to tears each of the three times I experienced it. The choreography was so fresh and unique, engaging human and mechanical forms seamlessly into a fascinating interplay that I found both sculptural and formally satisfying and deeply charged with humanity and tenderness. The dancers occupied this innovative space fully, with palpable connections between dancers and playful, joyful expressions.

Thank you, Young Dance, for this gift. ”

—Young Dance Parent (2023)





Performances

Our 2023–24 season was centered around the theme of Mind:Body, exploring the connection between individual, organizational, and community growth. Through dance, we fostered mindfulness, attunement, and harmony, emphasizing the importance of physical skill development, observation, participation, and reflection. Our curriculum nurtured “thinking dancers,” culminating in the May Spring Performances.

Over 1,000
People Attended
the Performances

250
Dancers
Performed

445
Viewers
Accessed Our
Livestream!



Events

Young Dance hosts two annual community events: the Fall Fling and the Build-Your-Own Miniature Golf Gala.

The Fall Fling, a festive gathering held in the fall, invites neighboring businesses from the Fairview Business Center to participate in interactive performances and community-building activities.

The Build-Your-Own Miniature Golf Gala, a spring fundraiser, invites participants to create unique miniature golf courses. Attendees can then enjoy playing these one-of-a-kind courses and make donations to support Young Dance.



Financials

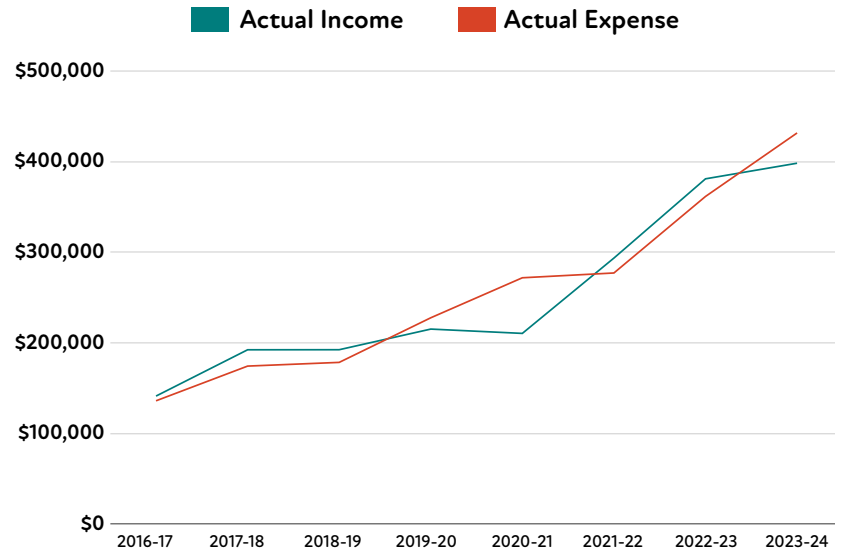
2023-24 Income



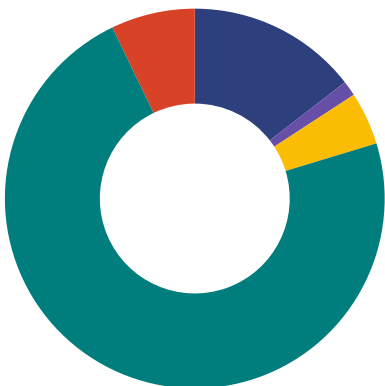
Program Revenue	\$194,391.74
Grant Income	\$150,786.00
Individual Giving	\$50,721.69
Total Income	\$398,504.39

Income vs. Expense

Young Dance Showed Steady Growth Over the Previous Eight Years



2023-24 Expenses



Studio Lease	\$62,673.52
Theater Space Rental	\$5,580.34
Administration	\$19,482.16
Staff and Contract Artist Payments	\$313,298.26
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$30,890.88
Total Expense	\$431,925.16

73%
of Expenses
go to Paying
our People

36 Classes at our
Studios Per Week
a **25%** Increase
in Class Offerings
from 2022-2023

261 Students
Enrolled in the
Academic Year Classes
a **21%** Increase
from 2022-2023

Young Dance VIPs

Young Dance Staff

Gretchen Pick, Executive Director
Anat Shinar, Artistic Director
Brittany Keefe, Marketing & Communications Director
Kathleen Pender, Program Manager
Jules Bither, Events & Office Coordinator

2023–24 Board of Directors

Myrika Schneider, Chair
Liz Williams, Vice Chair
Abby Frank Taylor, Secretary
Rich Stever-Zeitlin, Treasurer
Emilio Alvarez
Gabiella Bonadonna
Lainey Lee, Student Representative
Jon Morris
André Samples
Amanda Webster



2023–24 Teaching Artists & Production Staff

Belle Alvarez
Alex Arce
Jules Bither
Bri Blakey
Julia Davidson
Shannon Dolan
Eliana Durnbaugh
Kendall Edstrom
Colin Edwards
Denise Gagner
Carlos “Los Boogie” Garcia
Michael Grace
Guerreiro
Regina Hartleip-Pinto
Annie Hoffman
Jennifer Ilse
Annika Johanssen
Rachel Kalema
Waswa Kalema
Brittany Keefe
Erinn Liebhard
Laurelie MacKenzie
Aneka McMullen
Cecil Neal
Blake Nellis
Margaret Ogas
Kathleen Pender
Gretchen Pick
Hannah Pierce
Charisse Ponder
Gabriel Rodreick
Holly Sells
Anat Shinar
Sarah Super
Maria Tordoff
Mary Willmeng
Judee Shui Xiān
Andrea Zimmerman
Maggie Heath, Lighting Designer
Liam McLaughlin, Sound Designer



Volunteers

Emilio Alvarez
Michelle Anderson
Elijah B.
Sam Baker
Sydney Beane
Dan Beard
Ruth Bergman
Aaron Bodling
Lelis Brito
Megan Bridges
Erin Brueggeman
Kayla Casavant
Elizabeth Crawford
Beth Derenne
Thea Evans
Michael Flood
Anna Forliti
Jody Fridenstine
Denise Gagner
Anna Gaseitsiwe
Emily Gastineau
Hillary Gebauer
Michael Grace
Maddie Granlund
Andrea Gross
Kim Guessford
Liz Hannan
Dustin Haug
Kelly Jo Haug
Jenna Jo Haug
Myra Haug
Tony Hughes
Megan Johnston
Cai K.
Matthew Keefe
Benjamin Kline
Heather Kolnick
Bani Lee
Chris Lee
Lainey Lee
Heather Lee
Abby Loosen
Meggan Lotze
Zadie Martin

Laurelie MacKenzie
Paul McCluskey
Jon Morris
Soph Myers-Kelley
Alys Ayumi Ogura
Jim Parker
Charisse Ponder
Annie Richardson
Levi S.

Erika Saveraid
Travis Saveraid
Myrika Schneider
Kate Spindler
Rich Stever-Zeitlin
Samantha Stever-Zeitlin
Maria Tierney
Serena W.
Andrea Zimmerman



Donors

Sarah Adams
Abby Armstrong
Jessica Anarde
Sam Baker & Anat Shinar
Tara Barcza, dedicated to Gretchen Pick
Sarah Berger
Jim & Pat Blair
Janet Boyle
Bill Cameron
Nat & Ingrid Case
Roo Case
April Zoll Close
Jayne Corrigan-Monat
Como Friends
Elizabeth Crawford
Shana Crawford
Matthew Crosby
Marisa Cuneo-Linsly
Jane Danielson
Kay Darlington
Julia Davidson
Holly Denecour
Patsy Dew
Kathy Dillon, in memory of Sarah Dillon
Aubrey Donisch
Paul and Katherine Dunbar
Craig Dunn & Candy Hart
David Dunbar
Kathleen Ellis
Erica Fishman
Megan Flood
Nancy Flood
Laura Fritz
Denise Gagner
Kathleen Gavin & Philip Bither
Phyllis Genest-Stein
Jeffrey Ginkel
Ann Ginsburgh-Hofkin
Jennifer Glaws
Gretchen Godfrey
Janice Godfrey
Tamar Green & Ben Hofkin
Julie & Matt Guidry

Liz Hannan
Erika Hansen
Margaret Hansen
Sari Hartzheim
Becky Heist
Libby Herrmann
Karla Hill-Donisch
Nicole Hinrichs
Laura Holway
Ayumi Hori-Shafer
Judith Howard
Maxine & Kieren Hughes
Barb Jacobs
Ben Jacobson
Nancy Johnson
Justin Jones
Keith Jones & Sandy Johnston
Jane Kahan
Brittany & Matthew Keefe
Miriam Krause
Michelle Kuhns
William Kuhns
Theodore Langason
Matt Leavitt
Wendy Ledesma
Dennis & Pat Lee
Heather Lee
Randy Lee
Jon Lewis
Donna Linden & Ray Devogel
Ted Loosen
Carrie MacNabb
Theresa Madaus
Paul McCluskey
Kyle Meerkins
Sarah Miller
Jacob Monat
David and Leni Moore Family Foundation
Jon Morris
Ann Mullaney
Patricia Mullaney
Matt Mulvahill
Isabel Nelson
Next Stage Market
Katie Odell

Johannah Pannier, in memory of
Cici Blanchette
Warren & Patty Park
Kathleen Pender
Gary Peterson
Anne Pick
Karen Pick
Gretchen Pick & Michael Flood
Noel & Charisse Ponder
Ellen Rachel Ratner
Patrick Renner
John Rieser, in honor of Anne D. Pick
and her late husband, Herb
Julie Rohovit
Kenneth Rossow
Edwin Samara
Travis & Erika Saveraid
Tony & Sally Sexton
Linda Shapiro
Cynthia Shelton
Joseph & Ruth Shinar
Margaret & Dan Shulman
Jan Sigmund
Judith Slandzicki
Vicki Speidel
Rebecca Stanchfield
Richard Stever-Zeitlin
Madeline Strom
Abigail Frank Taylor
Edwin Taylor
Jinza Thayer
Erin Thompson
Maria & Tom Tierney
Chris Tripolino
Pramila Vasudevan
Jessi Vollmer, dedicated to
Sarah Russ Ellefson
Phillip Walsh
Betsy Walts, in honor of Reese Walts
Christopher Watson
Lisa Watson
Adam Webster
Linda Weingarten
Pamela Weiss
Welna Ace Hardware

Barbra Wiener
Liz Williams
Catherine Wolter
Mary Yehling
Elizabeth Ramos Young
Barbara Young
Andrea Zimmerman
Rochelle Zordich

This list reflects gifts made between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. We make every effort to ensure accuracy. Please contact us at info@youngdance.org or (612) 423-3064 if you notice any omissions or errors.



Sponsors

2024 Build-Your-Own Miniature Golf Sponsors

Blaze Credit Union	Nextstage Rental + Market
The Costume Collective	No Mythic
Home Depot: Store # 2806	Play It Again Sports St. Paul
Lake Monster Brewing Co.	Welna Ace Hardware: Store # 7166
The Makery	Urban Refurbishment
Metro Transit	Wilson Golf Group

Young Dance Season Sponsors

ATHWIN
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MINNESOTA
STATE ARTS BOARD

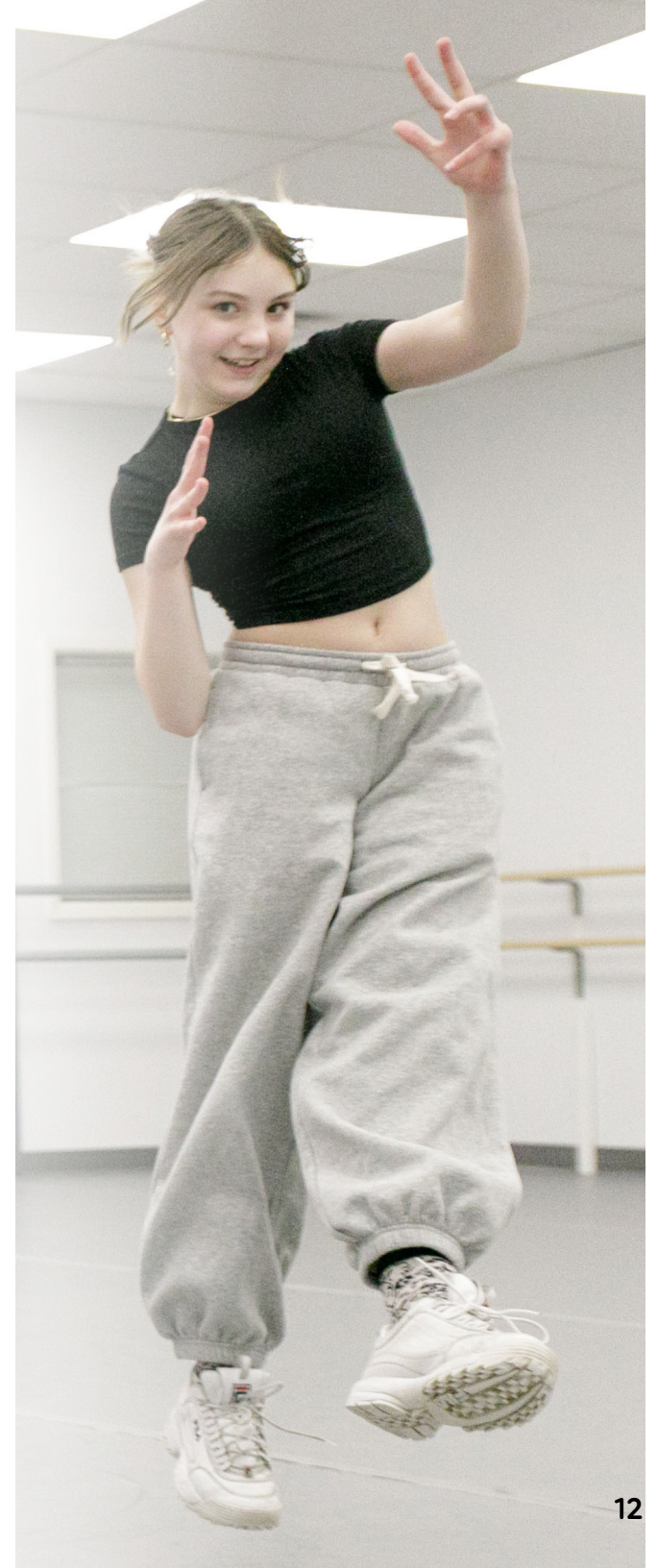

SAINT PAUL
& MINNESOTA
FOUNDATION


CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT


SAINT PAUL
STAR
PROGRAM


F. R. BIGELOW FOUNDATION


This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.







All Photos By Blake Nellis (Unless Otherwise Noted)

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Young Dance Home Page



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Donate to Young Dance

