



# DANCE ONTARIO

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



## A MESSAGE FROM

SAMARA THOMPSON, CHAIR



Dance Ontario's 39th year was productive and exciting, filled with important initiatives and fabulous dance!

Our organization has a unique and indispensable role in the Ontario dance community. We serve dance professionals, students, studios, companies, scholars,

enthusiasts, and many other dance-related professions and activities. In a year filled with ever-changing challenges due to the global pandemic, Dance Ontario continued to serve, educate, and showcase our members.

Dance Ontario flourished and broadened its offerings in 2022-2023! Our 29th DanceWeekend returned to the theatre and also had live-stream performances. We hosted several film premieres, had multiple events for International Dance Day, partnered with many new organizations, and had an online dance party attended by over 2500 dancers!

Sadly, long time Board member, Kate Lowe, passed away this year. She was actively involved with Dance Ontario for over 17 years, was instrumental in the development

of Dance Ontario's Regional Networks, and founding, chairing, and nurturing the Halton Dance Network. She is greatly missed and her passing is a loss to the Board, the Halton district, and the dance community.

A sincere thank you to those who were a part of Dance Ontario's continued success this past year! Amy Hampton, our Executive Director, continues offering excellence in all she does for Dance Ontario and the dance community. Her insight, foresight, and tenacity are very much appreciated. Thank you to Julie McLachlan, who was our Membership coordinator, for her many years of dedication to our organization. She has since moved on to other opportunities and on behalf of the Board, I wish her the best. I also recognized and am grateful for the continued invaluable work of Alan Faigal, our Outreach Coordinator. Thank you to our Network Coordinators for their hard work and commitment. Heartfelt gratitude is also extended to our fabulous Board of Directors, who gave freely of their time and are passionate ambassadors of Dance Ontario's endeavours, furthering the success of our organization.

As we enter our 40th year, I foresee another year that will have us dancing with joy, as we provide rich and valuable services while broadening our offerings to our members. On behalf of Dance Ontario, I thank you for your membership. We look forward to working with you in dance throughout the coming year and invite you to Come Dance with Us!

## A MESSAGE FROM

AMY HAMPTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This year was one of transition. As the dance community emerged and showed its resilience from the COVID pandemic, we aimed to bring our learning and new tools with us into the changed landscape. We know that the pandemic continued to affect our organization and

the broader community and appreciated the sharing of these struggles and challenges as well as successes from our members. In this challenging environment, Dance Ontario has focused on cultivating mutually beneficial partnerships, co-sponsorships and in-kind donations. This has allowed us to broaden our reach, offer new programming, services and benefits to our members and to build valuable ongoing relationships with community partners.

The move into our new home at City Dance Corps in the spring of 2022 was a major change, after being in the Distillery for twenty years. City Dance Corps has been a great space for us and the studio is eager to partner with us to help support the dance community.

DanceWeekend was back live and in person at the Fleck Dance Theatre, Harbourfront in July 2022, presenting the work of 30 artists/companies and bringing 300 dancers and musicians to the stage. The event was also live-streamed, reaching audiences nationally and internationally. Curatorial partnerships with the Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance and dance Immersion brought a specific focus to Black and

Indigenous artists for both Mainstage performances and workshops. It was a joy to be back in the theatre with so many artists and audience members.

Highlights of DanceWeekend'22 included: 2 world premiere commissions from senior artist Patrick Parson and emerging artist Zachary Seto, 2 days of live dance performances at the Fleck Theatre featuring a range of dance styles and artists, 3 dance workshops (Tap, Indigenous and African -Contemporary), the screening of 10 dance films, the creation of a participatory Bollywood dance film with 14 dancers from our community choreographed by Chase Constantino, 2 artist talks one online and one in the theatre, media attention and online contests with TurnOut Radio, TLN and Salsa in Toronto, 110,000 impressions overall across all virtual content. Twelve organizations supported DanceWeekend'22, including media sponsorship from the DanceCurrent and Univision Canada.

The Jacque Foesier Youth Award was given to Leya Oomen this year, a talented bharatanatyam dancer. With filmmaker Manuel Garcia, we created a short film highlighting her dancing and exceptional work with her community.

Continuing to share our members' work broadly through digital means, we co-presented the premiere of the film In Case of Emergency with Kaeja d'Dance. In Case of Emergency features 18 artists of diverse backgrounds and identities performing in a range of dance styles. The social media marketing campaign shared personal experiences and insights into the practice and personal creative process of these artists. This was an important opportunity to highlight many BIPOC, LGBTQ2s+ and differently-abled artists.

## A MESSAGE FROM (CONT.)

AMY HAMPTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We celebrated International Dance Day in many ways this year. Dance Ontario partnered with Dance Umbrella of Ontario and The Dance Current on a special International Dance Day message for Ontario from Renata Soutter of Propeller Dance in Ottawa. The message was available in written and video format with ASL interpretation and audio description. We premiered a short film, *Dance Across Ontario*, featuring 10 of our members sharing a bit about their work and their wishes for our community. We partied with Culture Shock Canada by presenting our highly popular FREE Online Dance Party hosted by Alan Faigal and attended by 2500 dancers, students and community movers.

Film premiere events took place across the province sharing the individual regional versions of *Windows of Time* in collaboration with Dreamwalker Dance Company and our Regional Networks in Halton, Dufferin, Windsor, London and Sault Ste Marie. These events were as unique as the communities they were held in and included artist talkbacks, live performances and more.

DanceON Series supported the community with professional development opportunities with Dr Stephen Grays' Rolling 101 workshop on self-care for dancers and teachers, a Dance on Film workshop with Allen Kaeja, an Intro to Bollywood workshop with Chase Constantino. We also co-presented a Show & Share session with David Norsworthy and Marielis Garcia of a participatory work before they headed out on tour.

Over the last year our active Facebook group membership has grown past 8400 members. We grew our contacts and followers with 200 new email subscribers and Facebook page new followers up 325% and Instagram followers up 101%. We are thrilled that our community is so active and engaged!

Advocacy for the dance community continued to be supported by our Advocacy and Policy Fellow Naheen Ahmed, who worked with us through the Urban Alliance on Race Relations. We conducted targeted surveys and online polls over the year and appreciated all the insights our respondents shared specifically around access to government supports and membership needs. These were communicated to government through letters to Ministers, pre-budget submissions and participation in advocacy campaigns. Dance Ontario continued to work with the PASO-OPSA Coalition to advocate for the arts more broadly whenever possible. I was thrilled to be a part of the Advisory Committee for the Canadian Dance Assembly's Canadian Performing Arts Workers Resilience fund which offered emergency assistance for dancers in need and distributed \$4,910,000.00 to 1,964 dancers across Canada.

In an effort to support our community and add value to membership we added new member benefits including \$20/hour studio rentals at City Dance Corps, a discount through Human Kinetics on professional development material, which includes textbooks, and online courses, discounts with Christie Lites for dance specific equipment, and discounts with Revolutionnaire Dancewear, a company that offers dancewear specifically for dancers of colour.

Thank you to Samara Thompson, our exceptional Board and Committees, Networks Coordinators, volunteers, collaborators, partners, funders and sponsors and to you our members for keeping our dance community dancing!



**3** COMMISSIONED WORKS

**7** ONLINE WORKSHOPS

**10** SHORT FILMS PRODUCED

**30** COMPANIES/CHOREOGRAPHERS PRESENTED

**8000** ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS

**10,000** VIEWS FOR ONLINE FILMS

**110,000** IMPRESSIONS FOR DANCEWEEKEND

**175,000** PAGE VIEWS ON DANCEONTARIO.CA

**18,000** SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM**

ANUSCKA ROES, TREASURER

**DANCE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION****Statement of Financial Position****As at March 31, 2023***(Unaudited)*

	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ -	\$ 42,342
Accounts receivable <i>(Note 3)</i>	10,072	10,319
Harmonized Sales Tax recoverable	5,143	14,155
Prepaid expenses	1,544	1,337
	<u>\$ 16,759</u>	<u>\$ 68,153</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Bank indebtedness <i>(Note 3)</i>	\$ 8,997	\$ -
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	12,493	17,479
Deferred revenues <i>(Note 4)</i>	12,200	69,690
	<u>33,690</u>	<u>87,169</u>
<b>DEFICIT</b>		
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<u>(16,931)</u>	<u>(19,016)</u>
	<u>\$ 16,759</u>	<u>\$ 68,153</u>



## ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

### **Creative Partnerships Program Commissioned Artists:**

Zachary Seto

Patrick Parson

### **Windows of Time Film Premiere Events:**

London

Dufferin

Burlington

Sault Ste Marie

### **DanceWeekend'22 Hybrid Edition**

COME DANCE WITH US participatory  
film choreography by Chase Constantino

Film Series

Jessie Garon

Kin Nguen & AJ Velasco

Candace Kumar

Jiapei ma

Diana Lopez Soto

Karen Kaeja

Jasmine Ellis

Elena la Comadre

### **DanceWeekend 22 Mainstage Artists:**

Culture Shock Canada

Peggy Baker Dance Projects

Little Pear Garden Dance Company

tiger princess dance projects

Yasmina Ramzy Arts

Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance presents :

A'nó:wara Dance Theatre (Barbara Diabo)

Creative Partnerships Commissions: Patrick Parson  
and Zachary Seto

City Dance Corps

Jade's Hip Hop Academy Performance Company

Mi Young Kim Dance Company

AIM Dance Company

George Brown Dance

Ritmo Flamenco

Sashar Zarif Dance Theatre

Creative Partnerships Commissions: Patrick Parson  
and Zachary Seto

Harikishan S Nair

dance Immersion presents Mafa Dance Village

## ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Online Workshops with

Mafa Makubahlo in partnership with dance Immersion

Jessica Westermann

Barbara Diabo in partnership with The Indigenous  
Performing Arts Alliance

### **DanceON Series Workshops:**

· Dr Stephen Grays: Rolling 101 Workshop

Allen Kaeja: Dance on Film workshop

Chase Constantino : Intro to Bollywood workshop

### **DanceOn Series Show & Share Sessions:**

July 2022: David Norsworthy and Marielis Garcia

International Dance Day Message from Renata Soutter  
in partnership with Dance Umbrella of Ontario and  
The Dance Current

DANCE PARTIES in partnership with Culture Shock  
Canada to celebrate International Dance and the  
Holiday season.



## **| REGIONAL NETWORKS**

### **HALTON DANCE NETWORK**

Coordinators: Kate Lowel

### **WINDSOR & REGION DANCE**

Coordinator: Mary Jo Mullins

### **SUDBURY DANCE NETWORK**

Coordinator: Emma Duncan

### **THE SOO/ALGOMA DANCE NETWORK**

Coordinator: Valerie Calam

### **LONDON DANCE NETWORK**

Coordinator: Bizz Varty

### **DUFFERIN DANCE NETWORKS**

Coordinator: Catherine Carpenko

### **OTTAWA DANCE NETWORK**

Coordinators: Lola Ryan



## | DANCE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

Dance Ontario Association was founded in 1976 and incorporated not-for-profit (1985) We are a dynamic cross section of Ontario's dance sector from internationally renowned companies to individual dance artists.

### STAFF 2022-23

Amy Hampton, Executive Director  
Alan Faigal, Outreach Coordinator  
Jaedyn Richards, Administrative Assistant

### SUPPORT

Karen Bennedsen, Bookkeeper  
Richard Munter, Web Developer

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-23

Samara Thompson (Chair)  
Lee Sela (Vice Chair)  
Anuschka Roes (Secretary)  
Jennifer Watkins (Treasurer)  
Lola Ryan (Past Chair)  
Emily Cheung  
Rob Galbraith  
Jane Gardner  
Debra Kapp  
Kate Lowe  
Patrick Parson  
Yasmina Ramzy  
Suzan Richards  
Dr Lisa Sandlos

### 2022-23 SPONSORS

The Dance Current  
Pivot Dancer  
The Respect Group  
Curv Health  
Front Row Insurance  
Loft Cycle Club  
City Dance Corps  
Salsa in Toronto/Univision  
Experium Enterprise  
Made to Move  
COVID Clearance  
Culture Shock Canada

Photo credits: Amy Hampton by Cylla von Tiedemann, CCDT by Canadian Contemporary Dance Theater, Halton Dance Network, Julie McLachlan, Natasha Powell

### DANCE ONTARIO IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY:

