

Dear Dance New Jersey Community,

I am thrilled to be the new Executive Director of this wonderful organization!

Your donations help us continue to fulfill our mission of sustaining a diverse and equitable dance community in our state.

With your help, this is proving to be a year of incredible growth for us as we mindfully expand our programming and offerings to be more inclusive and reflective of the true diversity of dance styles and movement practitioners in our state. We are here to build, support, and elevate the totality of the New Jersey dance community.

Let me tell you about one of the ways we are expanding our reach: **DNJFest '24** is coming this **February 3 at Rutgers University** - and it's going to be epic! Offerings include:

- **“First Look” High School Audition** - Bring your high school dance programs, your studio companies, and any student who is interested in studying dance at the college and university level. Representatives from NJ college dance programs will be on hand to get a sneak peak at the next generation of potential dance majors in advance of that first round of applications and official audition submissions.
- **“First Look” College & Pre-Professional Audition** - College students, pre-professionals, and current professionals are invited to be seen by our member companies and non-union companies based in New York.
- **Four “Morning Jam” Movement Practice Sessions** - Choose between Bollywood, West African, Salsa/Latin Dance, and Capoeira workshops during the morning session.
- **Afternoon Anchor Artist** - Contemporary Hip Hop visionary **Rennie Harris** will lead the Afternoon Anchor session. There is so much to learn from the director of Rennie Harris Pure Movement and founder of the Rennie Harris University certification course in Hip Hop and Street Dance history and pedagogy.
- **DNJ Vendors Market** - Vendors ranging from shoemakers to dance attire to costume makers to massage therapists will be on hand to support dancers with needed items and wellness solutions
- **Community Roundtables** - Our flex space will have a rotating roundtable focusing on K-12 Educators, Studio Owners, Not-for-Profits Organizations, and more.

Your donation will help make all of this possible and accessible at a reduced cost for participants, and we thank you for partnering with us in this journey!

DNJFest '24 will be followed in quick succession by **SHOW UP & DANCE '24** at Montclair State University on Sunday, March 3. This is an all day, low cost performance event for our member schools, studios, emerging artists, and established companies. It is a must-attend event for all members of the Dance New Jersey community! Because this is where we lift each other up.

Ongoing Dance New Jersey initiatives include:

- Dance to Learn - training and embedding teaching artists in K-12 public schools in partnership with Young Audiences
- Professional Development - K-12 educators, studio owners, college dance professionals, and independent teachers are invited to our biannual professional development workshops - Next stop = Renowned Tap artist **Jason Samuels Smith** - elevating a neglected black dance form at OCVTS this November 16!
- Regranting Program - In partnership with the Covid Recovery Fund for Individual Dance Artists, NJ dance artists who demonstrate ongoing financial impact from the pandemic are eligible to apply for \$2000 personal grants
- Biannual Connection Calls - Targeted connection and enrichment calls for member Educators, Non-Profits, and Studio owners
- Main Street Concerts - we partner with business alliances and chambers of commerce around the state to activate downtowns/public spaces with live dance performances from our members

Your tax deductible donation helps support all of these efforts and constitutes a vote of **YES** for the dance community in our state. We thank you for joining our community of partners because together, we are #dancenewjerseystrong!

Sincerely,

Sarah Weber Gallo

Executive Director
Dancenewjersey.org