

LOOKING BACK

leaping forward



Young Dance
Annual Report 2016-2017





The vision of Young Dance is to engage youth in life-long learning through creative expression. The dance company and school collaborates with professional artists, forges meaningful community partnerships and pushes the boundaries of the art and practice of dance.



LOOKING BACK

leaping forward

Young Dance Celebrates 30 Years of
Transforming Lives Through Movement

Young Dance
Annual Report 2016-2017



LOOKING BACK *leaping forward*



Dear Young Dance Family and Friends,

This year marks our 30th year and we are thrilled to share with you our theme of Looking Back, Leaping Forward!

In looking back, we have been reflecting on our rich history, the ways in which we've grown, and how past experiences will help shape our future. Since 1987, under the direction of Maria Genné, Colleen Callahan, Sam Costa, Jeffrey Duval, Kaori Kenmotsu, Gretchen Pick, Justin Jones and Jennifer Glaws, Young Dance has empowered thousands of individuals, of all ages and abilities. From toddlers exploring being big, small, silly, and still, to teens finding a safe place to be vulnerable and express their ideas and feelings, we strive to create spaces that cultivate the whole body and mind at any stage of life.

Our programs have ranged from the youth company to community classes to some of our latest ventures including working with residents at Hennepin County Home School, a juvenile detention facility, to partnering with Keshet Dance (New Mexico), Upstream Arts, and Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts.

As we continue this trajectory of growth, we challenge ourselves to leap forward. In dance, a leap is a bold move, a commitment to push beyond your current reach and land somewhere new. Over the years, Young Dance has taken steps small and large to extend our reach. We have grown our staff, solidified our commitment to social justice, and invested in new partnerships. Now we are poised to leap.

Goals over the next few years are to establish a permanent home for Young Dance, create intersections across class, company and outreach branches of our programming, and serve a broader community. By putting down roots we will create infrastructure to support an expanded reach of Young Dance.

Thank you for being a part of our foundation, and providing the stability to embark on this big leap!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gretchen Pick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Gretchen Pick

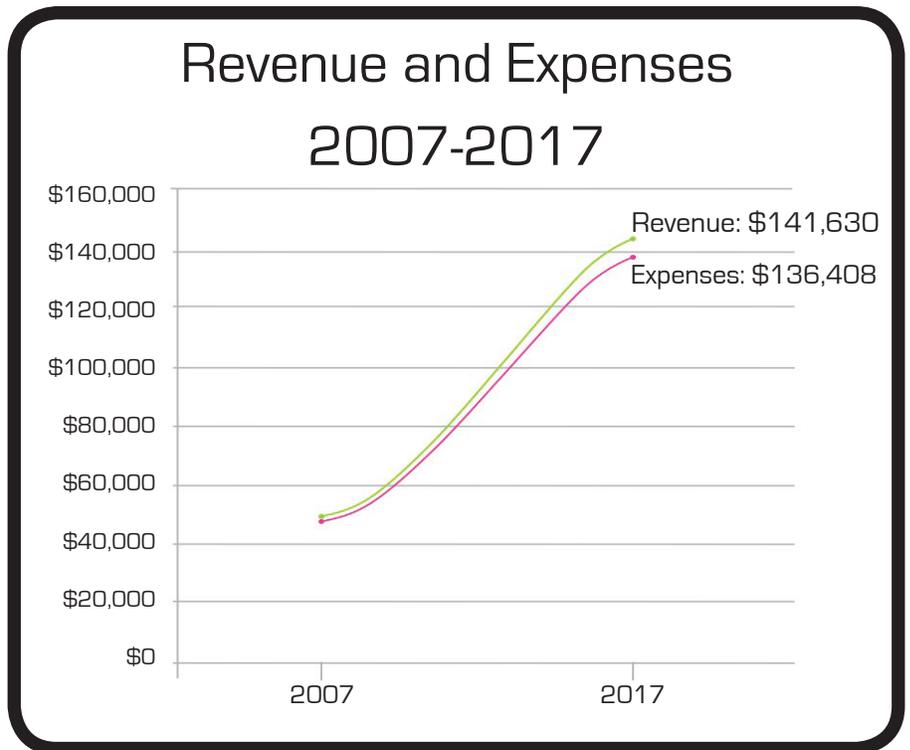
Executive Director



Young Dance Financial History and Growth

This year, Young Dance celebrates its 30th Anniversary. Since 1987, Young Dance has grown into an organization that serves several hundred students annually throughout the Twin Cities metro area through outreach classes, workshops and performances, and continues to feature a youth performing company that works with emerging and established professional artists, pushing the boundaries of the art and practice of dance.

As our numbers show, we have grown exponentially in our first thirty years. What the numbers don't tell is the insight and perspective that has come with each phase of growth.



2016-2017



150

boys and girls served in

17

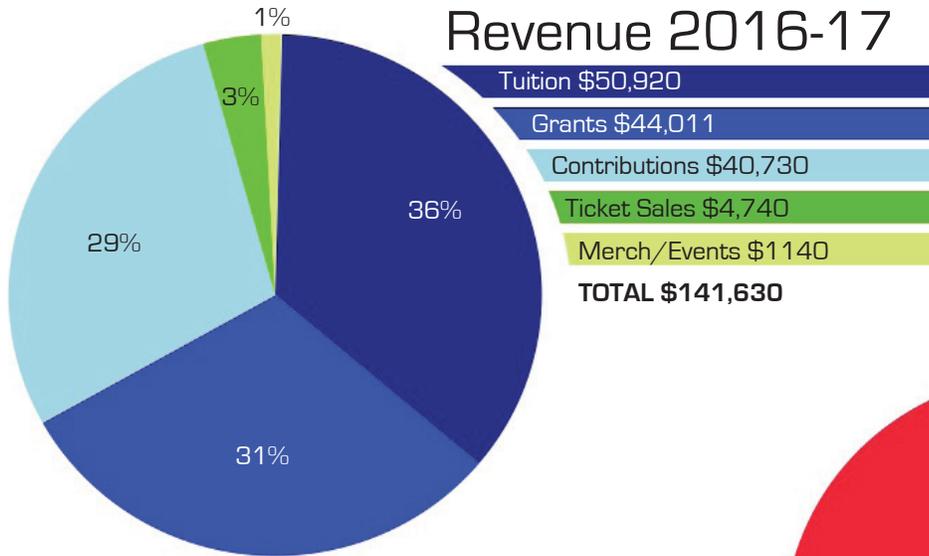
creative movement and dance classes weekly



25

member integrated dance company for youth 7-18 years old

LOOKING BACK *leaping forward*



Expenses 2016-17



8
community
partnerships

6
summer programs



450
local workshop
participants

Young Dance Stories

at Young Dance, my body was right

At that the age of seven, was already used to hearing that my body was wrong. I had too much energy. I showed my emotions in the wrong way. I didn't act like a girl should act. I needed to sit still and use my words.

So when my class went to see Young Dance perform, my first thought was 'I cannot believe those kids are allowed to do that.' followed by 'I HAVE to do that.'

At Young Dance, my body was right.

I learned to channel my energy and share my emotion. I learned to love my body for how it can learn and what it can express. I also learned how to use my words, as I worked together with youth of different ages and backgrounds to communicate our ideas through choreography.

The assurance that my body is right became increasingly important in the 11 years in which I grew up with Young Dance. I hope you will help Young Dance to continue to share that experience with as many kids as possible.

EMILY WINKLER-MOREY YOUNG DANCE ALUM '97-'08



MEGAN THIMMESCH 2017 GRADUATE & STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE



the student performance was literally the best moment of my life

When I was eight years old, I joined the first Young Dance disability project, which was centered on the hearing spectrum. I was coming from a school which had little to no experience working and interacting with disabled students, and I was suffering for it. I was angry and sad and very, very lonely. I was born with a significant hearing impairment in one ear, and a mild hearing loss in the other.

Over the course of the year, the group explored how we each communicate – through our hands, our mouths, our words – and discovered how we each experienced things differently. For me, it was a wonderful opportunity to be around people in a similar situation (I found it comforting) and it was an amazing opportunity to befriend kids my age. Imagine my surprise in finding that not everyone there was without their hearing! Whoaza!

My experience went so well – the student performance was literally the best moment of my life, aside from meeting my brother – that my mom asked if I wanted to join during the following year.

LOOKING BACK *leaping forward*



ANGELIQUE LELE
TEACHER & BOARD MEMBER

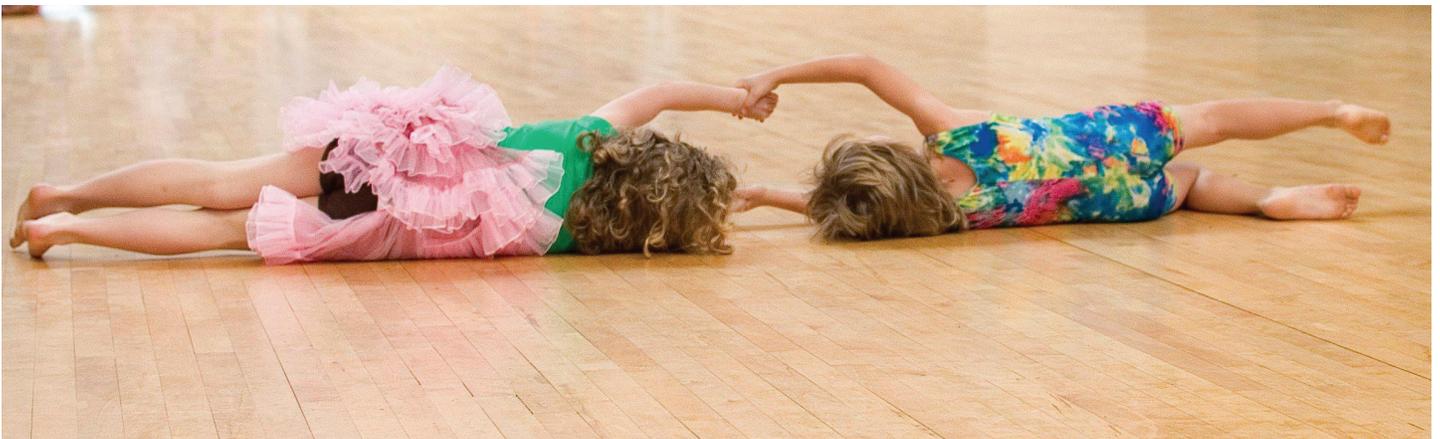
they each
moved in
their own
beautiful
way

Prior to landing in a wheelchair I taught yoga and some aerial workshops, I did massage, I was an actor and an aerialist. It was the life I created for myself. I didn't want to become paralyzed and have that ripped away from me. Well...really...who does?

I was plopped into Young Dance two years after I had fallen from my trapeze and landed in a wheelchair. Dwayne Scheuneman, my angel, was in town leading a dance workshop, and he took me. He introduced me to Gretchen Pick...who was to have a big and wonderful influence on my dancing life over the next few years...and put me in the middle of a class. I was so taken by these kids of all ages who seemed incredibly grounded and self-aware. They made eye contact with me, they listened, they weren't afraid or intimidated by my wheelchair, they WANTED to partner with me, they each moved in their own beautiful way and that made me feel free enough to start to move the new body I was dealing with...that I was learning to feel comfortable with.

Moving with them, I remembered what I had been missing those last couple of years. It was as if I had suddenly come to the surface of the water and filled my lungs with air.

Each one of these students has taught me a great deal, not just about dance, but about letting go, about trust and about acceptance on this journey. I assist, when they need me but I show up as much as I can because I learn so much.



Young Dance - a History

Young Dance was born out of a collaboration between Maria Genné and Colleen Callahan in 1988. At the invitation of Minnesota Dance Alliance to produce a youth summer dance concert, Colleen and her North High School dancers joined together with Maria and elementary aged dancers from her creative dance classes at Barton School, Edina Community Center and St. Paul JCC.



They named their two groups, Maria, Colleen and Kids and performed at Minnesota Dance Alliance's series 'Summer Dance' at the Ordway Theater for 3 summers to sold out houses. These artists, ages 5-18, performed dances choreographed by Maria, Colleen, guest artists and created their own choreography. They toured around greater Minnesota and traveled to the Dance and Child International Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1991.

This early iteration established the values that Young Dance still upholds. Young people are artists with something important to say that can push the practice and art of dance. Dance is a transformative form of education that builds self awareness, collaboration, and complex thinking. In a multi-age environment, young people develop their roles as leaders as well as members of a community.

Colleen left the collaboration in 1991 and continued to focus on her work with high school students at North High (15 years) and at Southwest High School (20 years). She has been a tremendous force for

dance education in locally and nationally.

Maria continued to work with dancers of all ages, as Young Dance Performers, nurturing young artists and connecting the group with many professional choreographers and musicians. She devoted her time and talent to her vision of creating a young people's dance company with young people, as young as 3, as artistic creators.

Maria's early vision of Young Dance continues today with Kairos Alive! This community-based arts and arts education organization directed by Maria, celebrates the creativity and beauty of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

We are grateful for the vision and commitment of Colleen and Maria who willingly responded to an invitation from the Minnesota Dance Alliance and set the course to transform the lives of generations of individuals through movement.



LOOKING BACK *leaping forward*



Transforming Lives Through Movement The Next 30 Years



LOOKING BACK *leaping forward*

Young Dance is seeking a permanent home for our classes and rehearsals.

In 1987, Young Dance was founded as a youth performance company and in the 1990s, we began to offer additional classes. Today, Young Dance offers 15 classes weekly for youth with and without disabilities in creative movement and modern dance. We currently rent studios by the hour at several different locations in Downtown, South, and Southeast Minneapolis.

Young Dance is a unique organization in the Twin Cities dance community that integrates dancers living with disabilities into our classes and company. We currently encounter many barriers to accessibility when seeking space for our classes and rehearsals that include hard floors, inaccessible restrooms, a lack of accessible parking, and unreliable elevators. Young Dance is recognized as a regional model for our integrated dance programming and the facility that becomes our permanent home will reflect the needs of our community, as well as serve as a resource for the dance community.



Young Dance is at the beginning of a multi-year process to identify and secure a permanent home.

Our initial steps have been:

- Contacting similar organizations with permanent homes to discuss benefits and challenges.
- Contacting commercial realtors to get an estimate and learn about the process.
- Drafting a 3 year budget plan that includes space acquisition.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Aren Aizura
Liv Anderson
Nell Anderson
Aon Foundation
Scott Artley
Jen Auwles and Sean Madigan
Matthew Ayres
Sam Baker and Anat Shinar
Ivy Baldwin
Tara Barcza
Brenda and Ann Becher-Ingwalson
Sarah Beilke-Champe
Gretchen Benson
Rebecca Bentley
Julie and Tom Bittinger
Wendy Bosley
Jessica Briggs
Carol Buche
Laura Busian
Bill Cameron
Karen Chenoweth and David Kopilow
Norman Cohn
Mike Cohn
Virginia Curry
Emily Dahl
Kay Darlington
Kristin Dean
Patsy Dew
Karla and David Donisch
Katherine Dunbar
Craig Dunn and Candace Hart
Jenny Eskola
Erica Fishman
Nancy and Bill Flood
Megan Flood
Eva Flood
Michael Flood and Gretchen Pick
Laura Fritz
Nicole Frost
Annette and Timothy Gagliardi
Rachel Gagliardi
Denise Gagner
Phyllis Genest-Stein

Pam Gleason
Veronica and Jon Gomez-Whitney
Katherine Goodale
Hope Grathwol
Andrea and Brian Gregory
Kathy Gremillion
Courtney Hammond
Elizabeth Hannan
Beth and John Hannan
Margaret Hansen
Marylee Hardenbergh
Christopher Hastings
Bill Heffner and Julie Rohovit
Steve Heffter
Steven and Diane Heinsch
Rebecca Heist
Sophia Herrera
Laura Holway
Linda Horgan
Judith Howard
Maxine and Kieran Hughes
Benjamin Jacobson
Elizabeth Johnson
Nancy Johnson
Linda Jokela
Linda and Rick Jones
Justin Jones
Jane Kahan
Kristin Kowler
Lisa Kugler
Bruce Langer
Christine and Patrick Leehey
Angelique Lele
Janette Leslie
Donna and Harvey Leviton
The Lowbrow
Stephanie Malcy and Jay Schaefer
Lauren Matthews
Pamela McCarthey-Kern
Katherine Mohn
Jonathan and Rachel Morris
Tina Morris
Ann Mullaney

Patricia Mullaney-Loss
Natalis Counseling and Psychology
Solutions
Erika Nelson
Molly Nicholson
Benedict Olk and Kristine Berggren
Kathleen Pender
Heather and David Peterson
Anne Pick
Charisse and Noel Ponder
Puffin Foundation West, Ltd.
Michelle Ramier & Jonathan Chapman
Rachel Ratner
Cindy Reed
Kathryn Reed
Sondra Reis and Steven Gansen
Kate and Walter Rush
Joe and Jane Rydholm
Brad Saks
Ann Sargent
Sheryl Saterstrom
Chris Schlichting
Linda Shapiro
Cynthia Shelton
Margaret and Dan Shulman
Muneeza and Ashraf Siddiqui
Jan Sigmund
Candy Simmons
Bruce Skalbeck
Kim Skalbeck
Judy Slandzicki and Amy Marie Sawicki
Gregory Sparber
SPEDCO
Victoria Speidel
Rebecca Stanchfield
Jeanne Stever
Jill and Richard Stever-Zietlin
Stuart Pimsler Dance and Theatre
Kimberly Switlick-Prose
June Thieman and Dan Bartholomay
Erin Thompson
Ann Thompson
Ann Thorkelson

LOOKING BACK *leaping forward*

Maria and Tom Tierney
Rebecca and Philip Tinkler
Chuck Tomlinson and Alex Ellison
Jerri Wagner
Betsy Waltz
Linda Weber
Mark and Cathy Welna
Arlene and Stephen Winnick
Beth Winnick and
Christopher Michaelson
Nicholas Yared
Kara Yorkhall
Barbara Young
Rochelle Zordich

Young Dance Volunteers

Brenda Becher-Ingwalson
Sarah Beilke-Champe
Rebecca Bentley
Claire Blanchette
Laura Busian
Ingrid and Nat Case
Roo Case
Mike Cohn
Julia Davidson
Alex Ellison
Paula Faraci and Erik Jensen
Laura Fritz
Izzie Gagliardi
Rachel Gagliardi
Denise Gagner
Margaret Grace
Michael Grace
Andrea Gregory
Margaret Hansen
Elizabeth Hannan
Rebecca Heist
Silvia Ibanez-Brown
Jane Kahan
Nikki LaSorella
Angelique Lele
Siobhan Lockhart
Sara Maronde

Christopher, Sawyer, and Reese
Michaelson
Jon Morris
Noah Morris
The Nertery
Kathleen Pender
Michelle Ramier
Kristin and John Ratigan Green
Cindy Reed and Kristin Dean
Eddy Rivers
Chris and Emily Sidorfsky
Jill and Rich Stever-Zeitlin
Megan Thimmesch
Mike and Teri Thimmesch
Chuck Tomlinson
Ella Tomlinson
Betsy and Brandon Walts
Arwen Wilder
Beth Winnick
Andrea Zimmerman

Young Dance Teaching Artists

Caryn Bittinger
Mike Cohn
Julie Davidson
Brian Evans
Denise Gagner
Jennifer Glaws
Justin Jones
Angelique Lele
Lori Mercil
Blake Nellis
Kathleen Pender
Gretchen Pick
Charisse Ponder
Anat Shinar
Maggie Zepp
Andrea Zimmerman

Guest Artists with the Young Dance Company

Brian Evans
Elizabeth Johnson
Ananya Chatterjea and Ananya
Dance Theater

Outreach Partners

Dakota County Libraries
St. Paul Public Libraries
Michael Dowling School
Marcy Open School
Bridge View School
Roosevelt High School
Hennepin County Home School
Semilla Center for Healing and the
Arts

Young Dance Board Members

Jen Auwles
Laura Fritz
Rachel Gagliardi
Elizabeth Hannan
Angelique Lele
Jon Morris
Noah Morris
Megan Thimmesch
Ella Tomlinson
Beth Winnick

Young Dance Staff

Gretchen Pick, Executive Director
Justin Jones, Artistic Director
Jennifer Glaws, School and
Communications Director
Anat Shinar, Development Director



Young Dance

3754 Pleasant Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55409

612-423-3064

www.youngdance.org

