



Winnipeg's
Contemporary
Dancers

A male dancer in a bright orange leotard is captured in a dynamic, mid-air pose, leaning back with his head tilted upwards and arms extended. The background is a solid, light blue color.

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

LAND AND WATER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers is located on Treaty One Territory and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Anisininew, 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Company	4
Message From Chair & Artistic Director	5-6
2023-2024 Season	8
Artists, Staff & Board	21
Donors & Funders	27
Financial Statements	28
Year At A Glance	31

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

SHEENA STEMLER, THE BOARD CHAIR

Personal highlights of the 2023-2024 season were Jera Wolfe's *Play Cowboy*, a work that was at the same time endearing, funny, and visceral, as well as *signals to segue*, a beautiful all-Winnipeg production choreographed by our fearless artistic director, Jolene Baillie. Congratulations to all the artists who participated in our 2023-2024 season.

My heartfelt appreciation to Jolene Bailie, Iryna Kravchenko, and my fellow board members for their tireless work for WCD.

Thank you also to our donors and sponsors for their continued support. Although overall numbers were down from last season, the number of donors increased, a testament – along with our consistently well-attended and warmly-received performances – to increased engagement with WCD.

As the full, challenging picture of a post-pandemic landscape comes into view, strong partnerships are key to ensuring WCD continues to deliver value to our communities, provide opportunities for artists and young people, and contribute to the artform in new and creative ways. One example of new partnerships last season was performing at Storefront Manitoba's *table for 1200*, an event that put WCD in front of new audiences who share our love of the arts and of this city.

As WCD heads into its 60th anniversary season, it has been heartening to hear, overwhelmingly, that members of our community value WCD's leadership and are invested in our future. I look forward to celebrating 60 years next season and working harder to strengthen our foundation to support the next 60.

Sincerely,



Sheena Stemler



MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



The 23/24 season was my fifth season as Artistic Director and WCD's 59th season. The 59th season saw significant projects for local artists, engaged internationally and nationally award-winning artists, and programmed a broad range of artists – including: emerging, mid-career, senior, IBPOC and Winnipeg-based.

Working in studio with the artists, creating new work, teaching Company Class, and producing WCD's shows/events were central to my role as Artistic Director.

Season highlights included: working with all the fabulous artists who contributed to the season, creating the new full-length work *signals to segue*, welcoming Guest Artist, Jera Wolfe, in residence at WCD for 4 weeks, staging *Begin Again*, presenting *The Impossible Has Already Happened*, and proudly witnessing every single performance! Congratulations to all the artists who came together to work together for a spectacular season! Thank you!

23/24 saw the completion of the third and final phase of a multi-year renovation plan. Completing this was a tremendous accomplishment! Congratulations to everyone who worked on this!

We were thrilled to see the number of donors increase compared to last season, however, the total sum of donations received decreased, echoing the grave impact that fluctuations in economics is having on our current society.

Despite unprecedented fluctuations in economics, challenges due to inflation and the ripple effect of COVID-19, WCD continued to experience a plethora of artistic highlights - including engaging a spectacular line-up of international, national and local artists. Sincere appreciation to the WCD staff, board, artists and arts professionals, whose work make WCD's programming and operations possible.

Sincerely,

Jolene Bailie

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.

23/24 was WCD's 59th season and all programming was delivered as planned. WCD's main-focus continued to be the three show Subscription Series, delivering relevant and current work. The subscription series featured two exciting new creations and one touring show.

The subscription series presented a broad range of artists: emerging, mid-career, senior, Winnipeg-based and nationally/internationally acclaimed, with 41% of dancers IBPOC. Significant, multi-week projects for local artists were a priority for two out of three shows. There were no operational or significant changes and WCD is in good standing with all funders.

23/24 SEASON

WCD exists to create and present contemporary dance. For 23/24, WCD performed 17 in-person performances in a variety of settings. The focus continued to be WCD's three-show subscription series. Presenting a subscription series since 1971, WCD's subscription series is the only subscription series for contemporary dance in Manitoba.



SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

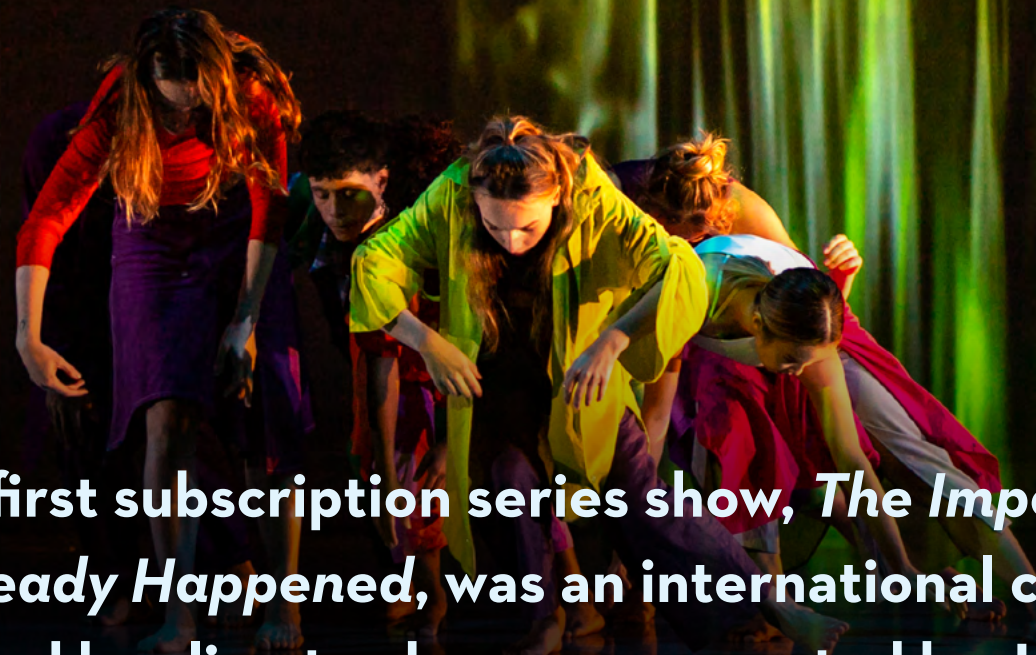


23/24 delivered relevant and exciting contemporary dance. With two shows featuring ensemble of local dancers, the investment in local artists was significant.

WCD's 23/24 season featured strong, distinct creators who created from a range of perspectives, each 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.

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. WCD was able to meet all of these goals for 23/24.

THE IMPOSSIBLE HAS ALREADY HAPPENED



WCD's first subscription series show, *The Impossible Has Already Happened*, was an international co-creation motivated by climate change, co-created by Jennifer Mascall (Vancouver) and New Zealand choreographer Claire O'Neil (Footnote New Zealand Dance).

THE IMPOSSIBLE HAS ALREADY HAPPENED

Motivated by the current environmental crisis, this work researched the critical subject of water and the impact we have on this natural resource. With advising informed by the traditional water teachings of Elders Aline La Flamme (Métis) and Barb Nepinak (Pine Creek Ojibway) – with Nepinak also giving an in-person water ceremony on opening night, and Climate Scientists Nicholas Macfarlane (USA) and Joanna Ashworth (Canada).

The Impossible Has Already Happened came to WCD after a successful tour of New Zealand and in conjunction with a Western Canadian tour. The work presented local, national and international perspectives; performers included a diverse cast of 6 from Canada and New Zealand. The creation also showcased a shift in process and motivation for the long-established creators - “Together we’ve shifted our values to see art as social action with an emphasis on real world impact and community connection.” – Jennifer Mascall

“Together we’ve shifted our values to see art as social action with an emphasis on real world impact and community connection.”

- Jennifer Mascall



NEW CREATION + BEGIN AGAIN

The second subscription show, *New Creation + Begin Again* featured the new creation *Play Cowboy* by Métis choreographer, Jera Wolfe. Programmed alongside *Play Cowboy* was the long-awaited in-person run of *Begin Again*, previously created by Wolfe for WCD during COVID-19.

NEW CREATION + BEGIN AGAIN

WCD was thrilled to welcome Guest Choreographer, Jera Wolfe to work in residence at WCD for four weeks on two distinct works. For both works, *Begin Again* and *Play Cowboy*, Wolfe was supported by WCD as he embarked on new creative endeavors. For *Begin Again*, this was the first work where Wolfe explored props and interactive lighting effects. For *Play Cowboy*, this was the first work where Wolfe explored text, humor, “play” and live video feed in his choreography. This show also offered dancers the opportunity to express their interest in dancing with WCD through a public call to artists.

“...a soulful journey into the power of human connection.”

- for “*Begin Again*”, Winnipeg Free Press

...syncopated kicks and tricks like wild buckaroos, executing his intricate choreography and including spoken text that underpins the piece’s vernacular vibe with solid rigour.”

- for “*Play Cowboy*”, Winnipeg Free Press

SIGNALS TO SEGUE

The third subscription series show was *signals to segue*, a new full-length work by WCD AD, Bailie, featuring an all-local creative and production team.



SIGNALS TO SEGUE

As AD, Bailie is engaged to present one full evening of her choreography per season. This was a major project for local artists, motivated by current and relevant themes in human exchange.

Known for highly physical and complex work, Bailie creates experimental works that are visual, abstract, and reflective. Always athletic, Bailie has presented new creations for Winnipeg audiences annually for over 20 years!

It's every creator's dream to have fellow artists demonstrating a fierce commitment to bringing her vision to life, and Bailie has a goldmine with her handpicked dancers.exploding into Bailie's visceral movement vocabulary, including high-flying leaps and lifts, daring upside-down flips, and warp-speed spins across the floor, evoking hyperkinetic tumbleweeds."

- for "signals to segue", Holly Harris - Winnipeg Free Press

The need to shed is something I've been researching a lot; I think this is something that is very relevant to today's society. Signalling can be subtle or overt; regardless we have a responsibility to both send and receive signals. This "call/response", participation in life, in ourselves, in our community is what makes up who we are, in essence, it is who we are."

- Jolene Bailie, Choreographer/WCD Artistic Director

ANCILLARY PROGRAMMING

A person wearing a unicorn mask and a dark shirt is holding a camera on a tripod. Another person in a blue striped shirt is standing next to them with their arms raised. The scene is filled with falling red rose petals against a black background.

While the focus of the season is WCD's Subscription Series, WCD also engaged in ancillary programming. This programming included professional classes, WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative, Artist Talks and Additional Performances.

PROFESSIONAL CLASSES

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

In 23/24, WCD programmed 73 in-person, professional-level classes plus one creative workshop and one open house event.

Number of Class Participants: 569

For 23/24:

Company Class Teacher: Jolene Bailie

Guest Teacher: Jera Wolfe

Creative Workshop led by Claire O'Neil

Accompanists: Ian Mikita and Jay Stoller

For 23/24 WCD's pre-recorded online classes continued to be available through WCD's website, free of charge.



WCD'S EMERGING ARTIST INITIATIVE

WCD is committed to providing meaningful projects for emerging dancers.

For 23/24, WCD engaged in a 6.5 week project for emerging dancers in September and October – including training, new creation, coaching and two ticketed performances.

WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative provided significant opportunities for nine emerging dancers, plus opportunities for three WCD dancers to be engaged as additional rehearsal directors.

Culminating in a two-show run of *Everything's Coming Up Roses*, featuring four works by WCD Artistic, Jolene Bailie. Programming included an excerpt from *in between here and now* re-envisioned for the full-cast of nine dancers, the solos *Space or Place* and *Everything's Coming Up Roses*, and the group work, *Last Schema*, featuring six dancers.

WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative continued to be active for two and a half weeks in December as *Last Schema* was performed at the School of Contemporary Dancers annual winter concert for 4 additional performances.

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



ARTIST TALKS

For 23/24, WCD presented three Artist Talks. Moderators included WCD's Programming Support, Ian Mozdzen; Former dancer and Media Host, Tracy Koga; and Visual Artist, Derek Brueckner.

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 Jennifer Mascall, Jera Wolfe, Jace Hodges, Cameron Fraser-Monroe, Justine Erickson, Carol-Ann Bohrn, Warren McClelland, Shayla Rudd, Julious Gambalan, Reymark Capacete, Jolene Bailie and Emma Hendrix.



ADDITIONAL

WCD presented a window projection for Culture Days/Nuit Blanche, as well as performed at *Flash Photo Fest* and *Table for 1200*.

PARTNERSHIPS:

Culture Days/Nuit Blanche
School of Contemporary Dancers
Flash Photo Fest
Storefront MB

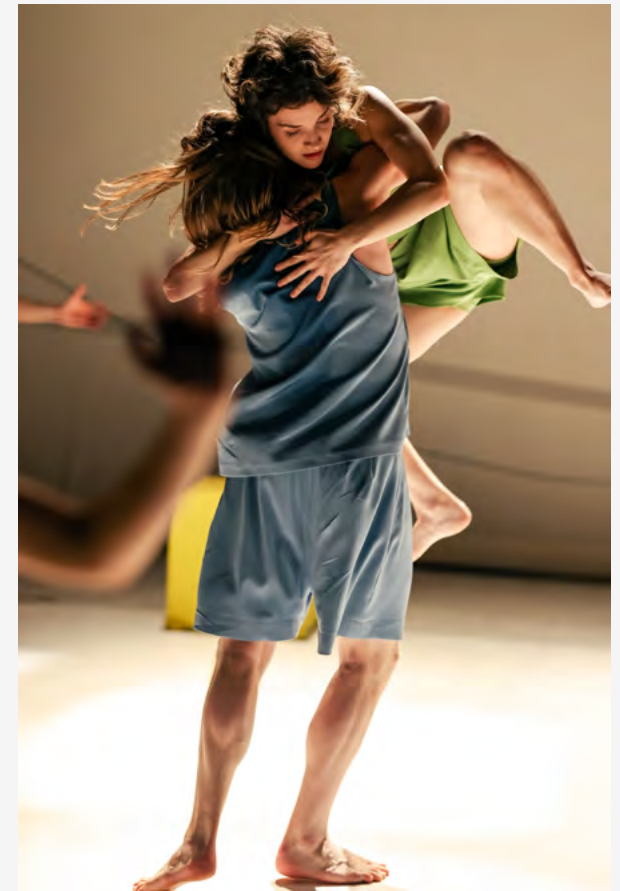
ARTISTS AND ART PROFESSIONALS

A dance company cannot exist without artists. Artists create and bring our work to life. WCD thanks all the artists who contributed to the 23/24 season.

Jolene Bailie
Anika Binding
Carol-Ann Bohrn
Allison Brooks
Derek Brueckner
Reymark Capacete
Jack Chipman
Hugh Conacher
Anne de Geus
Ysadora Dias
Katriona Dunn
Justine Erickson
Ralph Escamillan
Wanda Farian
Cameron Fraser-Monroe

Julious Gambalan
Marisa Gold
Zeus Gonzales
Emma Hendrix
Jace Hodges
Ellice Kynman
Tracy Koga
Landon Lake
Paige Lewis
Tobias Macfarlane
John Macfarlane
Jennifer Mascall
Ian McCausland
Marcus McShane
Ian Mikita

Sophie Milord
Ian Mozden
Kathleen Nisbet
Leif Norman
Claire O'Neil
Thomas Oberlin
Beatriz Orbegoso
Ridge Romanishen
Shayla Rudd
Iris Mae Shepperd
Jay Stoller
Jera Wolfe
Jason Wright



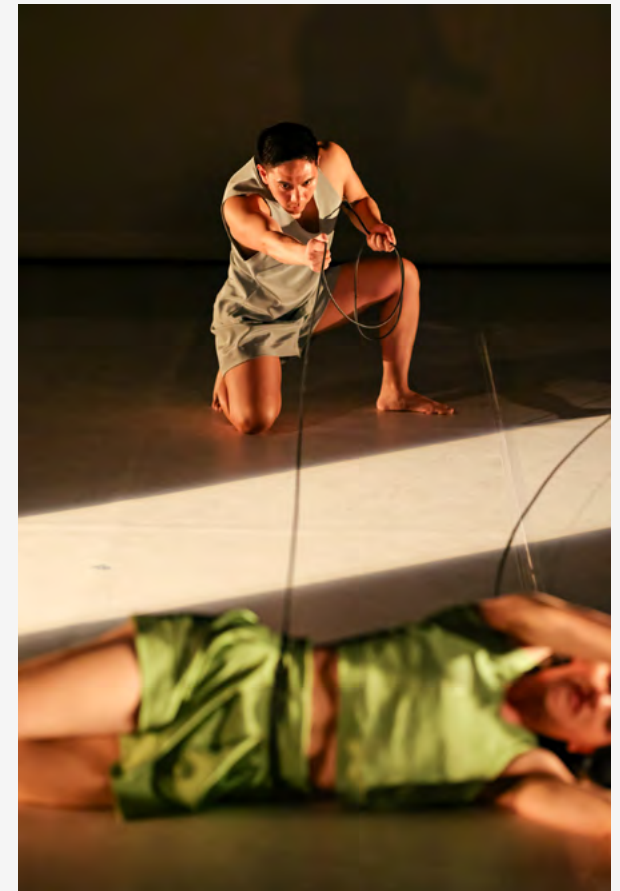
ARTISTS AND ART PROFESSIONALS

Thanks so much to the emerging dancers who participated in WCD's Emerging Artist Initiative

Aileen Holzrichter
Alejandra Cortez Rodino
Freya Macdonald-Johnsen
Monica Schilling
Ellice Kynman
Citlali Solis Hernandez
Thomas Oberlin
Zeus Gonzales
Natalie Sluis

Thank you to all professionals who worked for WCD during the 2023/2024 season:

Julia Armstrong
Harlan Boughen
Willy Caceres,
*Willy's Quality
Carpet Cleaning*
Natra Curry
Dylan Girard
Samantha Harrison
Brooke Hess
Emma Jorgensen
Evan King
Iryna Kravchenko
Norma Lachance
Antero Lindblad
Gracie Lintblom
Sadie Lowenthal
Marcelle Lussier,
Urbanink
Barbara Mackenzie
Sylvia Minarcin
Tia Morann
Thomas Oberlin
Ify Oguchi,
*Dance Umbrella
of Ontario*
Zambia Pankratz
Robbie Playter
Pamela Roz,
PR Rose
Joshua Taillefer



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 remain at our current residence; as part of this commitment, WCD has engaged in facility repairs, upgrades, and maintenance; including the envisioning a three-phase renovation plan. In 23/24 WCD completed the final phase of this plan.

For 23/24, WCD relocated the interior patron entrance/exit door off the lobby. Relocating this entrance/exit door removed the need for patrons to walk on the stage floor itself to enter and exit the theatre.

Another benefit with this space-opening relocation is the capacity to offer a full set of symmetrical wings (upstage to downstage), for elegant and simplified masking.

WCD is very pleased with the results of the three-phase renovation outcomes! Thanks so much to everyone who worked on these projects!

COMMUNITY RENTERS

The Rachel Browne Theatre serves many arts groups, festivals, individual artists & the community as an affordable rental venue.

In 23/24, in addition to WCD's performances, the Rachel Browne Theatre was host to 107 community performances! In addition to these 107 community performances, WCD's also served as a rehearsal space for 11 additional companies/groups!

Community renters during the 23/24 season included:

7TH Gen Season 3 Inc	Manufacturing Entertainment/ Lights On The Exchange Festival
Amsterdam Tea Room	Meraki Theatre
ANANSI School for the Performing Arts	Monica Muir
Andre Bessette	Reba Terlson
Balada Dance	Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
Ben Santos' Group	Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble
Define Movements	Skylines Dance & Film Series
Egyptian Folklorama Performance Group	The 28th Minute
Groove Academy	The Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival
Hiljames Movement	Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
Industria Dance	Walk&Talk Theatre Company
Kevla Bellydance	Wasda Punjab Arts
Mango House Production	
Manitoba Opera	

OTHER

WCD's Safer Spaces Policy reviewed and updated

WCD's Personnel Policy reviewed and updated

WCD welcomed 3 new Board members

Project to digitize archives began, with a plan for completion during for the 24/25 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 2023-2024 SEASON

Chris Turyk - Chair, until December 5, 2023

Sheena Stemler - Chair, since December 5, 2023

Ian Weedmark - Vice Chair

Jerilyn Hall - Treasurer

Devan Graham

Shayanne Batista

Ashleigh Spriggs

Bela Gyarmati

Stephan Azulay

Lisa Stiver, Honorary Council

STAFF 2023-2024 SEASON

Jolene Bailie - Artistic Director

Iryna Kravchenko - Administrator

Ian Mozdzen - Programming Support

Zambia Pankratz - Venue Technician

DONORS & FUNDERS

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-24 SEASON DONORS:

CREATORS \$1000+

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

PERFORMERS \$500+

Grant Boden
Isaac Diamond
Jerilyn Hall
Wanda Koop
Blair Philpott
Sheena Stemler
Marcel Van Woensel

SUPPORTERS \$100+

Douglas Arrell
Robert and Ina Abra Family Fund
Bonnie and Jim Bailie
Jolene Bailie**
Stephanie Ballard
Annette Browne, in Memory of
Rachel Browne
Nan Campbell
Jennifer Chan
Hilary Druxman
Devan Graham
HUB International Limited
Harry Ingleby
Bill Kirkpatrick and Anna Nekola
Ron Lambert
Ian McCausland
Geri McGrath
Pierre Ouellet
Robert Schuppel
Ashleigh Spriggs
Christopher Turyk*
Leo and Patricia Waisberg
Anonymous*

ENTHUSIASTS UNDER \$100

Brenda Boulet
Brenda Brand
Marie-Josée Chartier
Sonia Kowalewich
Jocelyn Lequier-Jobin*
Lori R Natuik
Leesa Streifler
Shari Van Mierlo
David Warburton
Anonymous

*Donation made to WCD's endowment

**Donations made to the 23/24
season and WCD's endowment

SPONSOR

The
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



Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Canada Council
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WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL



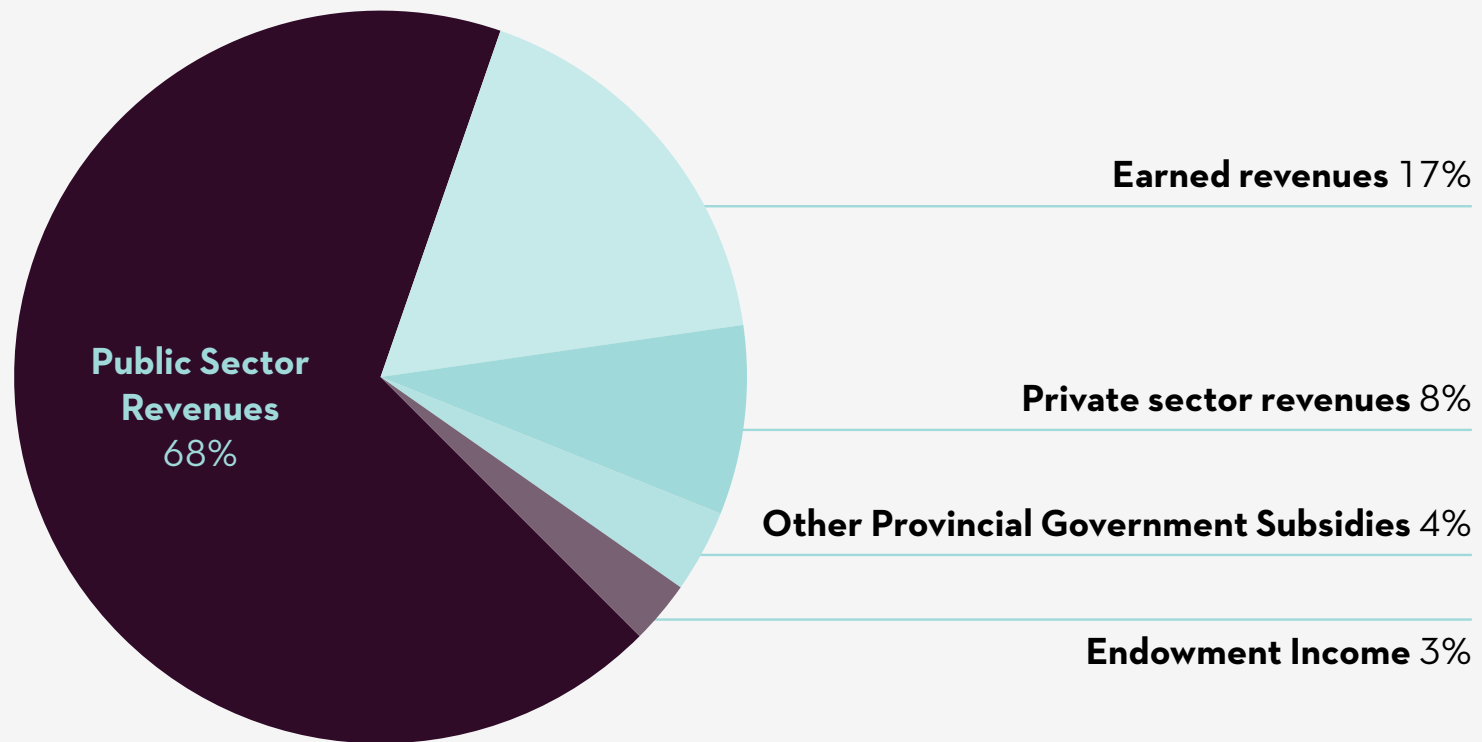
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CONTEMPORARY DANCERS INC.

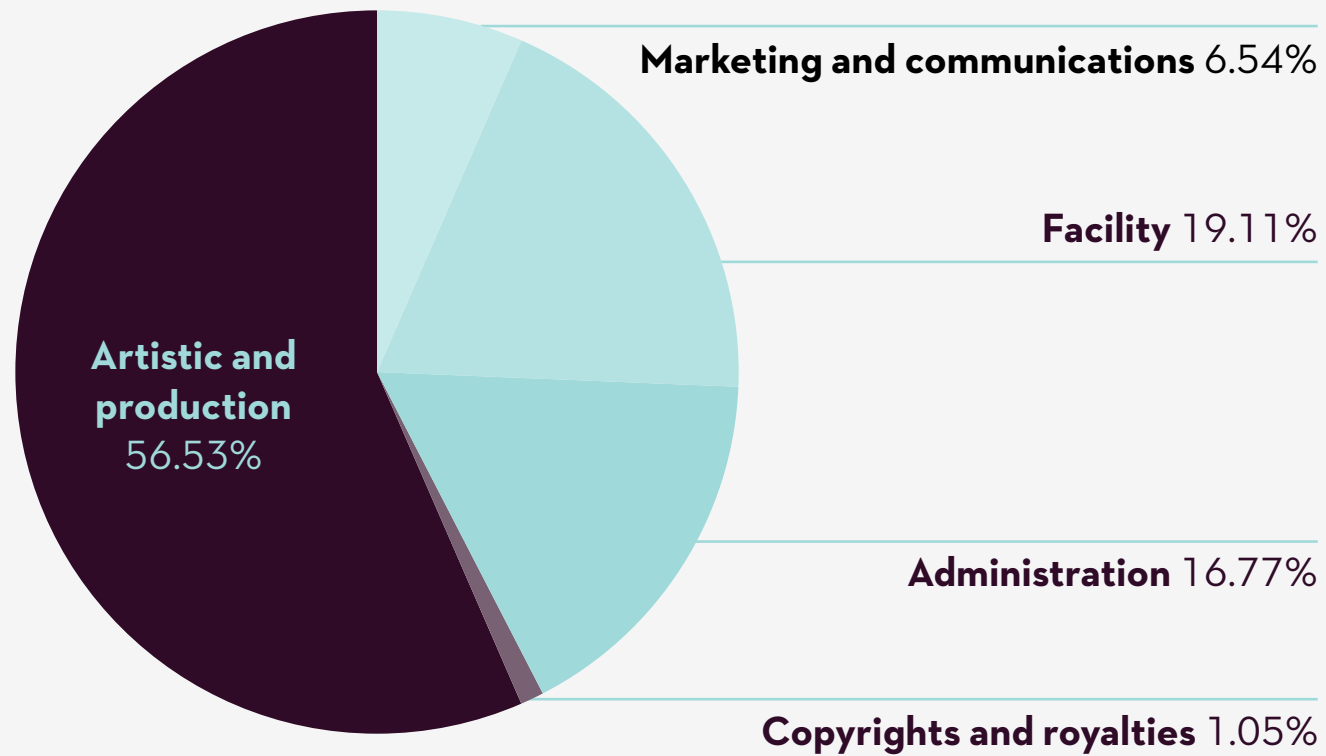
Statement of Financial Position as of May 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Current		
Cash	\$	\$ 121,363
Amounts receivable	22,480	3,141
GST/HST recoverable	345	980
Prepaid expenses	9,427	10,551
	\$ 32,252	\$ 136,035
Capital assets	535,476	533,405
	\$ 567,727.00	\$ 669,440.00
Liabilities		
Current:	\$ 26,463	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 19,267	\$ 18,497
Deferred revenues	70,457	152,770
Current portion of mortgage payable	1,800	2,300
	\$ 117,987	\$ 173,567
Mortgage payable	152,469	153,937
Deferred contributions for capital asset purchases	278,077	291,507
	430,546	445,444
	\$ 548,533.00	\$ 619,011.00
Net Assets		
The Winnipeg Foundation – Contemporary Dancers Fund, Market value \$192,515 (Note 10)		
Unrestricted	19,195	50,429
	\$ 567,728.00	\$ 669,440.00

OPERATING REVENUES



EXPENSES



YEAR AT A GLANCE

17

Public performances presented in-person

1038*

Attendance at public performances

75

Professional Classes & Workshops

65

Rachel Browne Theatre rental days

44

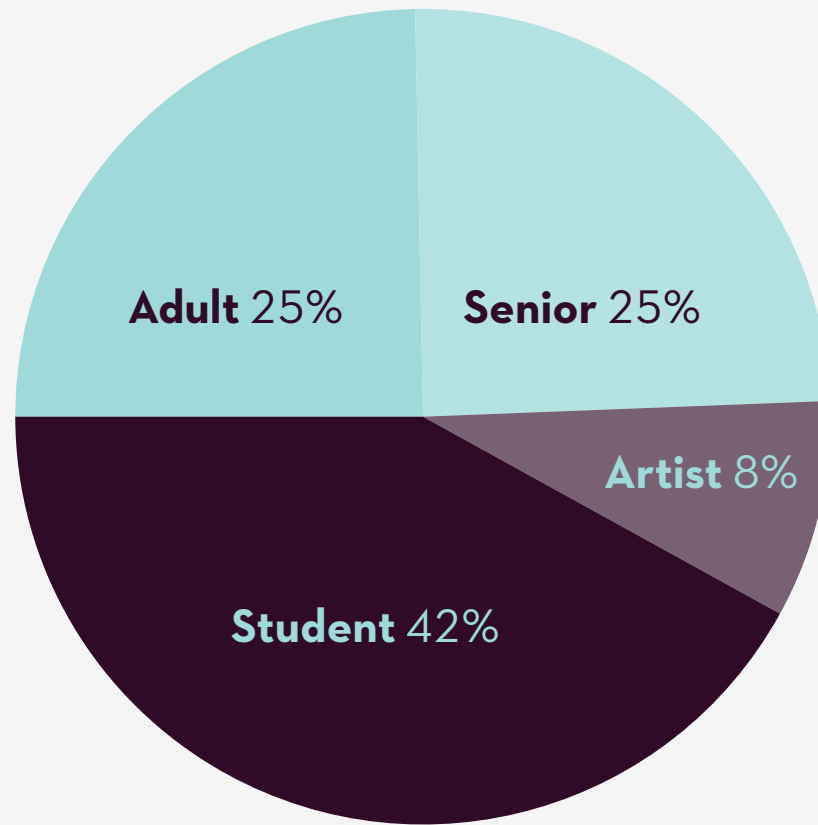
Volunteers

426

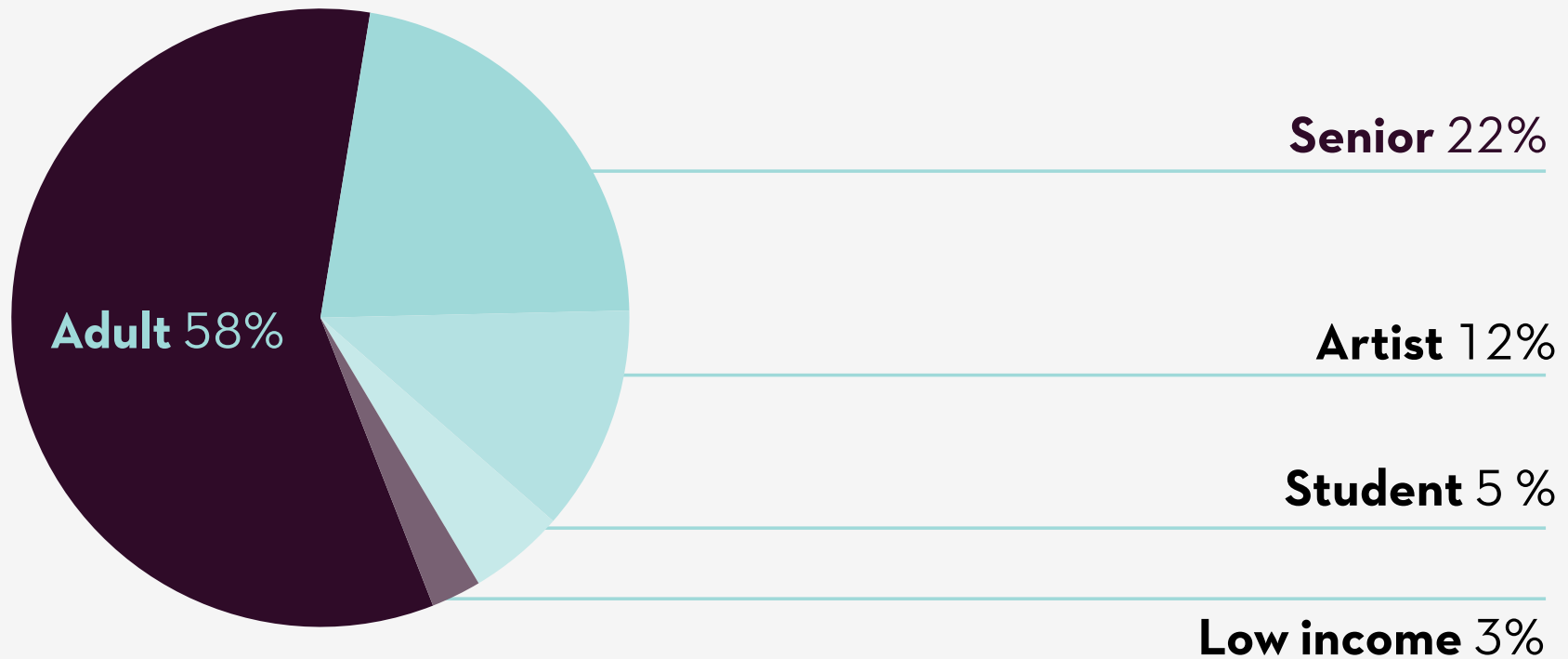
Volunteer hours

* Number does not include the audience for additional performances/page 20/

SUBSCRIPTION BY CATEGORY



SINGLE TICKETS BY CATEGORY





Winnipeg's
Contemporary
Dancers



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

LIST OF IMAGES - CREDITS:

Cover "signals to segue" Photo: Leif Norman, Dancer: Reymark Capacete

Page 5 Sheena Stimler

Page 6 Photo: Kirsten Sawatsky

Page 7 "signals to segue" Photo: Leif Norman, Dancers: Justine Erickson, Warren McClelland, Shayla Rudd, Carol Ann Bohrn

Page 8 Photo: Leif Norman, Dancer: Reymark Capacete

Page 9 "Begin Again" Photo: Leif Norman, Choreography: Jera Wolfe, Dancers: Shayla Rudd, Carol Ann Bohrn, Justine Erickson, Cameron Fraser-Monroe

Page 10 "The Impossible Has Already Happened" Photo: Caio Silva

Page 12 "Play Cowboy" Photo: Leif Norman, Choreography: Jera Wolfe, Dancers: Justine Erickson, Cameron Fraser, Monroe Jace Hodges, Warren McClelland, Shayla Rudd

Page 14 "signals to segue" 5 Photo Leif Norman Choreography: Jolene Bailie Dancer: Shayla Rudd

Page 16 Photo: Leif Norman, Choreography: Jolene Bailie, Dancers: Thomas Oberlin and Zeus Gonzales

Page 17 Photo: Leif Norman, Choreography: Jolene Bailie, Dancers: Warren McClelland, Shayla Rudd, Justine Erickson

Page 18 "Last Schema" Choreography: Jolene Bailie Photo: Ian Mccausland

Page 19 Zam Pankratz, Warren McClelland, Carol Ann Bohrn, Emma Hendrix, Jolene Bailie, Hugh Conacher, Paige Lewis, Reymark Capacete, Shayla Rudd, Justine Erickson, Julious Gambalan

Page 21 "signals to segue" Photo: Leif Norman, Choreography: Jolene Bailie, Dancers: Carol Ann Bohrn, Warren McClelland

page 22 "signals to segue" Photo: Leif Norman Choreography: Jolene Bailie Dancers: Carol Ann Bohrn, Julious Gambalan

Page 23 The Rachel Browne Theatre. Photo: Hugh Conacher

Page 24 The Rachel Browne Theatre. Photo: Hugh Conacher

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