



Winnipeg's
Contemporary
Dancers

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

LAND AND WATER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers is located on Treaty One Territory and on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We acknowledge that our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

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OUR STORY

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers is a not for profit organization & registered charity dedicated to the creation and presentation of contemporary dance.

Founded by Rachel Browne in 1964, the company was incorporated as a registered charity in 1970, and has presented a subscription series since 1971.

In 2021, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers celebrates 56 years of creating innovative dance works. WCD has, through the tireless leadership of dedicated contemporary dance artists, fueled the art form's development and established a presence and influence on stages in Winnipeg and across the country.

WCD is a vital resource and presenter for the local and regional community, has had a significant impact on the development of contemporary dance in Canada and is Canada's longest serving contemporary dance company.

Not unlike other companies of its size, WCD moves through phases of development that include expansion and contraction associated with personnel changes, shifts in the cultural landscape and financing, among others.



*Space and Place
Photo: Leif Norman
Dancer: Julious Gambalan
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Projection: Hugh Conacher*

MANDATE

VISION

A leader in the creation and evolution of contemporary dance in Canada, WCD is committed to the evolution of the art form. WCD has established a place on the local, national and international arts landscape that enables vital intersections, linkages and exchange among dance creators, dance interpreters, spectators and communities.

MISSION

- Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers delivers original and vital choreography that edifies and inspires. It creates, produces, teaches, presents and promotes professional contemporary dance to further the art form for professional artists and audiences alike.
- Our values, programs and activities are based on respect for our history, the ongoing development of our artists, and to our place in the community.
- We are advancing the art form through the presentation of new and existing dance work that fosters and advances artistic vitality and excellence in dance.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

In spite of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-2021 Season of Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers was very satisfying and successful. I would say that "PIVOT" and "INNOVATION" have been the call words for the past season. Much, if not all of the success is due to WCD Artistic Director Jolene Bailie. In her second year as AD she navigated ever changing protocols and regulations with creative and elegant solutions.

Under her direction we have seen more shows, had more training, made more opportunities for dancers and forged new partnerships within the arts community. WCD continues to commit to diversity seeing many IBPOC and Queer artists taking to our stage. I was thrilled early in the season to see a run through of *Begin Again* by Jera Wolfe, delighted by the *Body & Light* drive-in dance on a beautiful summer evening, and could not have been more impressed with the video presentations of Sara Porter, and Linnea Swan.

This season has also seen planning and the beginning of a long awaited and overdue refurbishment of the Rachel Browne Theatre. I look forward to continued enhancements investing in the future of our facility. We have added long needed skill sets to our Board of Directors, seen our administration and our financial forecast develop nicely and the artistic bar has been raised to levels we have not seen for quite some time. Ironically, during a time when many arts organizations could not breathe, we seem to have had a chance to catch our breath and position the company to jump into the future well prepared.

I would like to thank all the Members of the Board for the year of zoom meetings and the exchanges and ideas put forward. Also, thanks to Jolene and Iryna, and Ian and Evan for making it happen. And thank you too, to support from people like Hugh Conacher and Wanda Farian, and the crew at Urbanink who make it more beautiful. Finally, thank you to the amazingly talented group of dancers currently engaged with the company, for without them, it would all be pointless.



Randal Newman

MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The 20/21 season was my second season as Artistic Director and WCD's 56th season.

The season was envisioned with optimism and with a desire to embrace the things we could do rather than be defeated by the things we could not.

Key to the season was investing in new creations, providing opportunities for Winnipeg-based artists and adapting our programming to the best of our abilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WCD worked through long stretches of government restrictions while navigating lockdowns and evolving public health orders. We embraced new ways of doing things, worked through challenges and delivered our programming in new and creative ways.

Clear goals of maintaining commitments to artists, creatively managing ongoing professional training for dancers, and adapting to new ways of working for in-studio rehearsals, new creation and presentation were at the forefront of all artistic decision making.

Despite COVID challenges throughout the entire season, no presentations were dropped and the focus continued to be the three-show subscription series.



Jolene Bailie

SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

WCD's main activity continues to be the subscription series. WCD programmed a broad range of artists: emerging, mid-career, senior, IBPOC, Winnipeg-based and nationally acclaimed. 20/21 was the first season WCD created & delivered online content.

BEGIN AGAIN

WCD's first subscription show commissioned Toronto-based Metis choreographer Jera Wolfe's *Begin Again*, featuring Winnipeg dancers Carol-Ann Bohrn, Allison Brooks, Mark Dela Cruz & Kira Hofmann, with lighting by Hugh Conacher.

Begin Again
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreographer: Jera Wolfe
Dancers: Carol Ann Bohrn,
Kira Hofmann, Mark Dela Cruz,
Allison Brooks

BEGIN AGAIN

About the work

"I have always felt fortunate to have dance in my life but especially now I am struck by the importance of any new creation. The title Begin Again, is an idea that I think we can all relate to, rebirthing and what that means to us. I am exploring the use of light and props and how they can bring us together, even in a time of socially distancing,"

– Jera Wolfe, choreographer, explains.

"Intricate choreography, powerful imagery, potent combination in world premiere dance production."

– Winnipeg Free Press, Holly Harris

Begin Again + Artist Talk was originally planned to be performed in-person for a six-show run to physically distanced audiences. Due to government restrictions and public health orders, this show shifted to an online presentation for subscribers/advance

ticket holders, December 15-23, 2020. A second online run - with an enhanced presentation, complete with subtitles and professional editing, ran as a ticketed show, January 22-31, 2021.

WCD's second show, *Body & Light*, was a new creation featuring an all-Winnipeg team.

With choreography, text and costume collaboration by Artistic Director, Jolene Bailie, lighting by Hugh Conacher, original sound by Susan Chafe, costume collaboration by Wanda Farian and dancers: Carol-Ann Bohrn, Hélène Le Moullec Mancini, Shawn Maclaine, Warren McClelland, Mark Dela Cruz + emerging dancer Julious Gambalan.

WCD Body & Light Drive In performance
Conceived and choreographed by Jolene Bailie
Photo: Hugh Conacher
Dancers: Carol-Ann Bohrn Mark Dela Cruz Julious
Gambalan H  l  ne Le Moullec Mancini Shawn
Maclaine Warren McClelland

BODY & LIGHT

About the work

“Body and light are themes that have come back to me daily during the Covid-19 pandemic. With so many questions encircling me daily, two things became constant. We cannot escape the body and we need light. Whether that light is the light that is inside us, or it is experiencing a sunrise or a sunset, or it is finding light when there is darkness, or it is simply a concept that can assist to move forward,” – Jolene Bailie

Body & Light was first planned to be presented at the Rachel Browne Theatre. Due to COVID restrictions, the show was re-envisioned and rescheduled from an indoor theatre performance into a “drive-in performance”. The pivot required the ensemble work for six dancers to be re-imagined and re-choreographed into duets. The re-working was required to ensure gathering limits of no more than 10 people were observed at all times as the show also required crew and staff on site.

Body & Light was performed to audiences viewing from their cars on an outdoor stage in a parking lot a short walk from WCD. The show was performed with cars parked on all four sides of the stage and presented for six sold-out performances, June 25-27, 2021.

The indoor theatre rendition, with the full ensemble of choreography and professional lighting design presented, was filmed and presented online, June 03-20, 2021. An Artist Talk with 7 artists and a moderator was released online in July, 2021.



YES/ THIS IS MY MATH DANCE

WCD's third show pivoted to online, June 24-July 04 and saw a reassertion of a commitment to national representation with the presentation of Calgary-based Linea Swan's *YES* and Toronto-based Sara Porter's *This is my Math Dance*.

This is my Math Dance.
Dancer: Sara Porter

YES/ THIS IS MY MATH DANCE

About the works

A manifesto for the post-cynical, *YES* came to WCD with a history of acclaimed success across the country. Known for her fearless approach to controversial issues, Calgary-based performer/creator, Linnea Swan rigorously integrated dance, theatre and bouffon to address Yvonne Rainer's 1965 "*No Manifesto*."

WCD introduced the work of Toronto-based Sara Porter to Winnipeg audiences. Navigating identity, queerness and the tender flesh of one's physical self, critically acclaimed Porter is known for her intelligent, humorous and charismatically sharp work.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

While the subscription series continues to be the focus of each season, WCD also programmed additional activities.

These additional activities provide significant opportunities for local artists throughout the season. Additional opportunities included on-going training for professional dancers, new creation, remounts, performances, artist talks, projects for emerging dancers and work with guest artists.



*Covid Sonata
Photo: Mark Dela Cruz
Dancer: Shawn MacLaine
Choreography: Jolene Bailie*

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

For 20/21 additional programming included:

Emerging Artist Initiative

September 28 – November 29, 2020:

WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative which was a seven-week project culminating with the online performance, *Up Close and disDANCING*, November 13-29. Dancers included: Justine Erickson, Julious Gamabalan, Andres Felipe Jimenez Mejia, Sophie Milord, Shayla Rudd. *Up Close and disDANCING* featured one new creation by Bailie, *Space or Place*, plus two existing dances re-worked for emerging dancers and adapted for physical distancing. WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative casting was in partnership with The School of Contemporary Dancers.

Professional Classes

September 2020 through May 2021

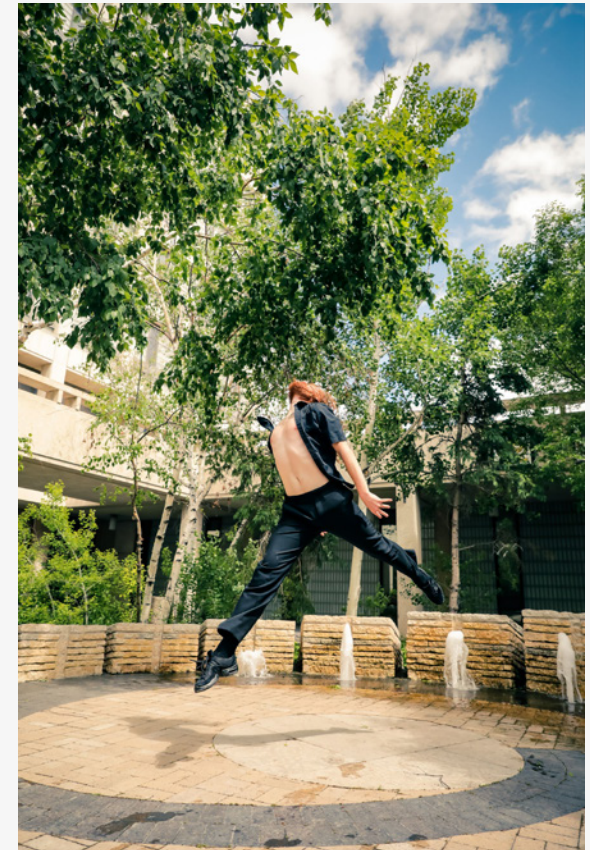
72 in-person professional level classes delivered. Accompanists included Ian Mikita and Jay Stoller. Teachers included: Jolene Bailie and Jera Wolfe.

February 2021 through end of season: Virtual classes created and made available free online and on demand for dancers to train at home during COVID-19. Classes created by Bailie, with accompanist Ian Mikita. Dancers performing in class included WCD dancers Carol-Ann Bohrn and Mark Dela Cruz + emerging dancer Shayla Rudd.

Anthem

July 1st, 2020.

An outdoor video project in collaboration with several other arts organizations across Canada during COVID-19. Viewed over 28,000 times, the video featured new choreography by Jolene Bailie and performances by WCD artists Carol-Ann Bohrn, Shawn MacLaine, Warren McClelland and Jolene Bailie.



Anthem
Dancer: Warren McClelland
Photo: Leif Norman

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

Guest Artist in Residence

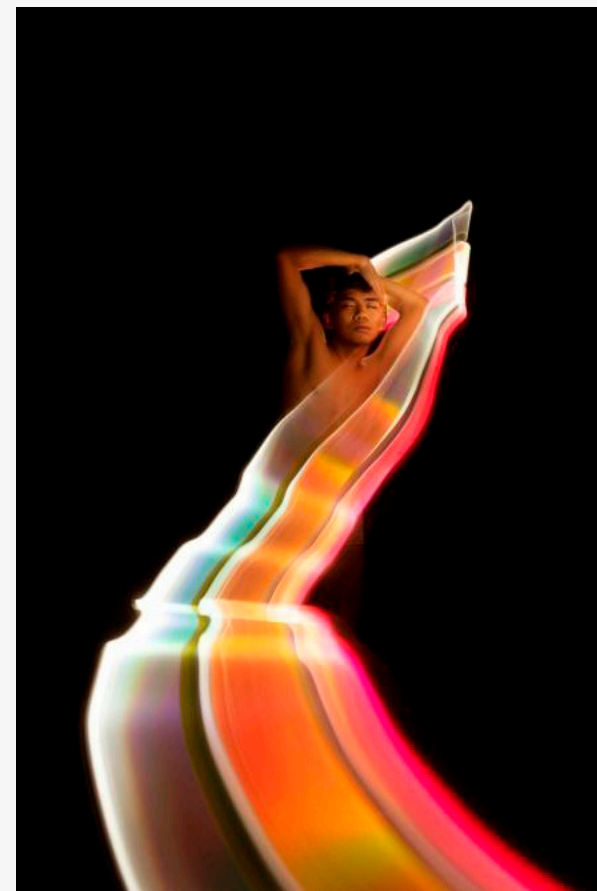
May 10-14, 2021

WCD's new guest artist in residence opportunity welcomed emerging Canadian-Filipinx choreographer, Ralph Escamillan, May 10-14. Escamillan connected to WCD by way of submission through a public call to artists and was selected by a diverse panel. This project pivoted to work over Zoom from Vancouver with WCD dancers in Winnipeg to remix choreography by/in cooperation with Tedd Robinson. WCD dancers included: Carol-Ann Bohrn, Warren McClelland + emerging dancer Julious Gambalan.

CAPSULE

May 23-end of season

Begin Again was selected and presented online on The National Arts Centre's website as part *Capsule*, showcasing online dance works created during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was also in partnership with F-O-R-M and Dumb Instrument Dance.



*Guest Artist in Residence
Dancer: Ralph Escamillan
Photo: David Cooper*

OUR REACH

While many things continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, WCD has worked hard to be responsive and adaptable to support artists, share our work, and embrace opportunities.

7

Public performances presented in-person

153

Attendance at public performances

10

Number of works performed

8

Activities presented on digital platforms

1,279

Online attendance at activities
presented on digital platforms*

72

Professional Classes

3

Workshops for WCD staff and arts
workers associated with WCD

14

Rachel Browne Theatre rental days

8

Volunteers

284

Volunteers hours

**not included viewers of Anthem*

OUR REACH

Commitment to presenting a broad range of creative work, diversity and improvements to support artists and arts workers:

The 20/21 season included a broad range of voices, national artists, and a commitment to diversity.

WCD is committed to presenting a broad range of creative work and to being a place where the creative work of Indigenous, Black, People of Color, and other marginalized groups, is presented, encouraged and shared. This commitment was added to WCD's mandate in 2020.

For 20/21: WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative featured five dancers, three of which identified as IBPOC; IBPOC artist, Jera Wolfe, was engaged to teach company classes; a new creation, also by IBPOC creator Wolfe, was commissioned to create a new work for WCD, making up 33% of WCD's subscription series; IBPOC dancers were featured prominently in two out of three Subscription Series shows. Casting in three of four ticketed shows featured 25-60% IBPOC dancers.

LGBTQ2+ dancers were featured in all subscription shows as well as present on WCD's staff and board. For guest artist in residence, WCD engaged one IBPOC/LGBTQ2+ choreographer & one IBPOC dancer.

WCD completed professional workshops for staff/artists/board/contract workers which included:

- *Awareness: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*, with Thiané Diop of Diversity Essentials
- *Unpacking Systemic Oppression, Allyship and Privilege*, with Kathy Milla of Diversity Essentials
- WCD organized Safer Spaces Training with facilitators Erica McNabb and Aine Dolin of Red Tent.

OUR REACH

Commitment to presenting a broad range of creative work, diversity and improvements to support artists and arts workers:

WCD continues with its' commitment to feature and advance women in dance. The appointment of Bailie as Artistic Director marked the first time a woman held the AD position since founder, Rachel Browne. For the 20/21 season, three out of four choreographers for WCD's subscription series were female identifying.

*Anthem
Photo: Leif Norman
Dancer: Shawn MacLaine*

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

WCD envisioned, created and set in motion a plan for adding a gender-neutral accessible washroom to its facility. With building permits submitted in April 2021, a plan was set in motion to begin the renovation in the 21/22 season. This renovation includes the addition of a gender-neutral accessible washroom, as well as increased privacy options for the dressing rooms and creating a stand-alone mop closet. Special thanks to Erin Riediger, Colin Neufeld and 5467896 Architecture for supporting this project.



Begin Again
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jera Wolfe
Dancer: Kira Hofmann

THE RACHEL BROWNE THEATRE



The Rachel Browne Theatre is WCD's home for rehearsals, performances & administration, and serves many arts groups, individual artists & the community as an affordable rental venue.

Photo: Hugh Conacher

THE RACHEL BROWNE THEATRE

A significant amount of maintenance was completed at The Rachel Browne Theatre. Improvements include: Theatre walls painted, program sound installed to dressing rooms, new wireless headset system, theatre curtains repaired and a few custom-made LED lights were built - allowing for a more energy efficient lighting option.

COMMUNITY RENTERS DURING THE 2020/2021 SEASON INCLUDED

Ian Mozdzen

Manitoba Chamber Orchestra

Young Lungs Dance Exchange

Define Movement

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 and the public health orders requirements, the Rachel Browne Theatre was closed to the public almost the entire season. Decrease in rental income was down almost 75% in 2020-2021 season.

ARTISTS, STAFF & BOARD

WCD operates with a small core staff and engages a community of additional arts professionals on a project basis. WCD is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021 SEASON

Randal Newman- Chair
Lisa Stiver
Sheena Stemler - Secretary
Chris Turyk
Ian Weedmark
Evan Chan

STAFF 2020-2021 SEASON

Jolene Bailie - Artistic Director
Iryna Kravchenko - Administrator
Ian Mozdzen - Programming Support
Evan Wohlgemut - Venue Technician

ARTS PROFESSIONALS

WCD hires a significant number of arts professionals and independent contractors on a project basis each season for its programming activities and projects. WCD envisions and creates exciting projects that support the growth of evolving teams of arts professionals, including choreographers, teachers, dancers, designers, collaborators, technicians, and administrators.

Contract staff and additional people who worked for WCD during the 2020/2021 season:

Brenda Belmonte
Carol-Ann Bohrn
Allison Brooks
Jenna Brown
Susan Chafe
Hugh Conacher
Ntara Curry
Keith Danboise
Mark Dela Cruz

Thiané Diop,
Diversity Essentials
Aine Dolin,
Red Tent
Wanda Farian
Miguel Fortier
Tamera Friesen
Julious Gambalan
Joshua Gehman
Kira Hofmann

Amanda Isaak
Janelle Johnson
Ian Kirk
Oleksandr
Koshkalda
Landon Lake
Sarah Lamoureux
Samantha Layer
Hélène Le
Moullec Mancini

Paige Lewis
Antero Linblad
Marcelle Lussier,
Urbanink
Terri Lynn Kosinski
Shawn Maclaine
Warren McClelland
Erica McNabb,
Red Tent
Ian Mikita

Kathy Milla,
Diversity Essentials
Leif Norman
Sara Porter
Claude Robert
Pamela Roz
Robert Sauvey,
Dance Umbrella of Ontario
Jay Stoller
Linnea Swan

James Thurmeier
Andrea Von Wichert
Jera Wolfe
Tanja Woloshen
Alexander Wuersch
Revan Zurub,
Dance Umbrella of Ontario
Willy Caceres,
*Willy's Quality
Carpet Cleaning*

Aspects of Alterity
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancer: Andres Jimenez Mejia



ARTS PROFESSIONALS

WCD sincerely appreciates the work of the Board of Directors, staff, artists and independent contractors who come together, to work together, for WCD's programming and operations. We are grateful to all those who appreciate the value in contemporary dance and how WCD's artistic programming impacts the development of the form and artists.



Bell/Anti-Bell
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancer: Shayla Rudd

DONORS & FUNDERS

MANY THANKS TO OUR DONORS, 2021-2022 SEASON

CREATORS \$1000+

The Asper Foundation
Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D. and
Michael Paterson
Isaac Diamond

PERFORMERS \$5000+

Annette & Miriam Browne and Ruth Asper,
in memory of Rachel Browne, C.M.
Blair Philpott
Marcel Van Woensel
Wawanesa Insurance

IMPROVISORS \$250+

Douglas Arrell
Lisa Stiver
Leo and Patricia Waisberg
Robert and Ina Abra Family Fund

SUPPORTERS \$100+

Claire Cram
Calvin Hawley
Carman Johnston
Chuck McEwen
Mary Reid
Mary J Sharif
Lindsay Stewart Glor
Danielle Sturk
Lorne Sunley
Hilary Druxman
Anonymous

ENTHUSIASTS UNDER \$100

L.N. De Lisle
Laura Lindeblom
Kristen Wachniak
Tannis Zimmer
Anonymous

SPONSOR

Winnipeg Free Press

We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the Manitoba Arts Council, the Winnipeg Arts Council, and the Winnipeg Foundation



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MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DU MANITOBA



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL



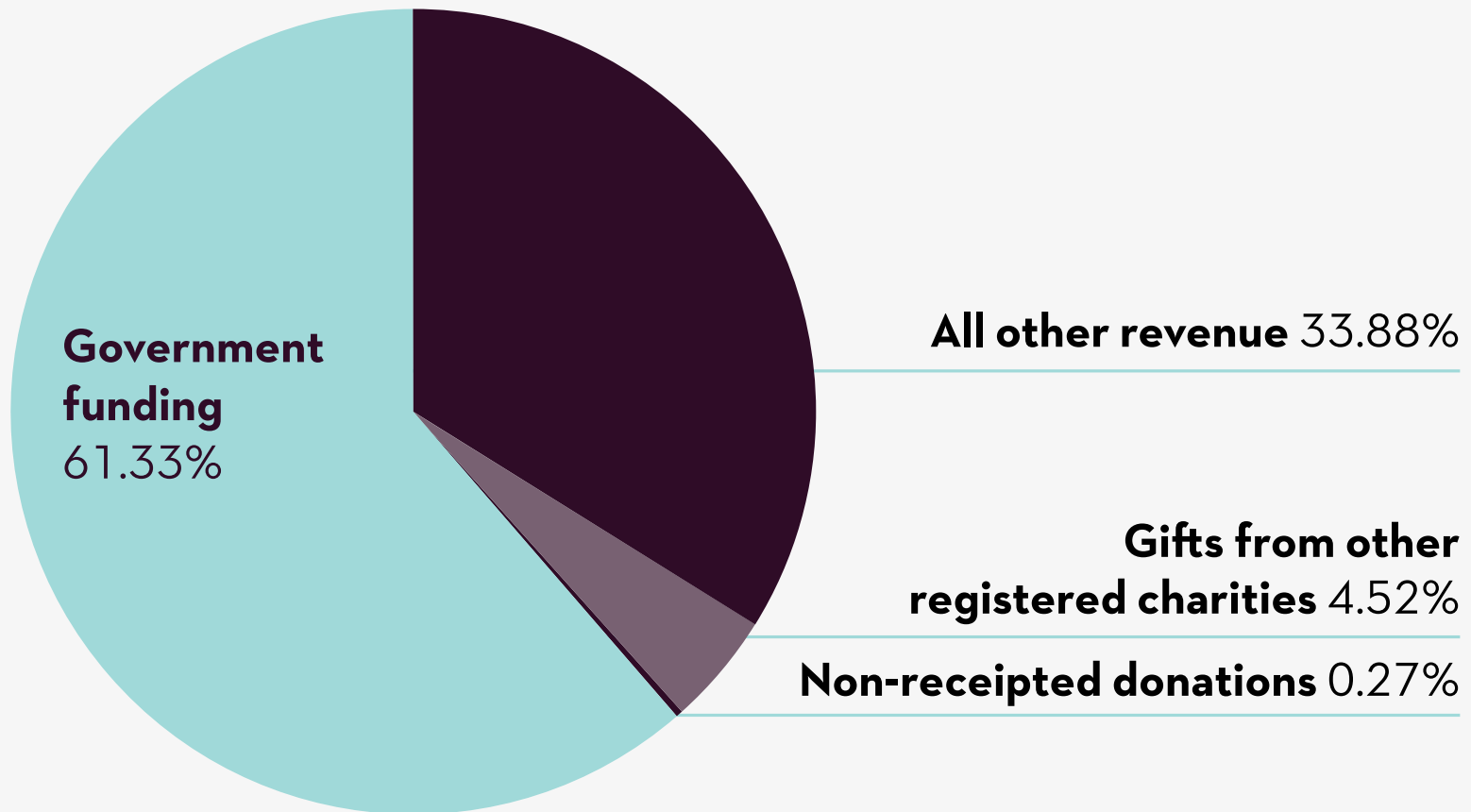
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONTEMPORARY DANCERS INC.

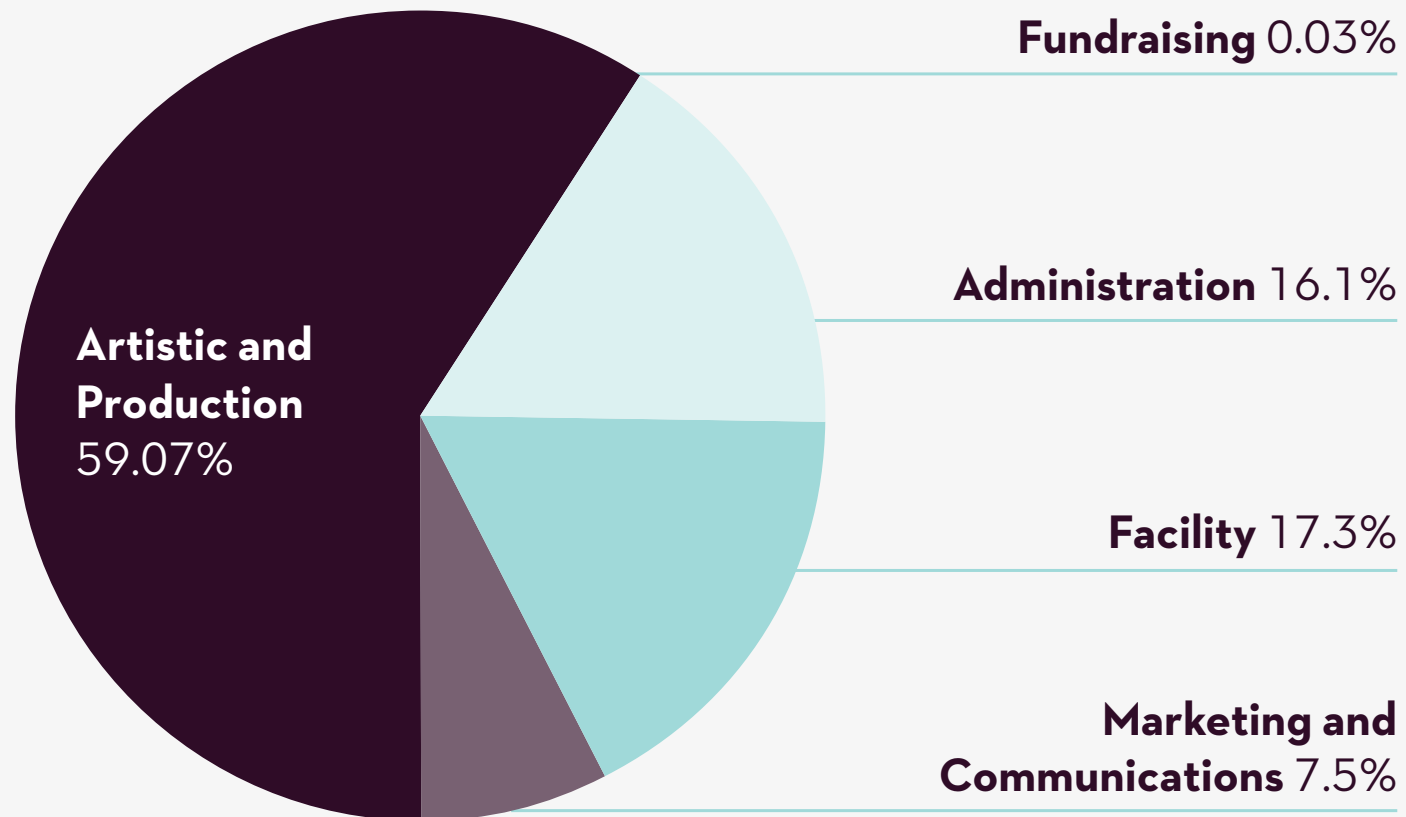
Statement of Financial Position as of May 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Current		
Cash	\$ 95,727	\$ 107,460
Amounts receivable	17,455	13,115
GST/HST recoverable	1,261	1,512
Prepaid expenses	446	-
	\$ 114,889	\$ 122,087
Capital assets	513,823	495,852
	\$ 628,712.00	\$ 617,939
Liabilities		
Current:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 21,848	\$ 12,136
Deferred revenues	-	28,084
Current portion of mortgage payable	7,007	5,966
	\$ 28,855	\$ 46,186
Mortgage payable	162,360	172,045
Deferred contributions for capital asset purchases	308,367	321,797
	\$ 499,582.00	\$ 540,028
Net Assets		
The Winnipeg Foundation – Contemporary Dancers Fund, Market value \$192,515 (Note 10)		
Unrestricted	129,130	77,911
	\$ 628,712.00	\$ 617,939

REVENUE



EXPENSES





Winnipeg's
Contemporary
Dancers



COVER PHOTO:

Body & Light

Photo and Choreography: Jolene Bailie

Dancers: Carol-Ann Bohrn,

Mark Dela Cruz,

Julious Gambalan,

Hélène Le Moullec Mancini

Shawn MacLaine,

Warren McClelland

BACK PHOTO:

Body & Light

Photo: Hugh Conacher

Choreography: Jolene Bailie

Dancer: Warren McClelland

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers
204-211 Bannatyne Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3P2