

ANNUAL REPORT

STEAMBOAT DANCE THEATRE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2023 IN REVIEW

Dear SDT Family,

2023 was a year of growth, change, and development for Steamboat Dance Theatre (SDT). Coming off the COVID years, the Board met to restructure our Strategic Plan, and started implementing some of the visions and ideas brought forth from the community at large, and our members. This growth was further solidified with the hiring of a new Executive Director, and the addition of new board members who bring a wealth of knowledge, insight, diverse backgrounds, and enthusiasm to the organization.

After 11 years of serving SDT, either on the Board or as ED, Kristen Jespersen stepped down to pursue another career path. She laid an amazing foundation and groundwork for the organization that we will take into our future. Now, for the first time in the organization's history, we have a full-time Executive Director, who can focus solely on our mission in programming, outreach, and who will broaden and deepen our impact within the community. **READ THE PRESS RELEASE [HERE!](#)**

This year was filled with artistic achievements, community engagement, and financial stability. Despite the challenges posed by the ever-changing economy, our commitment to promoting dance as an art form remains strong. Steamboat Dance Theatre is actively working on telling our story; becoming more than the Annual Concert in the eyes of the community, and bringing rich and meaningful experiences to the Yampa Valley.

Steamboat Springs is home to abundant talent in various genres of dance and performance. Our going-forward goal is to be the centralized hub of dance happenings within the Yampa Valley. As such, we have revamped our website to include local events, and will continue to revise it to better suit the needs of our members and studios. We are hosting roundtables with members and studio owners, to better ascertain additional ways SDT may support them. As we are not our own studio, our vision is to help support the studios in whatever ways possible, for them to thrive. To become a backbone, pillar, resource and network of dancers and dance-lovers alike. SDT also aims to connect studios to each other, to provide more opportunities for both adults and children within the community: To help everyone feel a part of one bigger community, and less on individual islands.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of our activities, successes, and plans for the future.

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS

In 2023, Steamboat Dance Theatre continued its tradition of providing Dance programming and supporting the Yampa Valley. Highlights include:

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The Annual Concert: In the spring of 2023, we produced our largest show yet, with a cast of over 200 dancers. All 4 of the shows were sold out and we raised a net \$22K to put back into programming. The concert featured a variety of dance styles – everything from Latin to Contemporary, Tap, and Hip-Hop.

World Dance in Schools: For the 2nd year in a row, we implemented this program to 3rd graders in four local schools. This program aims to expose our youth to different dance styles, with lessons of geography and history sprinkled throughout for an average of 3 weeks in elementary schools' physical education classes. This program has been extremely well received and is taking shape to become a permanent part of PE curriculums community-wide.



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Scholarships: Our scholarship program grew by almost 20% over last year. With a rising cost of living in Steamboat, this program is becoming increasingly and vitally important to helping students continue dance classes. It also supports studios with their enrollment. SDT is the only organization in Steamboat that offers scholarships for dance and dance-related endeavors including workshops, continuing education, and competitions. Our Scholarship Committee is currently in the process of revamping our application process to make it more streamlined and accessible. One such revision includes getting rid of the requirement of families to make a financial contribution. We are now able to fund requests at 100% of the ask, where warranted. We also are proud to report that we fund every applicant on some level, with the trust that if someone is taking time to apply, they probably have a need.

Here are some recent testimonials of our Scholarship Program:

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"I started dance when I was about 4 yrs old and have loved it ever since. When I was about 11 my dance teacher moved to Denver, so I took a year off. After my short break from dancing, I started again doing hip-hop with Elevation Dance Studio. The SDT scholarship has allowed me to continue my passion of dancing. This scholarship has also allowed me to perform in the recitals. Lastly, the SDT scholarship has allowed me to try different styles of dancing to see which I enjoy most, such as hip-hop or jazz. A few of the things that I love most about dance are: getting to decide what your favorite style of dance is, learning a new fun but sometimes challenging dance every month, and getting to perform the dance you've worked so hard on for so many months in the recital. My future aspirations about dance are to continue dancing until I go to college, try out even more styles of dance and choose the one I am really passionate about, and possibly keep dancing in college or even when I graduate from it."

- Caitlin, Scholarship Recipient

"I just would love for you to tell the board how amazing I think it is that you all do what you do. So many of these kids truly owe their whole dance career to SDT. If it wasn't for you there would just be NO WAY for them to dance and these are the kids I personally know need it the most, and have fully committed all their free time to dance: (_____, _____.) I'm sure there are more. And knowing how much little _____ loves dance, going on her 4th year, and her dad is just so sick with Hodgkin's and God willing a good prognosis in the future...I mean what you're all doing for these families. I'm tearing up writing this.... I just want you all to know how I try to do my part to make sure these kids stay in dance when they love it so much, by discounting their rate significantly and allowing them to pay me when they can. But thanks to SDT or they wouldn't be able to do it at all. SDT board members should smile everyday knowing how happy they make those who so need both dancing and the financial aid in which to do so. On behalf of them I am forever grateful and will never forget how lucky we all are to live in a community with STEAMBOAT DANCE THEATRE!!!"

-Dance Studio Owner in Steamboat Springs

"I wanted to send a quick "thank you" while I had a moment. We are in the middle of our 2nd move in 7 months and are quite busy packing and moving things. We have received a few scholarships the past few months and I can't express how grateful we are for this. We just moved to South Routt around 7 months ago and having this available to us has made such a huge impact for our daughter _____. This is the first time she has ever been able to participate in anything like this. If it were not for the scholarship that we receive, we would not be able to have her participate in dance. We are so thankful to all of those who contribute to make this happen for our daughter. She is homeschooled and participating in this has really allowed her to make many new friends. We are extremely grateful."

-Parent of a Scholarship Recipient



We hosted Amy Sigil as a master class & guest choreographer for the Jasmir Belly Dancing Troupe. Her choreography was featured in the Annual Concert.



We hosted bilingual rehearsals and expanded our Annual Concert to include a Latin-culturally inspired dance.



Our website has been translated into Spanish, and we distributed marketing materials to other local non-profits through the Human Resources Council (HRC).

7 INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBERS



KAT GOODHAND, BOARD PRESIDENT

Kat has been enamored with dance from her first recital, donning tap shoes, a red nose, and reindeer antlers. A spirit of adventure and a bit of serendipity landed her in Steamboat in 2011 for seasonal work, yet the beauty of the mountains and the special community swayed her to stay awhile and sow roots with her now husband, Jeff. Professionally, Kat has years of experience in hospitality operations and is currently serving as Business Development Director for a local property management company. She has supported the dance community as a dance instructor, Artistic Director for SDT's annual performance, and Board Member. As Board President, Kat brings to Steamboat Dance Theatre a spirit of service, love of connecting with people, and a dedication to this amazing and unique community.



PAM PERETZ, BOARD TREASURER

Pam was born in Los Angeles, California to parents who originated from Oahu, Hawaii. She is Chinese, Hawaiian, Japanese and Russian. Ever since her childhood, she has loved music, dance and drama. She plays flute, piano, some guitar and ukulele. She was in a hula troop during her high school years and often performed at parties and luaus. She also played Bloody Mary in the high school production of South Pacific. She worked for Mattel Toys for 25 years with 18 of those years on the iconic Barbie Brand before moving over to Hot Wheels and Nickelodeon.

After working days, nights, holidays and weekends for the past 13 years, she has finally Settled into a Monday through Friday position. This has provided her the time to Volunteer and take time to smell the roses. She is anxious to begin work as a new Board Member and hopes to bring some new and creative ideas to raise funds, recruit new members, increase financial development and maintain sustainability of the organization. She looks forward to a new adventure with the Steamboat Dance Theater and can't wait to get to work. Let the show begin!



MELANIE MORE-SMITH, BOARD MEMBER

Melanie is a Colorado native. She was raised in the Yampa Valley and is proud of her Steamboat heritage. She has always enjoyed watching the annual concert, and decided to start dancing in 2016, to show her children that even when something is intimidating, you can do anything you put your mind to. Though she has never studied dance, her level of kitchen dancing is pretty impressive! You will find her as the chaos coordinator (aka Office Manager) at Elevation Dance Studio where she loves seeing children follow their dancing dreams. She sees firsthand the impact of the scholarship program on a daily basis and decided to join the board to take her passion for dance to another level, and give back to the organization. She has established many friendships in SDT and is happy to be stepping up to help further the organization's success. She is a wife and mother of 2 children, 5 goats, 12 chickens, 5 dogs and Franklin, the tortoise.



RENEE FLEISCHER, BOARD MEMBER

Renee is the owner and artistic director of Elevation Dance Studio now in its 14th consecutive season. She has been training in dance since the age of 3. She was a dance major at AZ State University, and received a scholarship at the Academy of Performing Arts in San Diego, CA after college. Renee began a professional career as a San Diego Charger girl from 1996-1998 before moving to Vail, CO in 1999 where she was a Denver Broncos Cheerleader until 2001 and traveled to Sydney, Australia to perform in the American Bowl with international recording artist Chris Isaak. As a United Spirit Association Advanced Jazz Dance Instructor, choreography credits include the Vail Valley Academy of Dance Company, The Dollhouse Revue, Dream Project, The Steamboat Dance Theatre, Elevation's Nutcracker Productions, and 13 dance recitals.





JACKI BRAZILL, BOARD MEMBER

Jacki was born and raised in central New Jersey. The proximity to New York City allowed her to experience the arts first-hand at a very young age, particularly developing a deep love of Broadway. Growing up, she was an enthusiastic participant in musical theatre productions, which is how she discovered her love of dance. She went to college in Philadelphia and moved to Steamboat in 2012.

Since joining Steamboat Dance Theatre in 2013, Jacki has continued to develop her dance skills and passion for performing. In her professional life, Jacki works in college admissions at Colorado Mountain College. She has received her Doctorate of Education from the University of Denver, Master of Science from Drexel University, and Bachelor of Arts from La Salle University. Jacki has two daughters who love dance and performing just as much as she does! They have served as an inspiration for her to get more involved in the SDT community. Jacki is thrilled to serve on the Board of such a vibrant organization full of amazing and talented people.



JENN SIMBRE, BOARD MEMBER

Jenn was born and raised on the north shore of O'ahu, Hawai'i. She moved to Steamboat Springs in 2010, discovering Steamboat Dance Theatre in 2013 when a good friend of hers introduced her to this community. She loved this opportunity to share the culture of the islands and introduce dancers to hula. Since then, Jenn has participated as a dancer every year and choreographed several of those years. She

has made strong connections through the dance theatre, in addition to finding her Steamboat ohana. Jenn decided to become a board member to continue supporting such a great program that allows community members a chance to learn something new or to keep dancing for fun! Jenn is also very passionate about supporting mental health in the community, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, supports students at Colorado Mountain College as a counselor, and has her own private practice.

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We made (and continue making) it a point to help keep costs of participation low for our members. SDT is the most affordable way for an adult to dance in Steamboat Springs. By participating in our Annual Concert, members pay a one time membership fee, and then get to experience dancing and a performance for no other cost. Additionally, we partnered with a local Studio to offer reduced rate classes with proceeds going to benefit SDT just before concert auditions. We also offered summer pop-up classes at reduced rates, and local Studios have agreed to offer rate reductions for drop-in classes. Local Studio owners also often host free "sample" classes and we help market and advertise these on our social media, through our website, and newsletter. All of these efforts are designed with accessibility and inclusiveness in mind.



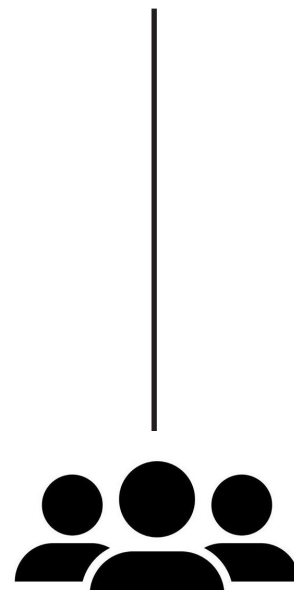
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Member surveys and feedback: At auditions we put in place a survey to gauge the needs and interest of the community, not only asking for feedback on ways we can grow and better support the community, but also asking for resources within the membership to help us grow. Given we have a cast now of almost 230 people, the organization is thriving and the BOD is actively recruiting members to bolster this growth.



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Committee Restructuring: Board members are asked to chair or sit on sub-committees related to the various facets of our programming (Events Planning, Marketing for example). We restructured these committees at the end of 2023, to allow for planning more in line with the mission. We also reached out to members and are asking for anyone interested in being more involved to volunteer. We are forming pop-up committees to help achieve other goals related to one time needs (costume organization, video archiving, for example). By utilizing the membership base, we hope to achieve additional goals in the coming year where we lacked capacity in the past.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

SPONSORSHIPS, GRANTS & DONATIONS

Steamboat Dance Theatre felt the Pandemic very acutely, due to not being able to host our largest in person fundraiser, the Annual Concert. It has taken us a couple years to bring our bank accounts back up, but we are now in a position to invest additional dollars into the community while exploring new funding resources. As such, we have a planned loss for the FY 2023/2024 (but are confident in the theory "you have to spend money to make money") and are thinking ahead to the bigger picture.

Steamboat Dance Theatre maintains financial stability through:

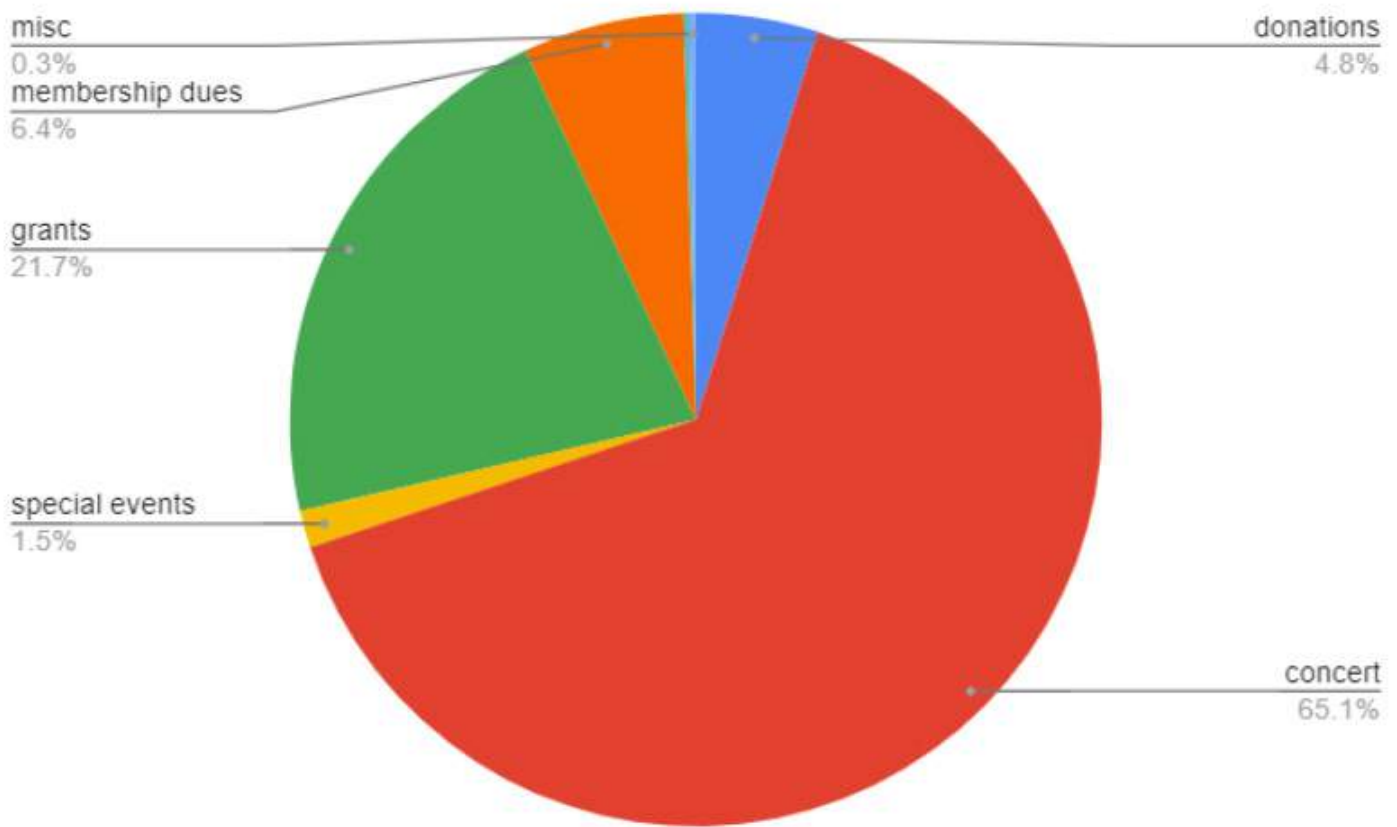
1 Diversified Revenue Streams: We continued to diversify revenue streams through ticket sales, sponsorships, grants, and donations. Colorado Gives Day saw a return of almost \$4000 through generous donations. Other Grant Dollars came from: The City of Steamboat Springs, Alpine Bank, Mountain Valley Bank, Yampa Valley Electric's Operation Round Up, The Yampa Valley Community Foundation, Colorado Creative Industries, and The Craig Scheckman Family Foundation. We are grateful for the partnerships we have established with not only these grantors, but the sponsors we have throughout the community for the Annual Concert and our various programming. It takes a Dancing Village to be able to support the Performing Arts and Steamboat Springs is richer and more alive because of the generosity of its residents. We are asking our members and those who love the organization to please support these local businesses and thank them for their support.

Thank You To Our Donors!

Naylor Family Foundation, Central Park Management, Honey Stinger, Mambo/ Yampa Valley Kitchen/Besame, Alpine Masonry, Inc, Billo Premium Cannabis, CBNT, Co., McCreight Progressive Dentistry, Sleeping Giant Financial Services, LLC, Steamboat Ace Hardware, Texter Mountain Construction, The Steamboat Group, Off Performance & Doc's Auto Clinic, B&K Distributing, Inc, Bank of the West, Castelli Construction, Dano's Dangerous Tequila, Darlinda Baldinger & Chloe Lawrence, Double Diamonds Bar, Dynamic Foot Positioning, Garcia Construction, The Group Real Estate, Keith & Janet Liefer, Monet's Salon, Mountain High Mechanical, Noah Townsend, Ohana, Retreatia, Rumor Designs, Steamboat Montessori Teachers, Steamboat Mountain School, Steamboat Sotheby's International Realty, The Paoli Group @ The Group Real Estate, Thunderstruck Adventures, Thurston Kitchen + Bath, TNT Bar, Vertical Arts Architecture, Best Carpet & Upholstery Service, Brinkman Family, Colby & Ludy PC, Colorado Water Matters, David Harley Blue Ridge Elder Law LLC, Davidson Tax Co., Deer Park Road, Drunken Onion, EB Luxury Vacations, Edward Jones - Blair Labaree, Elevation Dance Studio, Emerald Mountain Tax & Consulting, Jessica Koppe - Edward Jones, Johnny B Goods Diner, O'Neil's Tavern & Grill, Pine Grove Dental Arts, PJ Builds Construction & General Contracting, Richey Construction, Inc, Ridgeline Electric, Rocky Mountain Day Spa & Boutique, Sasquatch Party Rentals, LLC, Schmiggity's, Sherwin Williams, Solstice Collective, Sorella Salon, Steamboat Dance & Fitness, Steamboat Fit, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, Storm Mountain Metal Inc, The Barley, Tonic Method, United Companies on behalf of Erika Enriquez, Bike Fast Fit, Cook Chevrolet, Dax Mattox State Farm, Debbie Aragon State Farm, Fiesta Jalisco Numero Seis LLC, Granitech LLC Countertops, Healing Path Acupuncture, JCR Painting, Talon Grips, Inc, The Boat Latin Market LLC, The Steamboat Group Fund of the YVCF, Bonfiglio Drug, Danielle Zimmerer Photography, Keller Law LLC, Paddleboard Adventure Company, Randy Salky, Esq, Smeeny Beanie Knits, The Dermatology Center of Steamboat Springs, FM Light & Sons, Friday15, Grass Sticks, Integrated Community and Latinx Alliance, Jamie & David Lamb, Juanita Rastello Casita Felit Bilingual Daycare, Pet Care Clinic, Russell's Auto Salon, Steamboat Masters Granite, Steamboat Walmart, Urbane, Forty106 Dance Project.

2 Cost Management: We implemented effective cost management strategies to optimize resources without compromising the quality of our productions. Our Treasurer is actively reviewing all accounts, insurance policies, and subscriptions to ensure we are operating as effectively as possible.

3 Fundraising: We successfully executed targeted fundraising campaigns, engaging our community in supporting the arts. For example, in the fall we hosted a bake sale and costume purge at Ace Hardware. We raised just over \$1K. We also were a beneficiary of Mountain Tap's Token Tuesday whereby we received some portion of brewery sales throughout the summer.



FUTURE INITIATIVES

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, 2024 promises to be a year of significant growth. We are excited to implement additional programming, grant-seeking to fulfill this programming, community collaborations and outreach to support our mission and vision.

- 1 EDUCATION:** Over the next 1-2 years, SDT is exploring bringing experts into Steamboat to discuss the benefits of dance in three areas-
 - *Increasing longevity and slowing the aging process and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinsons and Alzheimer's;
 - * mental health; and
 - * fostering athletic performance and aiding in recovery from injury.

One Such Example: Viki Psihoyos, a retired professional dance instructor based in Boulder, CO, is coming to Steamboat in February to host a workshop designed for the mature population with mobility limitations. She will teach at both Casey's Pond and at the Library. Both workshops are open to the public and free through SDT.

By expanding our outreach to the greater community, we hope to bring more awareness to the power of dance in everyday life. We are seeking collaborations with REPS, SSWSC, MindSprings Health, Yampa Valley Pride, and other local organizations who want to bring dance programming into their arenas. We will continue to explore ways to deepen our impact within the community.

Ultimately, we aim to provide accessible and inclusive opportunities for individuals to learn and appreciate the art of dance.

- 2 YOUTH EXPANSION PROGRAMS:** we are currently in partnerships with the City of Steamboat Springs, Boys and Girls Club, and Perry Mansfield to put dance programming into summer camp, school days off, and after school clubs. We are also looking at ways to collaborate with Steamboat Creates or host our own School Days off and Summer Camp initiatives. The goal is to provide additional options and resources for working families during these times, and help make it affordable. For example, summer camps in Steamboat cost an average of \$65-90/day. SDT aims to partner with studios to set a lower enrollment fee but supplement the cost to the studios. Bringing dance into various youth programming will inspire the next generation of dancers and become an affordable way to increase quality of life.

- 3 LOCAL COMMUNITY DANCE COLLECTIVE:** In the fall of 2024, we will host a professional level concert at Strings shortly after National Dance Day in September. This will be an opportunity to showcase the local leaders of the dance community – Studios, Companies, Perry Mansfield, and Jasmir Belly Dance Troupe. We are asking all studios to come together and put on a performance not only as a way of sharing their talents, but communicating all Steamboat Springs has to offer in the realm of dance. We are hopeful that not only will this be an added

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fundraiser for the organization, it is an extra dance performance that the Community will excitedly support and benefit from as an added dance offering.

WINTER GALA: Our Events Committee recently identified an additional way of filling a niche and bringing more dance into the community. By hosting a New Years Gala, SDT hopes to give cast members and community members an opportunity to come together, connect, get dressed up, and DANCE. Given that our Annual Concert now occurs in the spring, this Gala will be a fun way for SDT to be more involved in the winter social scene. As a byproduct, we hope to raise additional dollars to go back into our programming.

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SUNDAY SOCIALS & SOBER COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS: we aim to provide additional opportunities for anyone in the community to experience dance. We are working with the Sober Community to explore dance happy hours for them, as well as other social dancing happy hours for members and community members to connect.

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COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS *regarding fundraising*: We recognize that our community is somewhat saturated with non-profits, all competing for dollars and community resources. Therefore, we are exploring collaborative efforts with area businesses that can help benefit not only SDT but also the business. One example is Storm Peak Brewing Company. We are working on a beer collaboration with them for a release in April or May. We are also exploring cross-organizational fundraising.

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SCHOLARSHIP EXPANSION: To this point, our Scholarship funds have been focused on children in the community. It is our goal and hope in the coming years to include more adults and reach additional demographics.

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FIRST CLASS FREE PROGRAM, CLASS PASS, AND STUDIO ROUNDTABLE: We are excited to help support Studios and community members in every way we can. To this end, we are establishing a "First Class Free program" whereby community members can take a class at a local studio, and SDT foots the bill. In doing this, we are hopeful to reach more people who want to try dance but who have been limited by finances. Many studios already offer first classes free but then they do not make money off of this student. By SDT stepping in to help bridge this gap, we aim to increase participation across the board. We are also establishing a class pass program like a punch card to be used at participating studios. We are working with local studios to brainstorm additional ways we can support one another.

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OUR BELOVED, GINA: The end of 2022 was marked by tragedy as we lost one of our most long-standing and adored members, Gina Toothaker. SDT is honoring her legacy by creating a scholarship fund in her name and helping fulfill her husband's vision of a fairy statue to be installed sometime in the coming years (you can donate directly to this fund [here](#)). The Fairy Statue will be placed somewhere within the community and will include a place for someone to sit and "be with her." Toothfairy Gina, you are always in our hearts and in our minds as we continue to honor you in every way possible. Read her obituary [here](#).

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INITIATION: We are initiating more involvement with the Performing Arts Alliance (PAA), Steamboat Chamber, Bud Werner Library, and other organizations that support us.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is worth noting here that I am extremely blessed to have such an amazing Board of Directors. Every Board member is dedicated, actively involved, and devotes countless hours and work to helping us fulfill our mission, all on a volunteer basis. We would not be able to do what we do without them.

On behalf of SDT, I also extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated artists, volunteers, sponsors, and the entire Steamboat Springs community for your support. Your commitment ensures the continued success and growth of Steamboat Dance Theatre and Dance as an Art in the Yampa Valley.

Merde!





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