

Young Dance 2024 Annual Report

Cover page: 2024 Young Dance Annual Report

Image:

Several Young Dance students are in a circle formation, suspended mid-air in a jump with arms raised above their heads.

Page 1: Welcome

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**.

Image:

Nine school-aged dancers are standing next to one another shoulder to shoulder against an orange wall with the Young Dance logo painted in white. The dancers make funny faces or smile at the camera, showing how much they enjoy their community.

Page 2: 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 re- 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

Images:

A headshot of Executive Director Gretchen Pick smiling with her head slightly tilted to the right. Gretchen is wearing a green patterned bandana and blue tank top. Behind Gretchen is a light brown brick wall.

A headshot of Artistic Director Anat Shinar smiling. Anat has curly dark brown hair and is wearing a black V-neck shirt. Behind Anat is a light brown brick wall.

Below the headshots is an image of two school-aged dancers in the studio. The studio has gray Marley flooring and ballet bars against the wall. The dancer in the foreground

wears a white tee shirt and gray pants with short light brown hair. The dancer is in a deep lunge low to the ground with their torso off to the side, using both arms to support the pose. The dancer in the background is wearing a gray sweater and blue pants with blond hair pulled back. This dancer is on the floor, balancing on one arm with the other arm hovering above the ground. One leg kneels and the other extends behind the dancer and towards the back wall.

Page 3: Programs in our Studios

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.

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.

Quote

“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)

Data on our Programming

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

By 37 Teaching Artists

7–10 Community Partnerships Averaged Per Week

1,399 Students Served Outside our Studio Walls

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

Image:

A dancer with short dark brown hair and glasses wearing a purple Young Dance shirt and black pants looks outward while a large piece of purple fabric billows behind the dancer. The fabric is being held at one end by a smiling dancer with brown hair and glasses in an olive green t-shirt and black leggings. Behind the dancers is a white and orange wall with the Young Dance logo on it.

Page 4: 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.

Quote

“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)

Page 5: 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.

Quote

“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)

Image:

The dance studio has gray Marley flooring, and the background shows white walls, and two light brown wood doors. A dancer using a wheelchair with brown shoulder length hair, wearing a gray young dance hoodie and black pants, smiles, while facing outward with one arm down by her side and the other bent at the elbow. A red fabric band stretches over the chest of the dancer connecting her with another dancer who is grabbing onto the red band and stretching it around her waist. This dancer has bright

pink hair with bangs and is wearing black pants with two white stripes down the leg, a gray sweatshirt, and pink socks. In the background other dancers lean against the wall.

Page 6: 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 foster 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.

Data on our Performances

Over 1,000 People Attended the Performances

250 Dancers Performed

445 Viewers Accessed Our Livestream!

Image:

A group of dancers perform on a black Marley stage with a brick wall behind them, and red light illuminates the wall. In the foreground are two dancers with shiny gold tank top costumes and arms raised towards the sky. One dancer is using a wheelchair, and the other is kneeling to their left. The other dancers in the background raise their hands to the sky. A few dancers are using walkers. Others are seated at a low level and looking at the scene.

Page 7: 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.

Image:

A grown-up wearing a red sweater, jeans, and white shoes with dark brown hair and a young child in a two-toned blue fleece with a hood, multi-colored dress, purple leggings, and multi-colored checker printed shoes, holding a golf club. Both people crouch next to a multi-colored and polka-dotted homemade miniature golf hole.

Image:

Three People crouch beside a slender cardboard ramp that has been made into a miniature golf hole sitting atop a gray sidewalk. One person in a blue jacket and white sneakers is painting a yellow polka dot onto the cardboard. The other two people crouched on the other end of the golf hole. Painting and art supplies are lying around the area.

Page 8: Financials

Donut Charts Showing the 2023–24 Income and Expenses

Income

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

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

Income vs. Expense Over Time

This line graph shows the Young Dance budget was \$150,000 in 2016 and has shown steady growth over the past eight years.

Data on our Impact

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

Page 9: 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

Gabriella Bonadonna

Lainey Lee, Student Representative

Jon Morris

André Samples

Image:

A dancer using a wheelchair with blond hair pulled back in a bun and glasses and wearing a pink long-sleeve shirt with matching pink leggings has left arm raised towards the ceiling and right arm at her side by the wheel of her chair.

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 Shuǐ Xiān

Andrea Zimmerman

Maggie Heath, Lighting Designer

Liam McLaughlin, Sound Designer

Image:

A young dancer wearing dark blue pants with colorful polka dots, a white shirt with long pink sleeves, a face mask, and shoulder-length dark brown hair jumps in the air with arms spread out to either side; a green scarf billows above the dancer's head. An orange wall and gray floor are visible behind the dancer.

Page 10: 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

Image:

A group of dancers on varying levels are caught in motion, and the dancers' bodies blur across the image. In the background, over top of a white wall, the Young Dance logo is primarily painted in teal.

Page 11: 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.

Image:

A dancer wearing a gray hoodie with a purple Young Dance shirt over the top, dark hair, and glasses reaches one arm towards the ceiling, tilting at the waist slightly, with the other arm stretched towards the ground.

Page 12: Sponsors

2024 Build-Your-Own Miniature Golf Sponsors

[Blaze Credit Union](#)

[The Costume Collective](#)

[Home Depot: Store # 2806](#)

[Lake Monster Brewing Co.](#)

[The Makery](#)

[Metro Transit](#)

[No Mythic](#)

[Play It Again Sports St. Paul](#)

[Welna Ace Hardware: Store # 7166](#)

[Urban Refurbishment](#)

[Wilson Golf Group](#)

[Next Stage Rental + Market](#)

Young Dance Season Sponsors:

Athwin Foundation

Carlson Family Foundation

F.R Bigelow Foundation

Legacy Amendment

Minnesota State Arts Board

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council

Saint Paul STAR Program
Saint Paul & Minnesota 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.

Image:

A smiling dancer in gray sweatpants, a black cropped shirt, and white sneakers jumps up with legs stretched long and both arms bent at the elbow with fingers flared out.

Back Cover:

Image:

An adult wearing all black with a gray sweater tied around the dancer's waist dances with a red scarf in both hands. Three kids with orange, purple, and green scarves play with the scarves in varying poses. In the background are ballet barres and gray Marley flooring.

Social media Handles:

Facebook: YoungDance

Instagram: youngdancemn

X: youngdancemn

Vimeo: youngdance

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