



Winnipeg's
Contemporary
Dancers

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

LAND AND WATER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

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OUR STORY

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers (WCD) 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, WCD celebrated 57 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.

Like 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 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

RANDAL NEWMAN, THE EXITING BOARD CHAIR

2021-2022 season was my last season on the Board of WCD, and talk about leaving on a high note. Even while still navigating the COVID pandemic, there was splendid work this season with *Begin Again* from Jera Wolfe and Jolene Bailie's intriguing *in between here and now*. The highlight ... for me ... was the palpable feeling of joy and excitement as we were finally allowed to gather and watch LIVE dance once again in The Rachel Browne Theatre!

The facility has also had a good season. My long-wished-for renovation of the lobby, dressing rooms and theatre are complete. These improvements will increase rental opportunities, and will enhance the experience for the dancers, the staff, and the audience for years to come. I continue to enjoy the Company's presence on social media and am seeing the signage and branding enhance the company profile.

Brava Jolene! Brava Iryna!



Randal Newman

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

CHRIS TURYK, THE INCOMING BOARD CHAIR

I was honoured and privileged to accept the roll of Board Chair for Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers in December 2021, in the midst of a season that was the start of a new normal for the organization. I would like start by offering a profound thank you to Randal Newman, WCD's past Chair, for his many contributions to WCD throughout the years. Because of the foundation that he and other past leaders have laid out, we are able to continue exploring this artform and growing into the future!

WCD excitedly welcomed back live audiences throughout the season as we presented innovative new works and faced the challenges of a continually changing world with determination and vigor. Thanks to the creative leadership of Artistic Director Jolene Bailie, Winnipeg audiences experienced provoking works from choreographers like Syreeta Hector and Jera Wolfe.

Jolene was also able to share more of her own creativity with us during our season's closing performances of *in between here and now*, all the while overseeing much needed upgrades to the Rachel Browne Theatre, including expanded artist changerooms, an accessible and gender-neutral washroom, and refreshed paint in the theatre itself. All of these changes have been appreciated by the staff, artists and patrons of WCD.

I would like to express my thanks to Jolene and Iryna, along with all the staff and artists, for making the season what it was; WCD would not be successful without the contributions of so many passionate people. I also thank our Board of Directors, for their work throughout the season to keep the organization on course and to support WCD's plans for the future.



Chris Turyk

MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The 2021/2022 season was my third season as Artistic Director and WCD's 57th season.

Key to the season were the return to in-person events, 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 was thrilled to welcome audiences back to the Rachel Browne Theatre and deliver ambitious programming, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

Despite COVID-19 and uncertainty surrounding a "return to normal," WCD delivered a strong return to in-person performances. WCD delivered almost all its programming as well as launched new and exciting programming throughout the season.

Highlights of the season were numerous: a return to touring; performing Jera Wolfe's *Begin Again* at our Season Launch; an increased number of performances; a return to physical contact and partnering within choreography; performing without masks; welcoming community dancers back for in-person professional level classes; and our spring show, *in between here and now*, which featured an all-Winnipeg team and our highest box office to date during my tenure.

On an operational level, WCD was thrilled to launch a new website, invest in ongoing maintenance at the Rachel Browne Theatre, participate in Safer Spaces training with Red Tent and have all staff complete basic First Aid and CPR training.

2021/2022 also saw an important renovation – adding an accessible and gender-neutral washroom to our condo unit and a well-thought-out renovation of our changerooms – allowing for increased privacy options.



Jolene Bailie

THE SEASON

For the 2021/2022 season, COVID-19 continued to present challenges. Despite this, WCD was optimistic with programming and strategized to have a variety of programming in place so that in the case that programming was impacted due to lockdowns, health and safety reasons, or any other reasons, WCD would have additional options at the ready.

This strategy served the organization extremely well. WCD returned to in-person events, caught up on some smaller postponed projects, saw an increase in revenue from ticket sales/events, had fabulous audience attendance, and was able to add new programming and public events—including many options for free, by donation, and Pay What You May admissions.

WCD connected with international and national award-winning artists to program the season with a broad range of artists: emerging, mid-career, senior, IBPOC, Winnipeg-based and nationally acclaimed artists.

Since 2019, WCD has strived to ensure each Subscription Series includes four main components: work created by the AD, the development of new work featuring local dancers, investing in new creation/commissions, and bringing the work of guest artists to WCD. We are thrilled that we were able to meet all of these goals for 2021/2022.

WCD engaged artists for rehearsals and/or performances in all 12 months of the 2021/2022 season and provided professional-level training during 11 months of the season.

IN-PERSON PERFORMANCES

WCD exists to create and present contemporary dance. For 2021/2022, WCD performed 18 live performances in a variety of settings:

BODY & LIGHT



June 25-27, 2021, WCD's Drive-In Performances of *Body & Light* were presented for six sold-out shows. While this was a 2020/2021 activity, it ended up being delivered in our 2021/2022 season after three postponements due to government restrictions in response to COVID-19.

BODY & LIGHT

Body and Light Drive-In Performance, created during and for physically distanced times, featured masked dancers performing outdoors while maintaining physical distancing throughout.

A remarkably creative endeavor during COVID-19, dancers performed on a raised stage outdoors in a parking lot. Cars parked on all four sides the stage and the live audience viewed from inside their parked cars. This was truly a unique event in Winnipeg's downtown, with audience members tuning in through their car radios for sound.

Body & Light was presented in partnership with Théâtre Cercle Molière and Manitoba Centennial Corporation. Special thanks to Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and Impark for additional assistance.

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."

BEGIN AGAIN

Opening the season was WCD's 2020/2021 commission, *Begin Again* by Jera Wolfe, completed and performed in-person.

BEGIN AGAIN

The completion of *Begin Again* was a new activity added to WCD's 2021/2022 programming and presented live at The Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur (Quebec, July 2021), for WCD's Season Launch and within Culture Days (September 2021). Previously, the work was pivoted to video format during the COVID-19 lockdown. At that time, the stage version was left to be completed later when the project pivoted to a virtual delivery. We were so thrilled to complete this work and share it in person.

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

– Winnipeg Free Press, Holly Harris

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.

SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

WCD's main focus continued to be the three-show Subscription Series, which programmed a line-up of all-female choreographers.

BLACK BALLERINA

The first subscription show was *Black Ballerina* by Syreeta Hector (Toronto). Based on Hector's blackness and indigeneity in relationship to classical ballet, *Black Ballerina* explores the nuances within identity and the unconscious ways one tries to fit in. A thought provoking and relevant work, *Black Ballerina* is a powerful contemporary choreography created in response to Hector's relationship with race. WCD was thrilled to be the first to introduce Hector's work to audiences west of Toronto.

Black Ballerina came to Winnipeg with national and international acclaim. The 2019 performance of *Black Ballerina* was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award and the work has received support and acclaim through multiple residencies and national and international presenters. Performed by Hector, *Black Ballerina* brought important subject matter and unbridled energy to the stage.

WCD + ICÔNE POP

The second subscription show was slated to be a new creation for WCD + *Îcône Pop* by Mélanie Demers (Montreal). These shows were unfortunately cancelled due to concerns for the safety and wellbeing of our artists and our community.

WCD's strategy to have alternate and additional programming in place mitigated this unexpected situation, resulting in minimal impact to the budget.

IN BETWEEN HERE AND NOW

The third subscription show, *in between here and now*, was a new creation by WCD Artistic Director, Jolene Bailie. This work featured an ensemble of Winnipeg dancers, lighting by Hugh Conacher, set and projection design by Simon Hughes and original sound by Emma Hendrix.

Bailie has honed her artistic career creating abstract, deeply reflective and conceptually derived works. Her latest offering, 'exploring dynamics of perception and desire,' is no exception. ... the display of vulnerability proved to be one of the greatest strengths of in between here and now. Another strength was the choreography's array of dizzying rolls, athletic lifts, flips, mind-numbing inversions, deep crouches and crawls across the floor, hallmarks of Bailie's restless choreographic style."

– Dance International Magazine, for in between here and now, by Holly Harris

The in between-ness of being one place while going somewhere else is something I think many people can relate to, especially coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic."

– Jolene Bailie, choreographer

ONLINE CONTENT

As we danced through the challenges of COVID-19, WCD continued to create and provide online content throughout the entire season.

The virtual version of *Begin Again* was selected to be presented online at The National Arts Centre's "Capsule" showcase, June 01- Aug 31, 2021.

The online Artist Talk with WCD Guest Artist in Residence, Ralph Escamillan, which was previously delayed due to COVID-19, was presented in February 2022 and continues to be available online and on demand.

In April 2022, a virtual version of *in between here and now* was filmed for an online presentation.

In May 2021, WCD engaged in a professional editing process for *in between here and now* and presented this work online, June 10-July 03, 2022.

WCD: Class at Home and *WCD: Class at Home 2* continue to be available free online and on-demand. These are advanced/professional level classes created for dancers to train at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WCD'S EMERGING ARTIST INITIATIVE

WCD is committed to providing meaningful projects for emerging dancers. For 2021/2022, WCD engaged in a four-week project for emerging dancers, culminating in a three-show run of *Reconnect*.

Reconnect featured three physically distanced works by WCD Artistic Director, Jolene Bailie, including the premiere of a brand-new work for three dancers, "Dancing Through Uncertainty." *Reconnect* also included the solo, "COVID Sonata" and the trio, "Aspects of Alterity."

WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative was in partnership with the School of Contemporary Dancers.

The first performance of *Reconnect* was presented as part of WCD's Culture Days' "Hub" activities, the second show was a special school matinee and the final show was a public ticketed performance.

WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative continued to be active in November, December, April and May as two of the dances were further presented by the School of Contemporary Dancers, for a total of eight additional performances.

In addition, the Emerging Artist Initiative was in rehearsal in May in preparation for touring to Regina, as presented by New Dance Horizons' *Stream of Dance Festival*.



PROFESSIONAL CLASSES

For the third season in row WCD offered a consistent schedule of professional level classes. These classes run in conjunction with the company's project work and are also open for drop-ins.

In 2021/2022, WCD programmed 88 professional-level classes over 11 months.

Number of Participants for Professional Classes: 525*

Teachers included:

Jolene Bailie,
Marie-Josée Chartier,
Syreeta Hector

Accompanists included:

Ian Mikita,
Jay Stoller



* total number counted by attendance per class

GUEST ARTISTS AND PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

WCD was host to four guest artists and presented 12 hours of creative workshops for artists.

Incredibly valuable for the development of artists, workshops provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and share perspectives. Creative workshops also provide a nuanced opportunity for personal growth and connection, often serving as catalysts to further inspire artistic practice. Creative workshops also provide an opportunity for both WCD and individuals to connect with the national community.

For 2021/2022, workshops focused on sustaining longer improvisations and provided time, space and conversation for considering entry points into new creation, generating movement and creating choreography.

Guest Artists included:

Marie-Josée Chartier,
Jera Wolfe,
Sara Porter,
Idan Cohen

IN-PERSON ARTIST TALKS

For 2021/2022, WCD presented in-person artist talks with guest artists Syreeta Hector (November 28) and Sara Porter (May 26) as well with WCD Artistic Director, Jolene Bailie, and all of the dancers performing for *in between here and now* (April 24). Artist talks were moderated by WCD's Programming Support, Ian Mozdzen.

OTHER PROGRAMMING

The video rendition of Jera Wolfe's *Begin Again* was screened in person at Tai Kwun Centre for Heritage and Arts' *Off Stage, On Screen* program (Hong Kong, August 2021).

New programming included: serving as a Culture Days "Hub," which included four, free/pay what you may activities, including the Season Launch, two nights of window projections, and a Culture Days performance of *Reconnect*.

WCD was thrilled to present a studio performance by Sara Porter on May 26, 2022.

WCD's Guest Artist in Residence project with Idan Cohen was finally completed, which was previously delayed due to COVID.

Partnerships for 2021/2022 include: Culture Days, Nuit Blanche, Théâtre Cercle Molière, Manitoba Centennial Corporation, Festival des Arts de Saint-Sauveur, the School of Contemporary Dancers and Cinematheque.

ARTISTS

WCD thanks all the artists who contributed to the 2021/2022 season.

Carol-Ann Bohrn	Julious Gambalan	Ian Mikita
Marie-Josée Chartier	Emma Hendrix	Leif Norman
Hugh Conacher	Kira Hofmann	Sara Porter
Idan Cohen	Simon Hughes	Shayla Rudd
Mark Dela Cruz	Landon Lake	Jay Stoller
Justine Erickson	Samantha Layer	Jera Wolfe
Ralph Escamillan	Shawn MacLaine	

Mélanie Demers and the artistic and administrative teams for MAYDAY Danse.
Syreeta Hector and the artistic and production teams for *Black Ballerina*.

Thanks so much to the emerging dancers who participated in WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative and all those who danced with us in our classes and workshops.

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.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

In the 2021/2022 season, WCD underwent a renovation that 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.

COMMUNITY RENTERS DURING THE 2021/2022 SEASON:

Define Movement, Jazz Winnipeg Inc., Quanz Dance, Sawdon Dance, Sick + Twisted Theatre, Stephanie Morin-Robert Performance Society (IN/ON/OUT Intermedia Festival), The Amsterdam Tea Room, Carol-Ann Bohrn, Jessie Dyck, Ian Mozdzen, Casimiro Nhussi

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 2021-2022 SEASON

Randal Newman - Chair, until December 13, 2021

Chris Turyk - Chair, since December 13, 2021

Ian Weedmark - Vice Chair

Jerilyn Hall - Treasurer

Sheena Stemler - Secretary

Lisa Stiver

Evan Chan, until January 28, 2022

Devan Graham

STAFF 2021-2022 SEASON

Jolene Bailie - Artistic Director

Iryna Kravchenko - Administrator

Ian Mozdzen - Programming Support

Evan Wohlgemut, Jessica Rose - Venue Technicians

ARTS PROFESSIONALS

Thank you to all
professionals who worked
for WCD during the
2021/2022 season:

Jenna Brown

Ntara Curry

Todd Drader

Brooke Hess

Janelle Johnson

*Johnson talent
Management*

Evan King

Ian Kirk

Terri-Lynn Kosinski

Martin LaFrenière

Antero Lindblad

Marcelle Lussier
Urbanink

Zambia Pankratz

Cory and
Chris Penner
J&J Penner Construction

Erin Riediger
Prairie Architects

Pamela Roz
PR Rose

Rebecca Sawdon

Cari Simpson

Ryan Spracklin

Robert Sauvey
Dance Umbrella of Ontario

Revan Zurub
Dance Umbrella of Ontario

Willy Caceres
*Willy's Quality
Carpet Cleaning*

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.



DONORS & FUNDERS

MANY THANKS TO OUR DONORS, 2021-2022 SEASON

CREATORS \$1000+

5468796 Architecture

CREATORS \$1000+

Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D. and
Michael Paterson

Isaac Diamond

PERFORMERS \$500+

Blair Philpott

Marcel Van Woensel

Wawanesa Insurance

SUPPORTERS \$100+

Robert and Ina Arba

Douglas Arrell

Bonnie and Jim Bailie

Stephanie Ballard

Miriam Browne, in memory of
Rachel Browne

Annette Browne, in memory of
Rachel Browne

Claire Cram

Devan Graham

Calvin Hawley

José Koes

Katarina Kupca

Shirley Madill

Chuck McEwen

Robert Schuppel

Lisa Stiver

Lorne Sunley

Chris Turyk

Leo and Patricia Waisberg

Nicole Zajac

ENTHUSIASTS UNDER \$100

Hilary Druxman

Sheena Stemler

Leesa Streifler

David Warburton

2 Anonymous donors

Thanks to Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries for the lighting equipment and cables in-kind donation through the Used Items for Donation Program.

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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ARTS COUNCIL



CONSEIL DES ARTS
DU MANITOBA



Conseil des Arts
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FOUNDATION



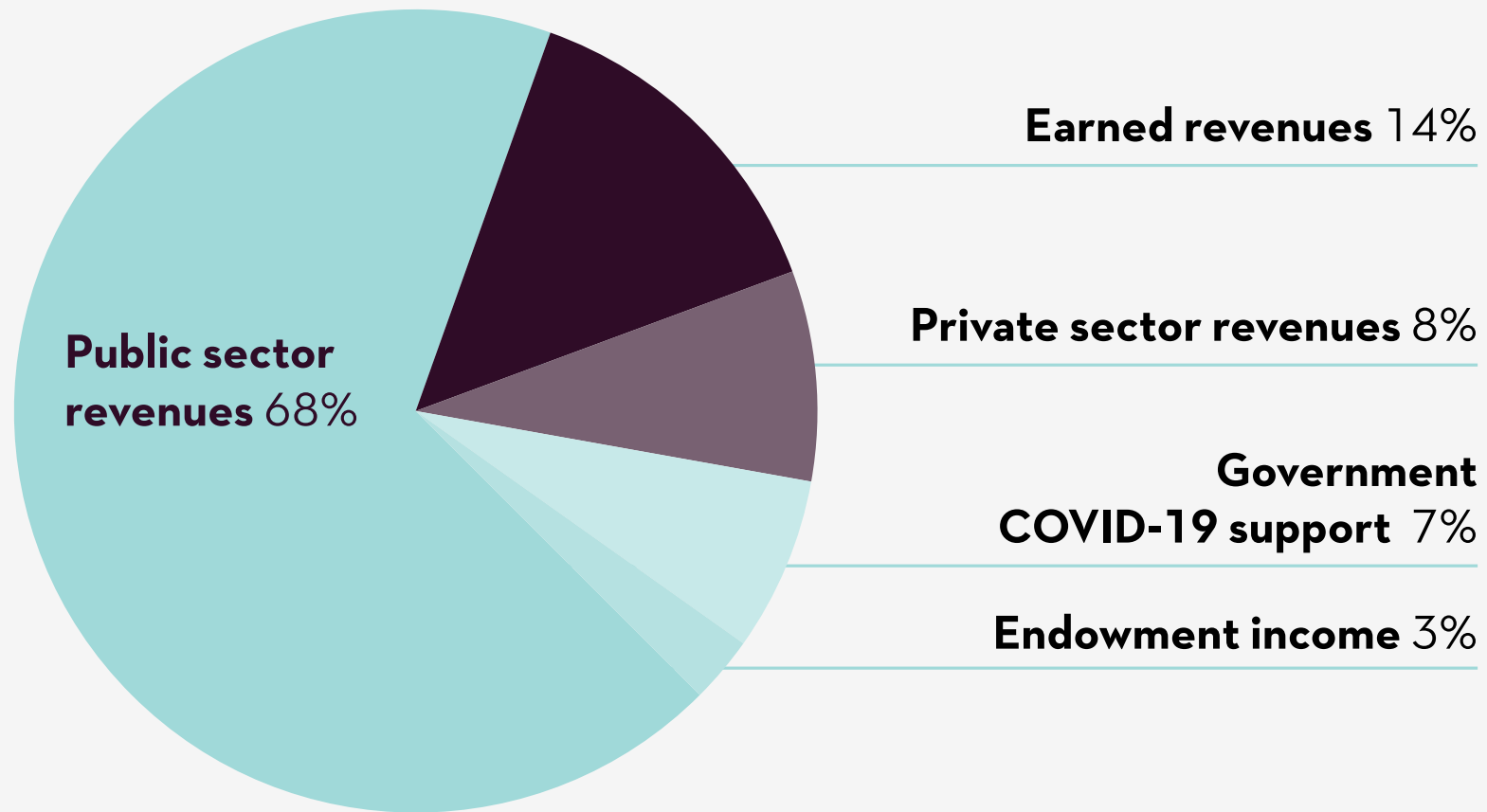
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONTEMPORARY DANCERS INC.

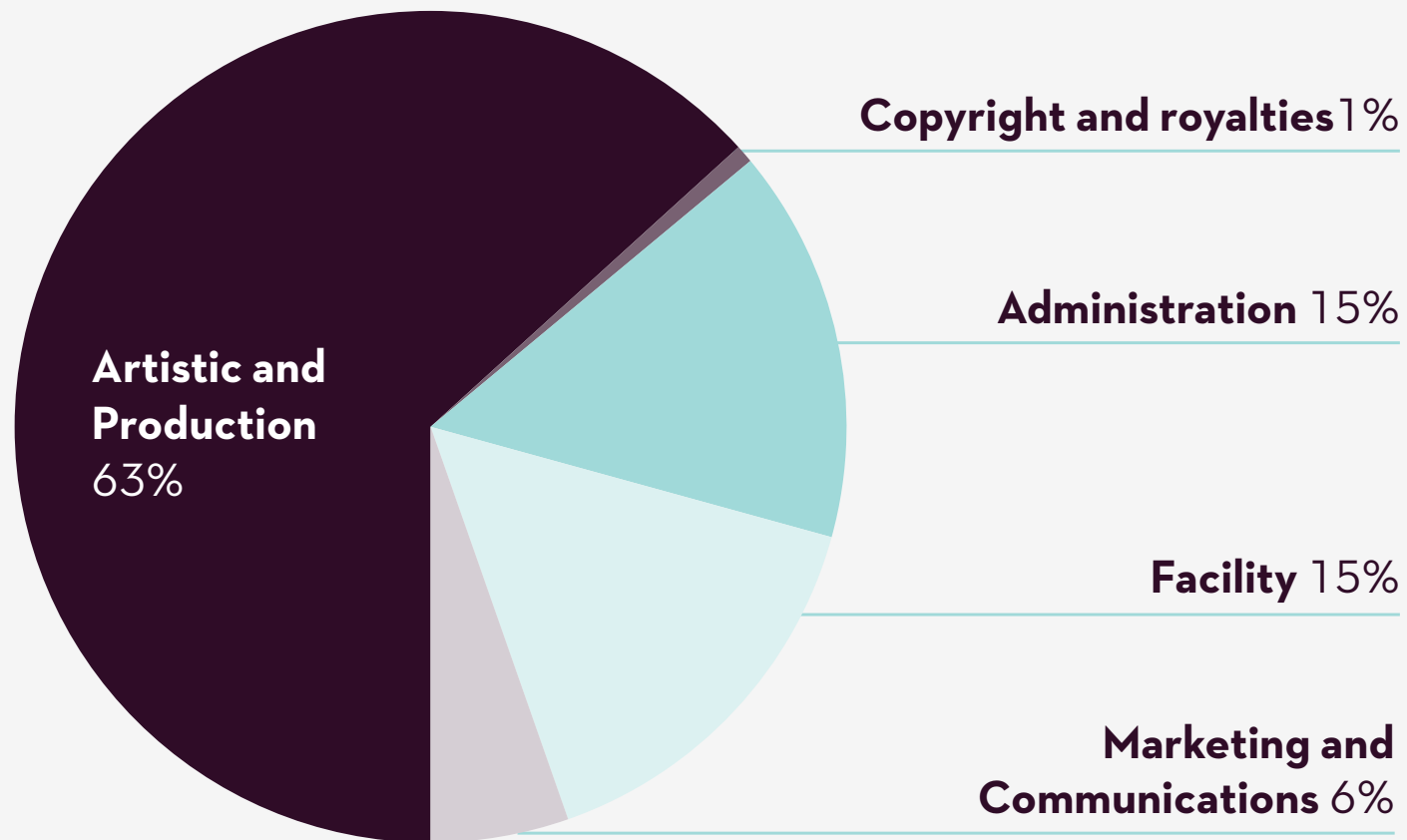
Statement of Financial Position as of May 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Current		
Cash	\$ 78,898	\$ 95,727
Amounts receivable		17,455
GST/HST recoverable	4,242	1,261
Prepaid expenses	8,750	446
	\$ 91,890	\$ 114,889
Capital assets	515,705	513,823
	\$ 607,595.00	\$ 628,712.00
Liabilities		
Current:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 23,901	\$ 21,848
Deferred revenues	30,686	-
Current portion of mortgage payable	5,000	7,007
	\$ 59,587	\$ 28,855
Mortgage payable	155,563	162,360
Deferred contributions for capital asset purchases	304,937	308,367
	\$ 520,087.00	\$ 499,582.00
Net Assets		
The Winnipeg Foundation – Contemporary Dancers Fund, Market value \$192,515 (Note 10)		
Unrestricted	87,508	129,130
	\$ 607,595.00	\$ 628,712.00

REVENUE



EXPENSES



YEAR AT A GLANCE

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.

13*

Public performances presented in-person

1140**

Attendance at public performances

4

Activities presented on digital platforms

8

Activities presented on digital platforms

185***

Online attendance at activities
presented on digital platforms*

93

Professional Classes & Workshops

1

Workshops for WCD staff and arts
workers associated with WCD

44

Rachel Browne Theatre rental days

27

Volunteers

432

Volunteer hours

* Number of performances does not include the 6 drive-in performances that were programmed for the 20/21 season, but then delivered in the 21/22 season due to postponements due to COVID-19.

** Number does not include *Begin Again* presented online at The National Arts Centre's "Capsule"

*** Number does not include the 6 drive-in performances



Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers



Cover photo:

Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Julius Gambalan,
Shawn MacLaine, Warren McClelland
Backdrop and Projection: Simon Hughes
Lighting: Hugh Conacher

Page 4:

Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Julius Gambalan,
Warren McClelland
Backdrop and Projection: Simon Hughes
Lighting: Hugh Conacher

Page 11:

Body and Light Drive In
Photo: Hugh Conacher
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancer: Warren McClelland

Page 13:

Begin Again
Photo: Hugh Conacher
Choreography: Jera Wolfe
Dancers: Carol Ann Bohrn,
Kira Hofmann, Justine Erickson

Page 16:

Black Ballerina
Photo: Jeremy Minnagh
Choreographer and Dancer:
Syreeta Hector

Page 18:

in between here and now
Photo: Hugh Conacher
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Shawn MacLaine,
Warren McClelland

Page 20:

Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancer: Gabriela Garcia Ortiz

Page 21:

Photo: Leif Norman
Dancers: Carol Ann Bohrn, Kira
Hofmann, Shayla Rudd
Choreography: Jolene Bailie

Page 23:

Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Julius Gambalan,
Warren McClelland
Backdrop and Projection: Simon Hughes
Lighting: Hugh Conacher

Page 24:

Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Kira Hofmann,
Warren McClelland, Julius Gambalan,
Shayla Rudd

Page 26:

Photo: Hugh Conacher

Page 28:

Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Shawn MacLaine, Shayla Rudd,
Warren McClelland

Page 29:

Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancer: Andrés Felipe Jiménez Mejía

Back Cover

Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Warren McClelland,
Kira Hofmann
Backdrop and Projection: Simon Hughes
Lighting: Hugh Conacher

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