



Winnipeg's
Contemporary
Dancers

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



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 2022, WCD celebrated 58 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.

MANDATE

VISION

WCD is a leader in the creation and evolution of contemporary dance in Canada, and 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. The company 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 artistic vitality and excellence in dance.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

CHRIS TURYSK, THE BOARD CHAIR

The 22-23 season, WCD's 58th, was impressive with mainstage productions from Clifford E. Lee award winning choreographer Daina Ashbee, Guest Artist Idan Cohen and, of course, our own Artistic Director Jolene Bailie.

While the arts sector continued its slow recovery following the COVID pandemic, we are proud that not only was WCD able to present a full season, but we also included a presentation featuring young talent from the School of Contemporary Dancers in the form of WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative. We also saw an increase in individual donations and subscriptions from previous seasons, which speaks to the incredible passion and dedication of our audience and community.

Like many of our fellow arts organizations, we worked hard to grow revenues as we continued to face the ever-increasing costs of doing business. While we may not have seen as much growth as hoped, I remain optimistic for the future and, in particular, WCD's forthcoming 60th anniversary.

I want to thank Jolene Bailie and Iryna Kravchenko for their ongoing dedication to WCD, and to my fellow board members for their leadership. Finally, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to our funders, donors, and community for their continued support!

Sincerely,



Chris Turyk



MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



The 22/23 season was my fourth season as Artistic Director and WCD's 58th season. Working in studio with the WCD artists, creating new work, teaching Company Class, and producing WCD's shows and events were central to my role as Artistic Director.

WCD's 58th season connected with internationally and nationally award-winning artists and programmed a broad range of artists - including: emerging, mid-career, senior, IBPOC and Winnipeg-based.

Season highlights included working with the spectacular WCD dancers, creating new work, introducing the work of Daina Ashbee to Winnipeg, welcoming Guest Artist, Idan Cohen, in residence at WCD for over 6 weeks, witnessing Christopher House perform *NEWS* and proudly witnessing every single performance!

Congratulations to all the artists who came together to work together for a fantastic season! Thank you!

22/23 saw an increase in engagements and work for local dancers and an increase in our total number of performances - including adding two student matinees, adding two more preview performances, and four community performances featuring ensembles of Winnipeg-based dancers.

Compared to the previous season, there was an increase in number of artists engaged, increase in ticket revenue, increase in donations received, and an increase in number of performances.

WCD completed the second phase of a three-phase renovation - expanding the lobby and replacing the carpet. Expanding the lobby was an exciting and dramatic improvement for all users of our space!

WCD participated in learning activities through OF/FOR/BY ALL, an international organization to promote greater diversity in the arts; and staff, artists and board members participated in Conflict Resolution training.

The ripple effect of COVID-19 saw WCD in the unusual position of working with a larger than anticipated accumulated surplus. A surplus reduction plan was created and surplus was invested in artistic programming. This unique situation caused us to have an annual operating deficit, while still maintaining an accumulated surplus. This situation is expected to continue into the 23/24 season as we strive to maintain similar levels of programming despite inflation and other challenges of our ever-evolving world.

Sincere appreciation to the WCD staff, board, artists and arts professionals, whose work make WCD's programming and operations possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jolene Bailie". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jolene Bailie

22/23 SEASON

WCD exists to create and present contemporary dance. For 22/23, WCD performed 23 in-person performances in a variety of settings. The focus continued to be WCD's three-show subscription series.

SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

22/23 was an exciting and highly commendable season. Despite Covid related challenges and concerns around the “return to normal,” WCD was adaptable and delivered progressive and boundary-pushing contemporary dance.

WCD's 22/23 season resonated with courageous spirit and featured strong, distinct creators who created from a range of perspectives and through varied creative processes. Programming choices were made by way of fulfilling WCD's mandate, vision, and artistic goals; relevance to society, resource availability, local representation, and development of the form.

New this season, WCD programmed a Thursday preview performance to all subscription series shows and added two student matinees.

Since 2019, WCD has strived to ensure each subscription series includes four main components: the development of new work featuring local dancers, investing in new creation/commissions, bringing the work of Guest Artists to WCD, and presenting work created by the AD. We are thrilled that we were able to meet these goals for 22/23.

SERPENTINE

The first subscription series show was *Serpentine* created by internationally acclaimed Métis/Dutch creator, Diana Ashbee and performed by IBPOC dancer, Irene Martinez and set to original music by Jean-Francois Blouin.



SERPENTINE

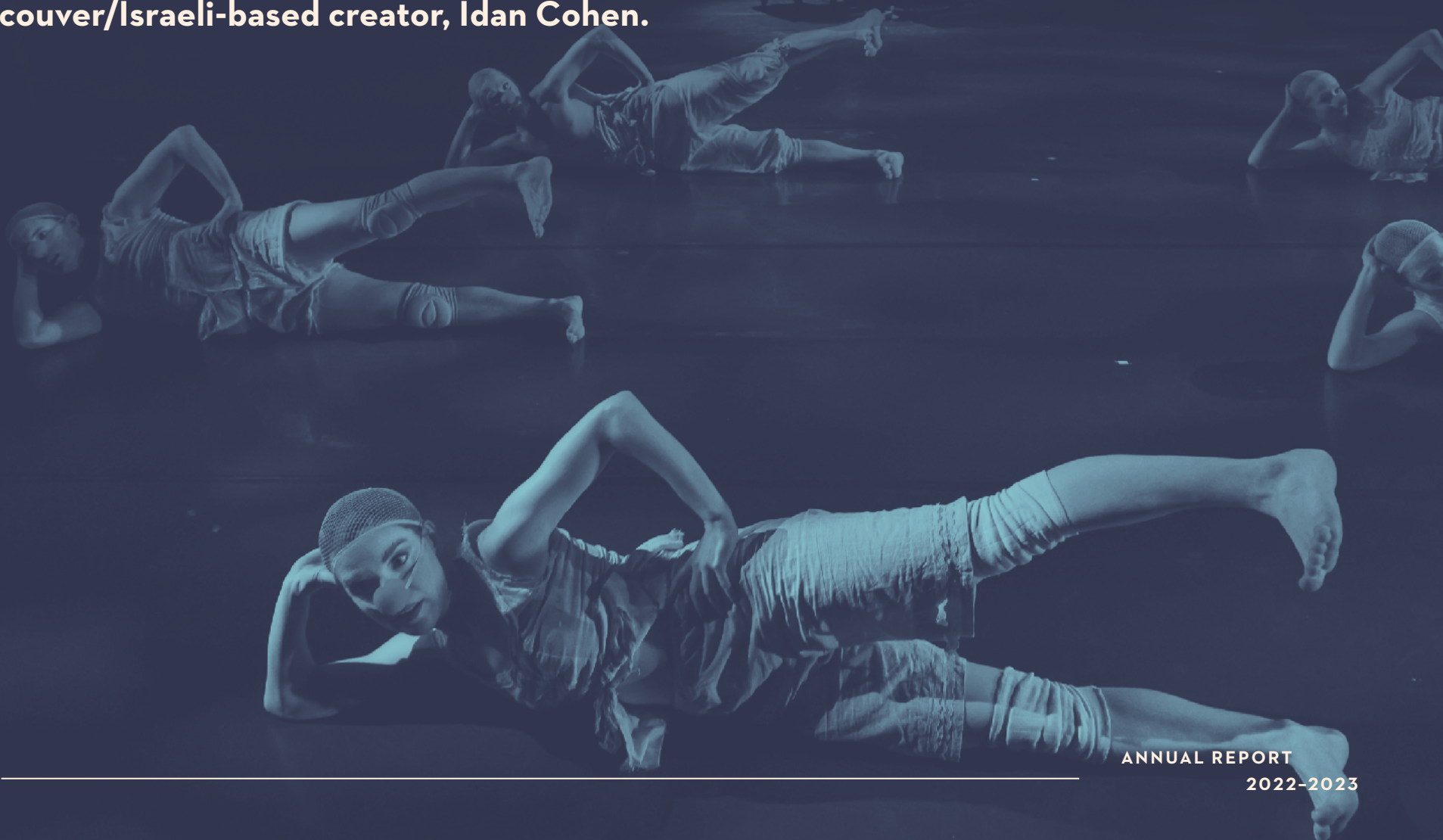
Ashbee's work reframes indigeneity through an intimate experience and is highly relevant to our present day. Ashbee came to WCD with worldwide success and international acclaim. This was the debut performance of Ashbee's work in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers held nothing back as they opened their 58th season with the presentation of Daina Ashbee's "Serpentine", a bold, brave, and in its own startling way, beautiful full-length solo work... Serpentine successfully creates a wide-open canvas for personal interpretation... It also breaks the fourth wall and pushes audience members to edges of their own comfort zones..."

- Holly Harris, Winnipeg Free Press

LOOKING GLASS

The second subscription series show was *Looking Glass*, a new work featuring six local dancers by Vancouver/Israeli-based creator, Idan Cohen.



LOOKING GLASS

Cohen connected to WCD by way of a public call to artists was selected as a Guest Artist in Residence by a diverse panel. Growing up in the socialist community of the Kibbutz and Cohen's lived experience as a queer male in the middle east informs his artistic life and work. This was the debut performance of Cohen's work in Winnipeg.

Looking Glass featured an ensemble of six Winnipeg dancers; piano Etudes by Philip Glass, played live by Lisa Rumpel; lighting by Hugh Conacher and costumes by Megan Latouche.

Israeli-born Idan Cohen's Looking Glass resonates as a haunting ode to the elasticity of time... Cohen dares us to peer through our own looking glasses of perception, as we step gingerly into the future, and our bruised, albeit still hopeful world."

- Holly Harris, Winnipeg Free Press

RETUNING

The third subscription series show was *retuning*, a new work by WCD AD, Jolene Bailie, performed in the round.



RETUNING

As AD, Bailie presents one full evening of choreography per season as part of WCD's subscription series. *retuning* featured an all-local team of dancers and collaborators - including six dancers, lighting by Hugh Conacher, costumes by Megan Latouche and original sound by Emma Hendrix.

Bailie wisely leaves room for personal interpretation with her dynamic, highly visceral choreography, with dancers flying through the air, leaping onto each other's backs, being held aloft as though in sacrificial rite...

...Kudos to all performers for their clear commitment to Bailie's no-holds-barred lexicon of movement vocabulary, ranging from suspended lifts to body isolations and percussive attacks with their limbs; their trust in each other is palpable."

- Holly Harris, Winnipeg Free Press

The willingness to retune, and having that specific type of participation and investment in yourself and the people you're with - and the act of re-tuning on a physical and emotional level... and the deliberate process required to do so, is something I feel is very relevant. The work we do when we retune is really challenging. Its much easier not to do it."

- Jolene Bailie

ANCILLARY PROGRAMMING

While the focus of the season is WCD's Subscription Series, WCD also engaged in ancillary programming.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES

In September 2022, WCD hosted an in-person Season Launch featuring performances by 7 WCD dancers in two works. This free/pay what you may event, offered the first opportunity to hear about our season line-up, enjoy a WCD performance - including the chance to celebrate both returning and new dancers, and connect with community.

In October 2022, WCD performed three different performances at three different locations for “Downtown Culture Days” and “Culture Days at the Forks” featuring 12 local dancers. Six WCD dancers performed an excerpt from Jolene Bailie’s work *in between here and now* at The Forks, and 11 emerging dancers performed outdoor renditions of Bailie’s *Proximity* at Stephen Juba Park and Old Market Square.

These free performances were supported through the Downtown Recovery Fund, a fund that supported programming downtown with a goal to encourage people to return to popular sites as we moved towards the endemic phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In November 2022, WCD performed to a full house at *Nafro Dance Production’s Moving Inspirations Dance Festival Gala*, featuring performances by 5 local dancers.

In March 2023, WCD presented celebrated senior artist, Christopher House, performing the seminal work *NEWS* by Deborah Hay. This was the debut performance of Deborah Hay’s work in Winnipeg.

Once again WCD presented a window projection, viewed from outdoors, for Culture Days/Nuit Blanche.

Partnerships for 22/23 include:

Culture Days

Nuit Blanche

The School of Contemporary Dancers

WCD'S EMERGING ARTIST INITIATIVE

WCD is committed to providing meaningful projects for emerging dancers.

For 22/23, WCD engaged in a multi-week project for emerging dancers in September and October - including training, new creation, coaching and two ticketed performances. WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative provided opportunities for twelve emerging dancers, the largest cast to date for this project.

Culminating in a two-show run of *Flight Paths*, featuring three works by WCD Artistic, Jolene Bailie. Programming included the premiere of a new work for eleven dancers, *Proximity*, a duet, *The Space In Between* and a trio, *Lost*.

WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative continued to be active in November and December as one of the dances was performed at the School of Contemporary Dancers annual winter concert for 4 additional performances.

In addition, one work from the Emerging Artist Initiative toured to Regina for two performances, presented by New Dance Horizons' *Stream of Dance Festival*, June 8-10, 2022.

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



ONLINE — IN BETWEEN HERE AND NOW

in between here and now, a new creation by WCD Artistic Director, Jolene Bailie, was presented online June 10-July 03, 2022. This work featured an all-Winnipeg team, including an ensemble of Winnipeg dancers, lighting by Hugh Conacher, set + 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

PROFESSIONAL CLASSES

WCD is committed to providing training for professional dancers. For the fourth season in row WCD offered a consistent schedule of professional level classes, with most classes open to drop-ins.

In 22/23, WCD programmed 108 in-person, professional-level classes plus one creative workshop.

Number of Class Participants: 739

For 22/23:

Company Class Teacher: Jolene Bailie

Guest Teacher: Idan Cohen

Creative Workshop led by Daina Ashbee

Accompanists: Ian Mikita and Tim Church

For 22/23 WCD's pre-recorded online classes continued to be available through WCD's website, free of charge.



IN-PERSON ARTIST TALKS

For 22/23, WCD presented four in-person Artist Talks, moderated by WCD's Programming Support, Ian Mozdzen.

Special thanks to all the artists who joined us in our conversations on stage. It was engaging and thought provoking to dialogue about processes, viewpoints, performance and more!

Special thanks to Daina Ashbee, Irene Martinez, Idan Cohen, Lisa Rumpel, Andres Felipe Jimenez Mejia, Justine Erickson, Sophie Milord, Carol-Ann Bohrn, Warren McClelland, Shawn Maclaine, Christopher House, Shayla Rudd, Julious Gambalan, Reymark Capacete, Jolene Bailie and Emma Hendrix.



ARTISTS

A dance company cannot exist without artists. Artists create and bring our work to life. WCD thanks all the artists who contributed to the 22/23 season.

Jolene Bailie

Daina Ashbee

Irene Martinez

Idan Cohen

Christopher House

Carol-Ann Bohr

Reymark Capacete

Justine Erickson

Andres Felipe Jiménez Mejia

Shawn Maclaine

Warren McClelland

Sophie Milord

Shayla Rudd

Ian Mikita

Hugh Conacher

Emma Hendrix

Lisa Rumpel

Megan La Touche

Ridge Romanshien

Samantha Desiree

Leif Norman

Landon Lake

Zeus Gonzales

Thomas Oberlin

Ellice Kynman

Alexis Taylor

Natalie Sluis

Anne Neudorf

Aileen Holzrichter

Juanita Garzon

Gabriela Ortiz

Ntara Curry

Simon Hughes

Kira Hofmann

Debbie Patterson

THE RACHEL BROWNE THEATRE

WCD's facility is home for rehearsals, performances & administration, in addition, WCD operates and maintains the Rachel Browne Theatre.



FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

In 2019, WCD made a commitment to engage in facility repairs, upgrades, and maintenance, as well as remain at our current residence - including operating the Rachel Browne Theatre. This commitment led to the envisioning of a three-phase renovation.

In 22/23 WCD completed the second phase of the three-phase plan. This included expanding the lobby, installing new carpet and a new admin office layout (to accommodate for the lobby expansion).

Expanding the lobby at WCD has transformed the experience for all users of our space. The space is more welcoming; people have more space to connect before and after performances; there is space for a concession/bar area - which we offered at all 22/23 performances; it has improved everyday work flow; and brought more sunlight with an additional window being allocated to the lobby area - a window which is also visible from inside the dance studio! The new carpet throughout brings the multi-year vision together and supports our venue in looking professional, clean, and welcoming.

Other facility improvements include: repositioning the upstage traveller further back (this is the curtain located at the far back of the stage) - allowing for a larger performance space on stage when the curtain is closed; adding some upstage lighting to support a larger playing area; plus research and planning for phase-three of the renovation plan.

THE RACHEL BROWNE THEATRE

WCD's facility is home for rehearsals, performances & administration, in addition, WCD operates and maintains the Rachel Browne Theatre.

COMMUNITY RENTERS DURING THE 2021/2022 SEASON:

The Rachel Browne Theatre serves many arts groups, festivals, individual artists & the community as an affordable rental venue. Community renters during the 22/23 season included:

Amsterdam Tea Room

ANANSI School for the Performing Arts

BNB Studio

Define Movement

Grant Davidson Music

Groove Academy School of Music

Haven Arts studio

Manitoba Opera

Manufacturing Entertainment

Prairie Diva

Rose Pointe Dance Company

Sawdon Dance

The 28th Minute

The Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival

Theatre Projects Manitoba

Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

Grant Boden

Giuseppe Condello

Raine Hamilton

Ian Mozdzen

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 2022-2023 SEASON

Chris Turyk - Chair
Ian Weedmark - Vice Chair
Jerilyn Hall - Treasurer
Sheena Stemler - Secretary
Lisa Stiver
Devan Graham
Shyanne Batista

STAFF 2022-2023 SEASON

Jolene Bailie - Artistic Director
Iryna Kravchenko - Administrator
Ian Mozdzen - Programming Support
Jessica Rose, Zambia Pankratz - Venue Technicians

ARTS PROFESSIONALS

Thank you to all
professionals who worked
for WCD during the
2022/2023 season:

Julia Armstrong

Rachel Baziuk

Jenna Beret

Kelsey Braun

Ntara Curry

Darlene Dela Cruz

Samantha Desiree

Brooke Hess

Katlyn Howlett

Evan King

Ian Kirk

Antero Lindblad

Sadie Lowenthal

Marcelle Lussier
Urbanink

Ify Oguchi
Dance Umbrella of Ontario

Cory and
Chris Penner
J&J Penner Construction

Erin Riediger
Prairie Architects

Ridge Romanishen

Pamela Roz
PR Rose

Cari Simpson

Ryan Spracklin

Robert Sauvey
Dance Umbrella of Ontario

Willy Caceres
*Willy's Quality
Carpet Cleaning*

Fisher Wohlgemut

DONORS & FUNDERS

MANY THANKS TO OUR DONORS, 2022-2023 SEASON

CONTRIBUTORS \$10 000+

Ruth and David Asper and family

CREATORS \$1000+

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

Isaac Ben Diamond

Patricia Philpott, in Honour of Ellice Kynman

Prairie Architects

The Asper Foundation

Marcel Van Woensel

PERFORMERS \$500+

Grant Boden

Jerilyn Hall

Wanda Koop

Randal Newman, in Memory of Tedd Robinson

Blair Philpott

Wawanesa Insurance

SUPPORTERS \$100+

Robert and Ina Abra

Douglas Arrell

Bonnie and Jim Bailie

Stephanie Ballard

Annette Browne, in Memory of Rachel Browne

Claire Cram

José Koes

Thomas Kucera

Robert Schuppel

Lisa Stiver

Lorne Sunley

Ruth Thomson

Chris Turyk

Leo and Patricia Waisberg

Ian Weedmark

Nicole Zajac

ENTHUSIASTS UNDER \$100

Martha Barwinsky

Jean Paul Cloutier

Jennifer Litchfield

Angela Olivier

Sheena Stemler

Anonymous

SPONSOR

Winnipeg Free Press

Red River Mutual 

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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Conseil des Arts
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WINNIPEG
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THE
WINNIPEG
FOUNDATION 

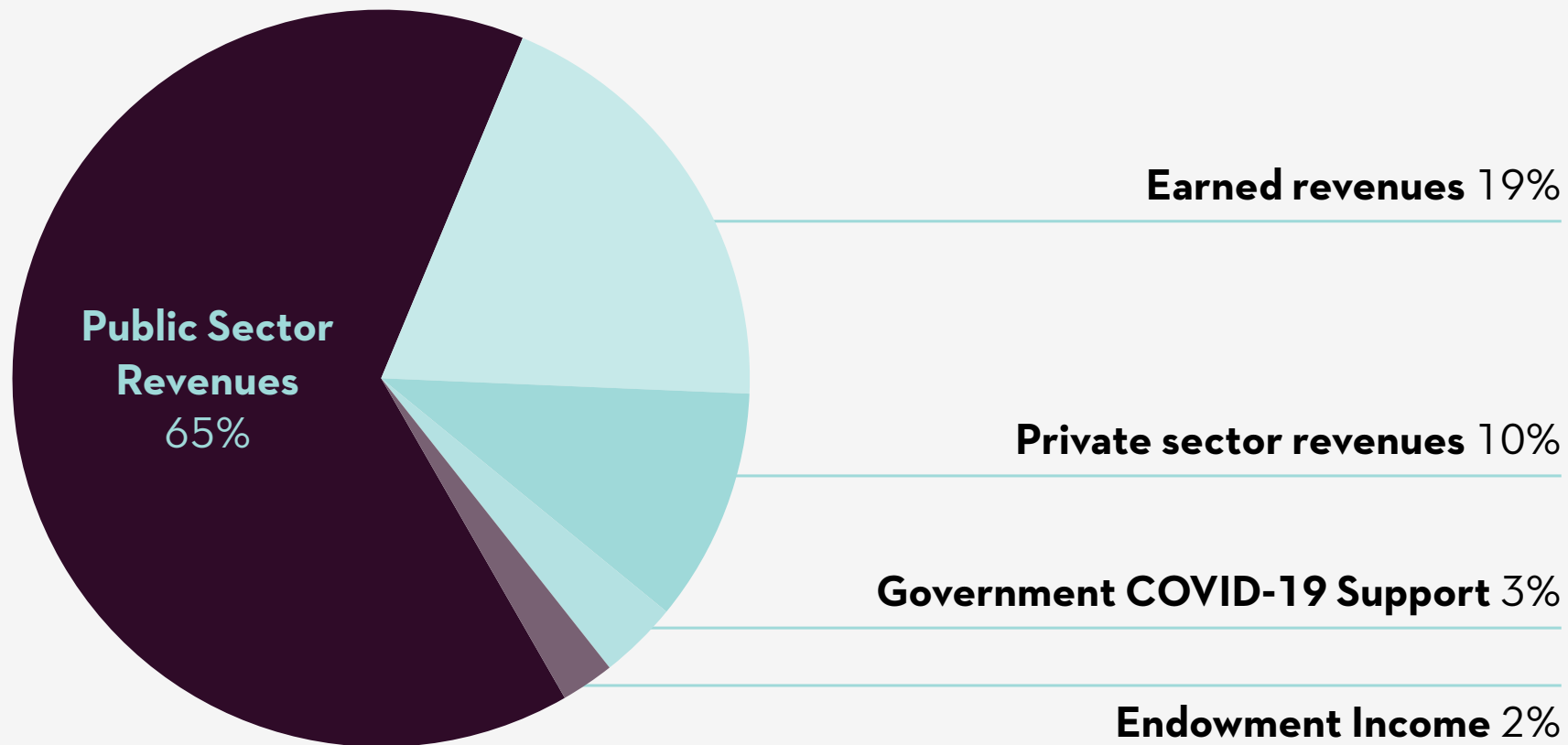
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONTEMPORARY DANCERS INC.

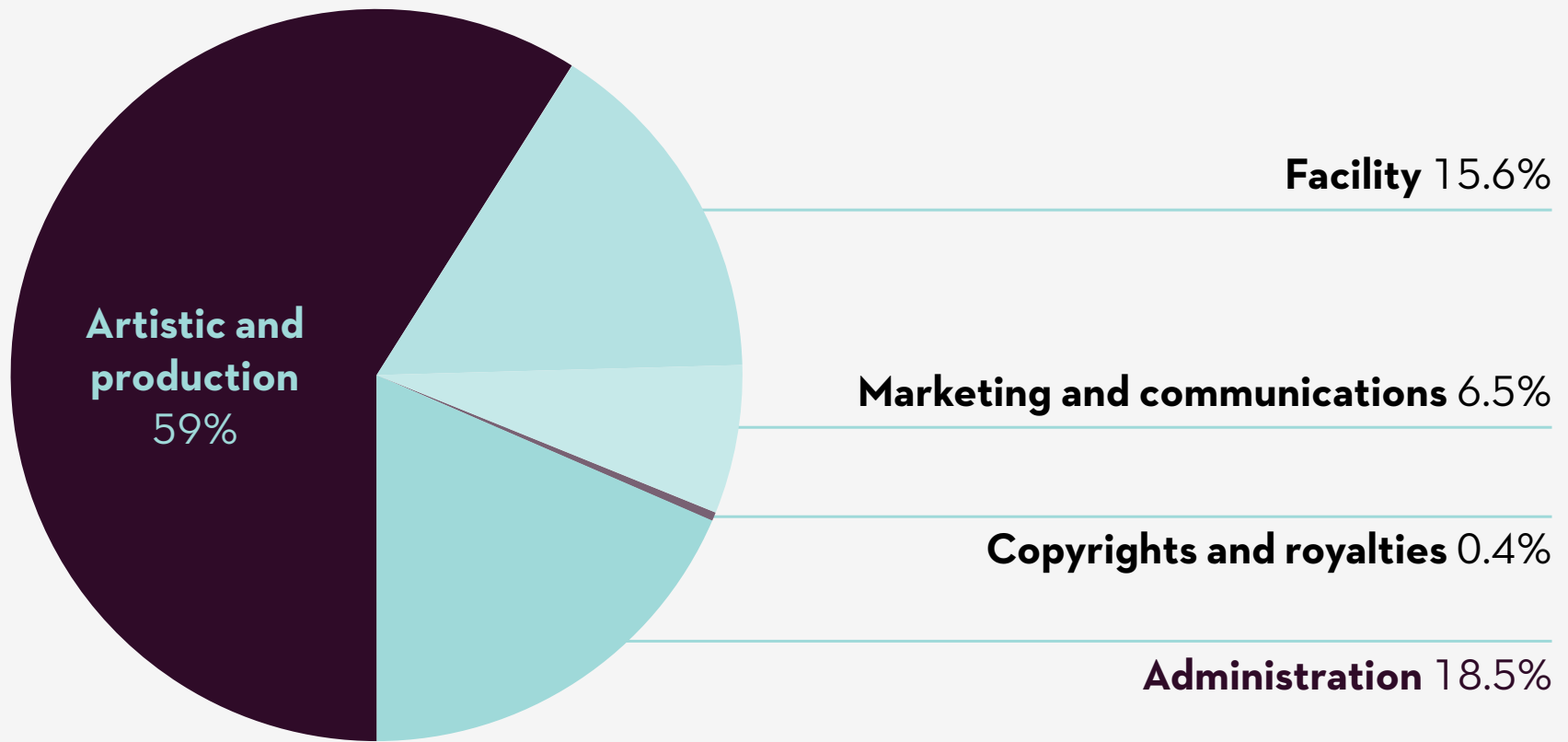
Statement of Financial Position as of May 31, 2023

	2023	2022
Current		
Cash	\$ 121,363	\$ 78,898
Amounts receivable	3,141	
GST/HST recoverable	980	4,242
Prepaid expenses	10,551	8,750
	\$ 136,035	\$ 91,890
Capital assets	533,405	515,705
	\$ 669,440.00	\$ 607,595.00
Liabilities		
Current:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 18,497	\$ 23,901
Deferred revenues	152,770	30,686
Current portion of mortgage payable	2,300	5,000
	\$ 173,567	\$ 59,587
Mortgage payable	153,937	155,563
Deferred contributions for capital asset purchases	291,507	304,937
	\$ 619,011.00	\$ 520,087.00
Net Assets		
The Winnipeg Foundation – Contemporary Dancers Fund, Market value \$192,515 (Note 10)		
Unrestricted	50,429	87,508
	\$ 669,440.00	\$ 607,595.00

OPERATING REVENUES



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.

23
Public performances presented in-person

2
Activities presented on digital platforms

1179*
Attendance at public performances

103
Online audience

109
Professional Classes & Workshops

1
Workshops for WCD staff and arts workers associated with WCD

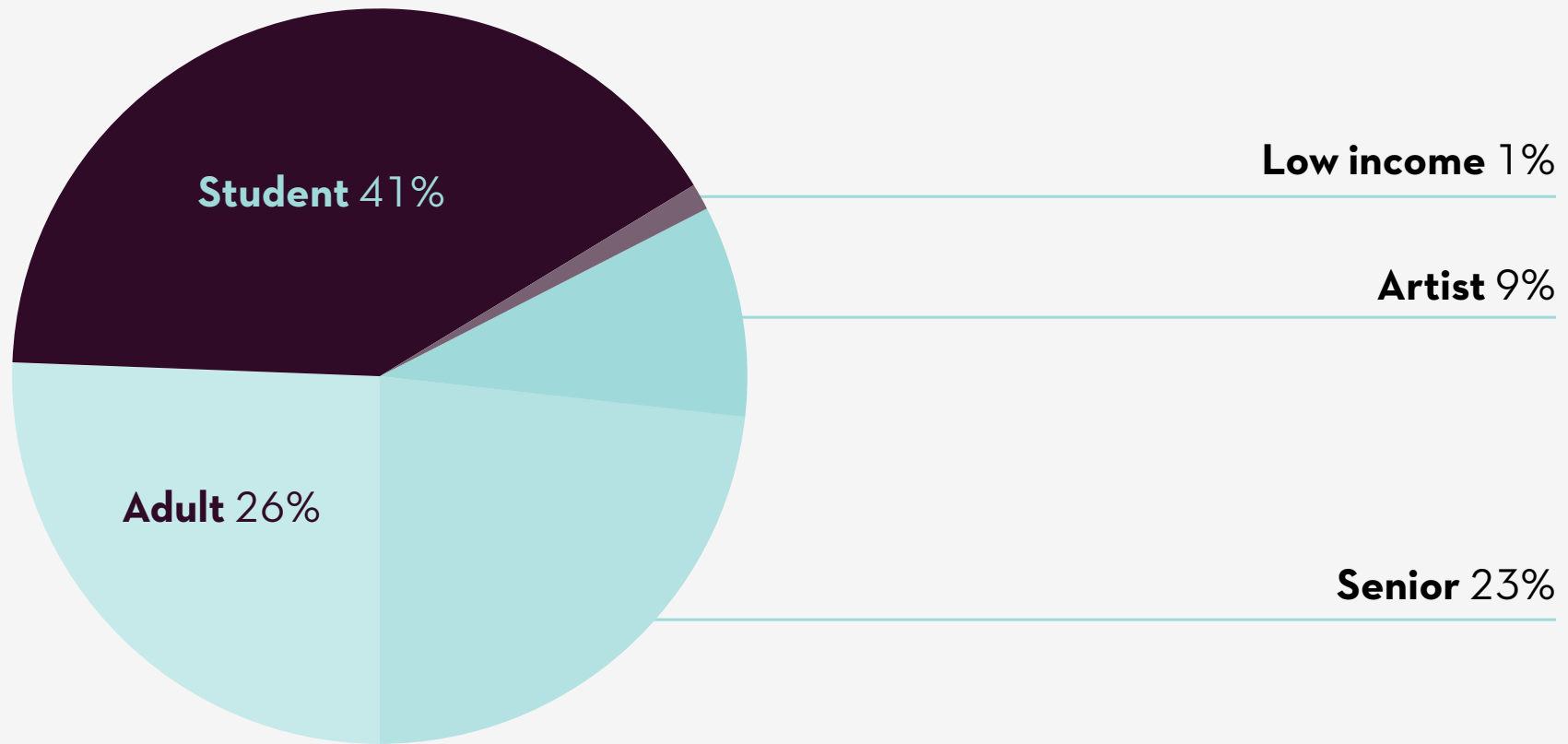
79
Rachel Browne Theatre rental days

51
Volunteers

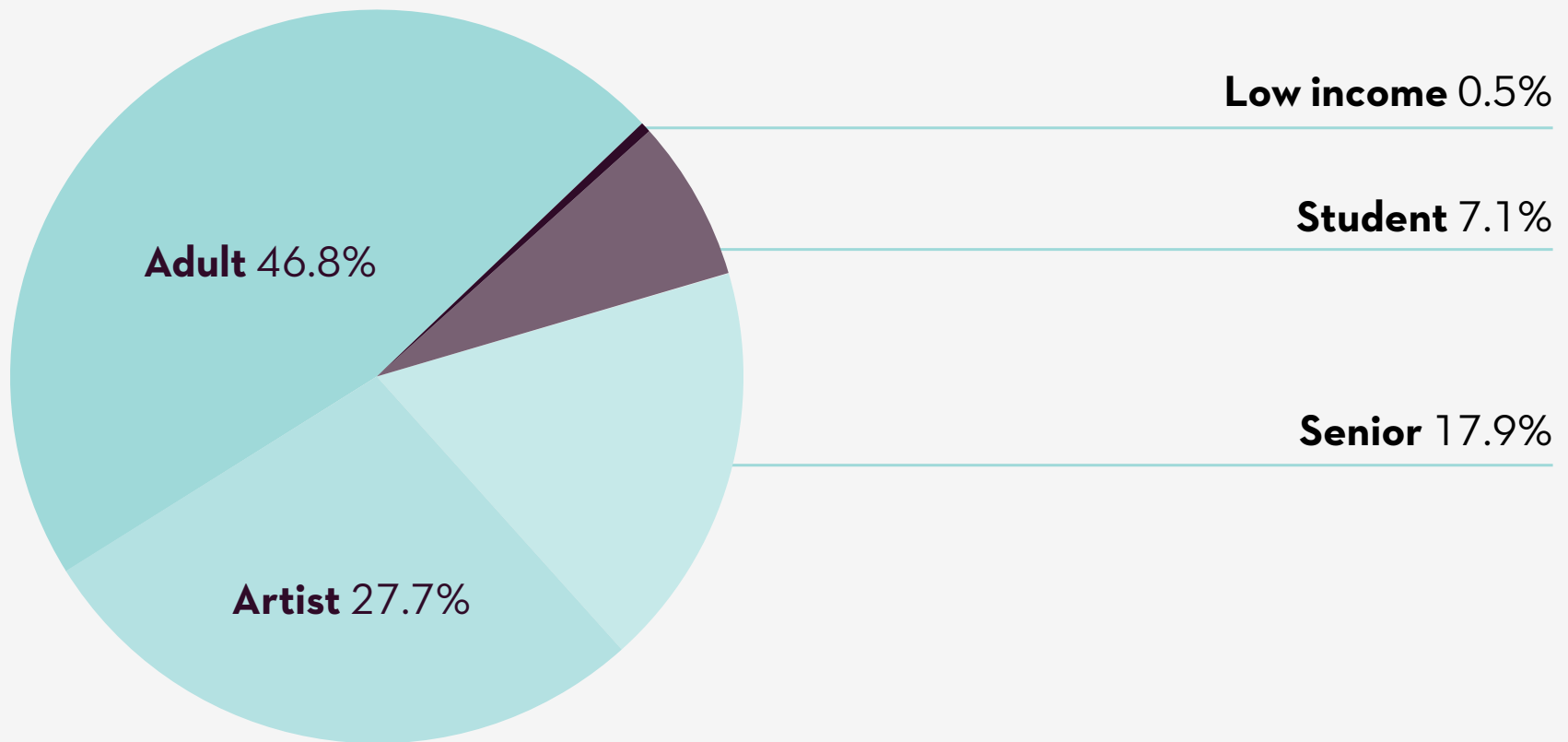
549
Volunteer hours

* Number does not include the audience for additional performances/page 17/

SUBSCRIPTION BY CATEGORY



SINGLE TICKETS BY CATEGORY





Cover photo:
retuning
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancer: Carol-Ann Bohrn

PAGE 4
retuning
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Reymark Capacete,
Shayla Rudd

PAGE 6
Chris Turyk
Photo: Unknown

PAGE 7
Jolene Bailie
Photo: Kirsten Sawatsky

PAGE 8
retuning
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Carol-Ann Bohrn,
Reymark Capacete,
Shawn MacLaine, Warren
McClelland, Julious Gambalan,
Shayla Rudd

PAGE 10
Serpentine
Photo: Arnaud Caraviehe
Choreography: Daina Ashbee

PAGE 12
Looking Glass
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Idan Cohen
Lighting: Hugh Conacher
Dancers: Carol-Ann Bohrn,
Justine Erickson, Andrés
Felipe Jiménez Mejía, Shawn
MacLaine, Sophie Milord, Warren
McClelland
Pianist: Lisa Rumpel
Costumes: Megan Latouche

PAGE 14
retuning
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Julious Gambalan,
Warren McClelland

PAGE 16
in between here and now,
Season Launch
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Shawn MacLaine,
Carol-Ann Bohrn, Andrés
Felipe Jiménez Mejía, Warren
McClelland, Julious Gambalan,
Shayla Rudd, Reymark Capacete

PAGE 18
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Ellice Kynmann, Justine
Erickson, Andres Jimenez, Sophie
Milord, Alexis Fletcher, Thomas
Oberlin, Juanita Garzon

PAGE 19
in between here and now
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Warren McClelland,
Kira Hofmann
Backdrop and Projection:
Simon Hughes
Lighting: Hugh Conacher

PAGE 20
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancers: Andres Felipe Jimenez
Mejia, Julious Gambalan, Carol-
Ann Bohrn, Warren McClelland,
Reymark Capacete

PAGE 21
Retuning, Artist Talk
Photo: Gary Sewell

PAGE 22
Looking Glass
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Idan Cohen
Dancer: Warren McClelland
Lighting: Hugh Conacher
Costumes: Megan Latouche

PAGE 23
WCD Lobby Expansion
Photo: Jolene Bailie

PAGE 24
Photo: Hugh Conacher

PAGE 26
Looking Glass
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Idan Cohen
Dancers: Justine Erickson,
Carol-Ann Bohrn
Lighting: Hugh Conacher
Costumes: Megan Latouche

Back Cover
retuning
Photo: Leif Norman
Choreography: Jolene Bailie
Dancer: Reymark Capacete