



Heart of Dance

2015/2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Why Heart of Dance?

**Students learn so much more than dance steps.
They learn Respect, Elegance and Teamwork.
That's how Dancing Classrooms changes young lives.**

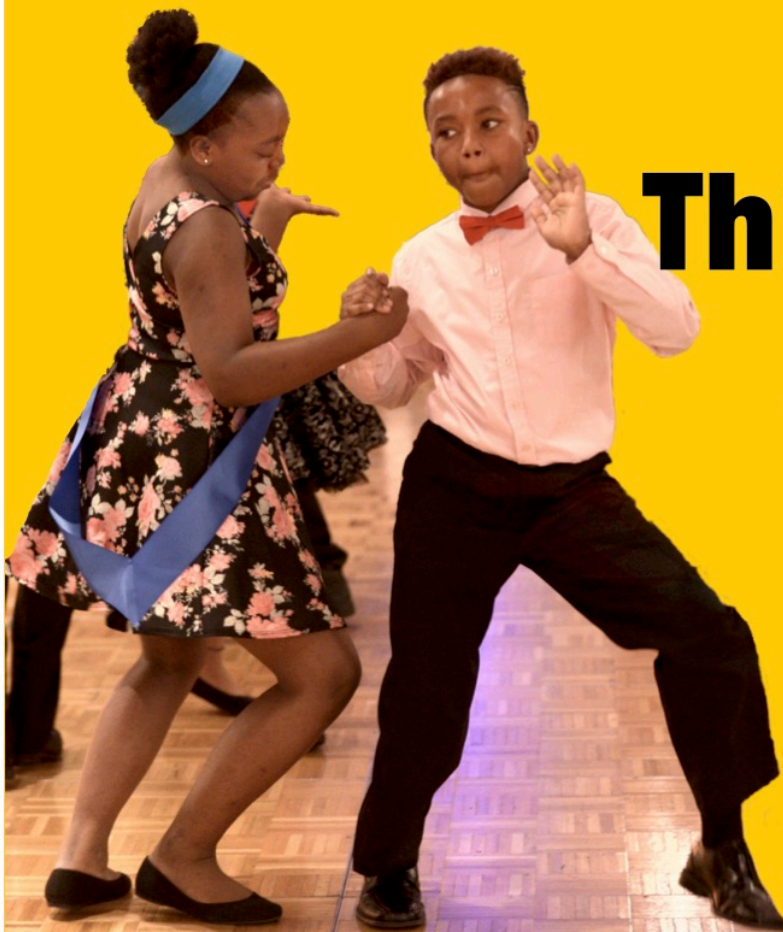
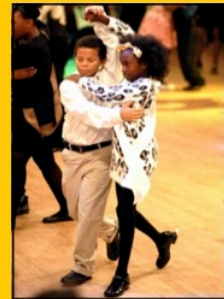
Self-confidence. Self-expression. Joyful movement. Elegance. Mental focus and physical exercise. Emotional support. Partner social dance can transform lives.



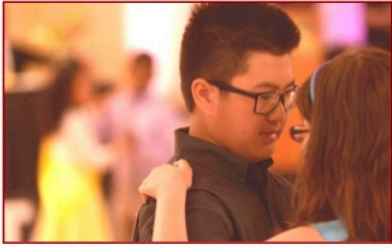
Heart of Dance co-founders Andrea Mirenda and Ember Reichgott Junge have experienced this for themselves and others. That's why they co-founded the Minnesota nonprofit Heart of Dance: to bring the physical, emotional and social benefits of ballroom dance to those who might not know them.

Inspired by the award-winning documentary *Mad Hot Ballroom*, they chose *Dancing Classrooms* as their first program bringing ballroom dance to fifth-graders. Minnesota is the 30th site of this proven global 20+ year social and emotional learning program.

New York-trained Teaching Artists teach students Merengue, Tango, Rumba, Foxtrot, Waltz and Swing during their 10-week in-school residency. They help classroom teachers coordinate the dances with other subjects, such as social studies, math, English and art. *They help students discover all they can be.*



Think you can
dance
like a
fifth grader?



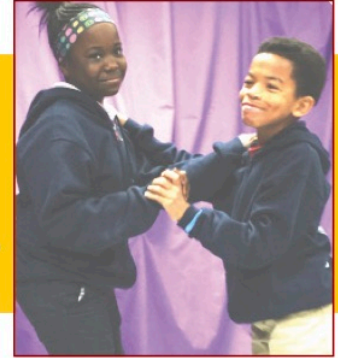
“I felt like a proud papa. You could see the respect from afar.”

Principal Kirk Morris, Benjamin E. Mays IB World School, St. Paul

2015-16 Surveys show strong results for Dancing Classrooms from Twin Cities parents and educators:

81% of parents saw increased self-esteem in their child.

“My child has become more confident at school and at home.”

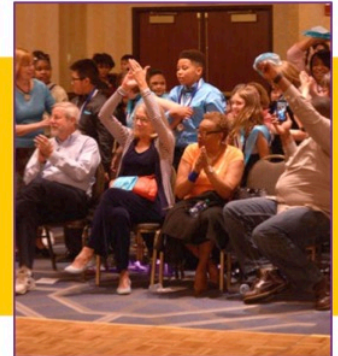


9 of 10 teachers reported improved student relationships.

“This is the most fun and rewarding opportunity in my 16 years of teaching.”

70% of parents noted improved relationships with their child.

“He’d show me the dances he learned. We danced together... He loves coming home and showing me his moves.”



2 of 3 parents reported increased academic performance in their child.

“Made her feel more confident in other subjects.”

“She just wanted to be BETTER.”

88% of parents would recommend Dancing Classrooms.

“All kids should get this!”



*Thank you
to our donors!*

**CORTM and Teaching Artist Sponsors
(\$5,000+)**

University of Minnesota Ballroom Dance Club
U Partner Dance, Inc.
The Emerald Foundation
Bob Sondag

Tango Classroom Sponsors (\$2,000)

Catherine Andrus
Deloris (Dede) Ouren

Rumba Classroom Sponsors (\$1,000)

Ron Mirenda
Dennis Yelkin

Swing Classroom Sponsors (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous
Dancers Studio
Ha Tuong
Jill Smith and Greg Warner

Foxtrot Classroom Sponsors (\$250)

Debra Owens
David Zaleske
St. Paul Promise Neighborhood
St. Paul Sunrise Rotary Foundation

Friends of Heart of Dance (\$50-\$249)

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Joyce Thompson

In-Kind Donors

C.J. Hurst
Costa Rica Ballroom
Grand Jete
Ha Tuong
MidPointe Event Center

Heart of Dance Benefit Hosts

Cinema Ballroom
Dancers Studio
USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter

For Grantors: See Back Page

*We thank our many donors who gave to
benefit events for Heart of Dance!*

To the Heart of Dance Community

We could not have done this without you. The launch during school year 2015-16 of Dancing Classrooms, our first program, exceeded all expectations. Over 650 fifth-graders in 28 classrooms in 12 Twin Cities schools experienced the benefits of ballroom dance.

“I can do this!” shouted one girl with tears in her eyes to her principal, overcoming her initial disruptive resistance. She elegantly represented her school at the semester-end Colors of the Rainbow Team Match (CORTM). “He was less shy and seemed to come out of his shell,” another parent told us. A paraprofessional reported her students worked together better in the classroom in other ways.

All of this was possible because of you. We are grateful to our funders large and small, to our amazing partners and volunteers in the ballroom dance community and beyond, and to our educators who took a chance to journey with us.

With your help, Heart of Dance doubled in size for school year 2016-17. We start this fall semester with 26 classrooms in 10 schools, with expectations to exceed that number for spring semester.

Do you want to bring Heart of Dance to a school you love? Do you want to volunteer as a Classroom Assistant, or audition to be a Teaching Artist? We especially encourage candidates of color or multilingual speakers to apply. Or perhaps you want to become a Classroom Sponsor? With champions like you, Heart of Dance and Dancing Classrooms can grow in the Twin Cities and expand to Greater Minnesota.

Thank you for helping to transform young lives one step at a time.

Dennis Yelkin

Heart of Dance Board Chair

Andrea Mirenda

651-283-6799

Ember Reichgott Junge

612-750-1262

Heart of Dance Co-Founders





2015-2016 Heart of Dance Board of Directors

Dennis Yelkin, Chair
 Chris Kempainen
 Cana Potter
 Walter Hartell
 Ha Tuong
 Jill Smith
 Greg Warner

Heart of Dance Staff

Andrea Mirenda, Co-Founder and Creative Director
 Ember Reichgott Junge, Co-Founder and Development Director
 Janine Premil, Finance Manager
 Carrie Sandgren, Program Manager
 Amy Hero Jones, Associate Director of Development
 Kimberly Peterson, Events and Administrative Coordinator

Teaching Artists

Heather Johnson, Lead
 Bonnie Inveen
 Michael Engel

Advisory Committee

Diane Aldis, Arts Educator
 Jessi Fett, Cowles Center for Dance and Performing Arts
 Shane Haggerty, Professional Dancer
 Patricia Harmon, Executive Director, ComerHouse
 Dr. John Sandgren, Physician
 Carl Schlueter, Executive Director, Seven Hills Preparatory Academy

Joyce Thompson, Board Member, USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter
 Leslie Whitney, Board Member, USA Dance, Minnesota Chapter

2015-2016 School Partners

Academia Cesar Chavez, St. Paul
 Athlos Leadership Academy, Brooklyn Park
 Benjamin E. Mays IB World School, St. Paul
 Cherokee Heights Elementary School, St. Paul
 Four Seasons A+ Elementary School, St. Paul
 Friendship Academy of the Arts, Minneapolis
 Harambee Elementary School, Maplewood
 Jackson Preparatory School, St. Paul
 Partnership Academy, Richfield
 St. Paul City School, St. Paul
 Stonebridge IB World School, Minneapolis
 Wellstone Elementary School, St. Paul

Program Volunteer Classroom Assistants

Dede Ouren, Coordinator; Wanda Breyer, Elaine Prebonich, John Sandgren, Joyce Thompson, Ellen Werr, Leslie Whitney, Dianne Zepeda

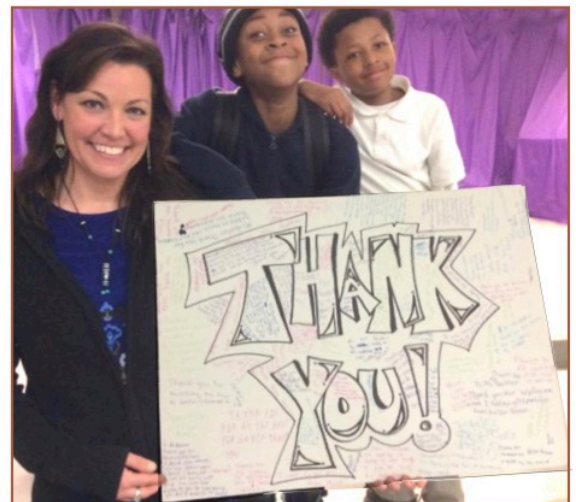
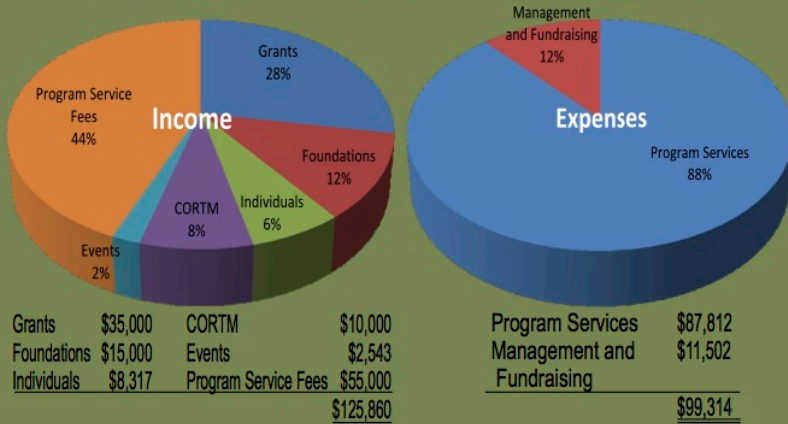
Professional Ballroom Dance Judges

Amy Anderson, Nathan Daniels, Michelle Hudson, Marcy McHenry, Shinya McHenry, Elecer and Rebecca Ramirez, Alina and Alex Spencer

Professional Dance "Buddies"

Russell Alliev, Rebecca Abas, Gordon Bratt, Dustin Donelan, Patrick Ellner, Robert Foster, Eric Hudson, Michelle Hudson, Chris Kempainen, Troy Lerum, Joanna Lessard, Monica Mohn, Elecer Ramirez Vargas

2015-16 FINANCIAL INFORMATION





Heart of Dance

Heart of Dance brings the physical, emotional and social benefits of ballroom dance to youth, seniors, veterans and individuals living with mental, emotional or physical illness or challenges.



info@heartofdancemn.org
www.heartofdancemn.org

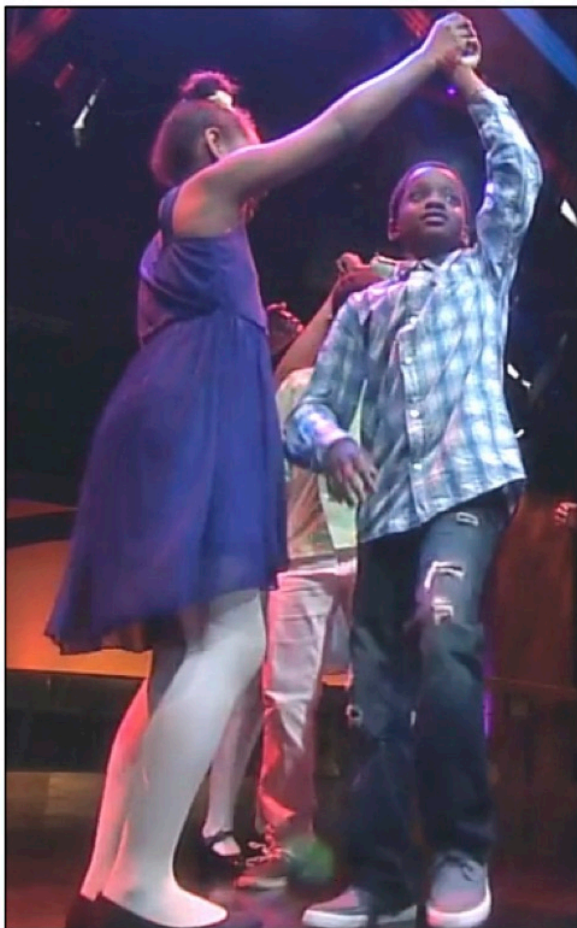


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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

