

DANCE ONTARIO



REPORT ON REGIONAL NETWORKS 2015 -19

Algoma | Halton | Dufferin | London | Sudbury | Windsor

SUMMARY REPORT 2019

DANCE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION

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Rosslyn Jacob Edwards, Executive Director

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Julie McLachlan, Interim Program Mgr/Membership Coordinator

Peter Kelly, Networks Coordinator 2017-18

Grace Smith, Networks Coordinator 2018-19

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dance Ontario Association gratefully acknowledges two generous three-year grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation that facilitated the establishment of six (6) networks across Ontario.



In addition to members' contributions, the Association also acknowledges the following funding bodies who facilitate the general operations of our Ontario dance service organization.



INTRODUCTION

With the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Dance Ontario Association endeavours to act as a catalyst for collaborators drawn from local arts councils, public school boards, dance studios, and local professional artists who will promote and encourage increased sustainable dance activities.

Enriching lives through arts, culture and heritage, Dance Ontario Association builds access to arts-based learning opportunities and compelling artistic, cultural and heritage experiences, and aims to positively impact the lives of thousands of people in the regional communities established across six regional networks.

Dance Ontario is unique amongst the dance service organizations because of these six regional hubs. They represent a permanent presence within their communities. For this significant change in

our structure, we recognize and thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for its foresight and continued commitment to increasing local access to dance across the province. A leading grant-making foundation in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. For more information on the Foundation, please visit the website at: www.otf.ca

The regional networks' activities were a result of outcomes from *Dance Ontario's Connecting The Dots Conference* when delegates identified priority areas over three sub-sectors. Locations for support were identified as **London, Dufferin, Sudbury, Halton, Algoma/Sault Ste. Marie and Windsor.**

RATIONALE, METHIODOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT

Given the diversity of Dance Ontario's membership and the constantly shifting funding climate and global economy, it was clear that strengthening dance across the province at the grassroots level would be the most effective means of producing the required results. We built on relationships already nurtured through previous initiatives as well as the *Connecting The Dots* project to bring together the various sub-sectors and sought enthusiastic co-ordinators in each community to spearhead the networks.

Communicating and sharing of ideas between practitioners in each community was identified as an important aspect in the development and strengthening of the sector as well as opportunities for significant cross regional networking. The resultant projects drew support from local business sectors and municipalities.

YEAR ONE: ESTABLISHING NEW REGIONAL HUBS - Sudbury|Windsor|The Soo/Algoma

Dance Ontario replicated the network model created by participants during the *Connecting the Dots Symposium* in 2012 following and embellishing the original community hubs established in Halton, Dufferin and London. From past experience, staff realized that the appointment of a paid Network Coordinator as well Regional Coordinators who received annual honorariums, would contribute to more consistent communications and collecting of data.

Given the diversity of each community, we looked for a Regional Co-ordinator who had a varied work experience across the sector and who was likely to understand the different dynamics in rural areas. The appointment of Peter Kelly who was Guelph-based, who danced with a renowned dance company and who had self-started a Toronto festival for emerging artists (New Blue Emerging Festival) was pivotal to the success of our first year of operations for the project. He was able to instil a sense of enthusiasm in each of the three selected communities as he worked to appoint co-ordinators in each. Discussions with individuals from each area resulted in the appointment of Taisa Petruk (Windsor), Richard Kim (Algoma) and Lauren Petrie (Sudbury). In Year One \multiple meetings with the Network Coordinator ensued prior to the initial setup of each network and, like the original networks, each was vastly different in both approach and set up.

The **Windsor Dance Network** attracted membership and interest from a plurality of practitioners across the dance milieu. Folk dance groups, ballet schools, swing dance societies joined with a number of independent dance artists and small collectives. The region also benefits from an active and enthusiastic regional arts council. Staff and the coordinator attended a large meeting in Windsor when community members outlined their main concerns, raising issues that impacted negatively on a healthy progression of dance in their region. These ranged of competition between dance studios and the city's proximity to a rejuvenated Detroit dance sector.

The **Soo/Algoma Dance Network** started on a secure footing with Richard Kim who is the proprietor of several local dance studios. However, after initial encouraging meetings when discussions arose around the possibility of registering the network as a non profit, he became somewhat less available due to his busy studio schedule. A replacement was sought and set in place the following year.

The **Sudbury Dance Network** was closely associated with a local dance studio which also collaborated with indigenous dance artists. They were modestly active, setting up a facebook page and holding regular monthly meetings which provided connectivity across the community.

YEAR 2: NURTURING THE ESTABLISHED NETWORKS: HALTON | DUFFERIN | LONDON

As well as continuing our work with the new networks, Dance Ontario returned to the original and now well-established networks in Halton, Dufferin and London to sustain and bolster their communications activities.

In the latter part of this phase there was a change in Network Coordinator when Peter Kelly stepped down and Grace Smith assumed the role.

These original networks and their coordinators each had their challenges. **Dufferin Dance Network** is the most rural of the three. They established a monthly workshop and classes but have been disappointed that the original plan to add a dance component to the local popular jazz festival has not transpired. They are, however, making considerable headway as they work to provide dance components to health services for seniors and differently abled residents. The **Halton Dance Network** has gone from strength to strength building on its association with the Halton District School Board (HDSB) for International Dance Day activities, collaborations with a local theatre company for site specific summer events as well as with Culture Days to bring dance activities to a number of local communities. HDN continues to be actively involved in the community supporting its mandate of "*Building community in and through dance.*" Two performance groups, the Travellin' Collective (intergenerational) and heartBEATZ with dancers gathered from three local studios, presented in three different locations for Culture Days as well as participating at three festivals - Joseph Brant Day, Applefest and the Carnival of Creativity. They maintain a facebook page, are actively present at dance performance venues throughout Halton, and were a central part of HDSB's annual dance festival, FLORESCENCE, celebrating International Dance Day as part of the Planning Committee and as Workshop Clinicians.

The **London Dance Network** offers year-round activities as well as a summer dance festival of several years standing funded by the London Arts Council and the Department of Canadian Heritage. The festival involves dance studios from the London area, as well as local dance artists and touring artists with the majority of the activities taking place in a local park to provide access and attract a large number of local residents.

YEAR 3: STABILIZING & SUSTAINING ALL SIX NETWORKS

Consultations took place across a broad range of dance and community-based organizations during Years One and Two when the diversity of the make-up of the six networks became obvious with specific needs ranging across a broad spectrum of possibilities. Partnerships spanned firm relationships with district public school boards, venues and presenters as well as across sectors and into studios.



Dance Ontario held the first all-networks meeting in Windsor to coincide with the presentation of Riverfront InterArts' *ParkDances* site-specific dance festival, sponsored by Dance Ontario.

Originally brought to the Board by Catherine Carpenko, the establishment of networks across Ontario is true to its intent inasmuch as sustainable dance activity must be grassroots initiated. Dance networks in Halton, Dufferin, London, Sudbury, Windsor and The Soo /Algoma have been funded with a generous multi-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and we have been inspired by the extraordinary diversity of network members' activities and their consistency. Each hub has drawn together dance departments from public schools, studios, professional dance artists and community groups celebrating many forms of dance. Activities range from annual dance festivals, to professional development for dancers, workshops, classes as well as social and swing dance clubs.

The July 2018 meeting encouraged all to share their experiences, pool ideas and discuss possible exchanges. With original and current Regional Coordinators, Peter Kelly and Grace Smith, Program Director Amy Hampton and Executive Director Rosslyn Jacob Edwards, representatives Kate Lowe, Alan Faigal and Margie Sims (Halton), Catherine Carpenko & Michelle Johnson (Dufferin), Mary Jo Mullins, John Salalila & Taisa Petruk (Windsor), Elizabeth Varty & Alissa Cassidy (London) discussed their challenges and successes over two days. Emma Duncan had taken over the coordinator's position in Sudbury and had recently brought Alvin Collantes' gaga workshops to her region as well as seen presentation of the week-long intensive, *branches2018* (both supported by Dance Ontario). Breakout sessions included *Money Matters & Administration* (Rosslyn Jacob Edwards), *Producing and building professional community* (Natasha Powell), and *Engagement/Outreach - attendance and social media* (Peter Kelly). As part of this season's activities, the networks also had access to Dance Ontario's digital project, *Class Act: A Series of Pre-Recorded House Dance Classes* with Gadfly, as well as live streaming of one afternoon of performances during DanceWeekend which included recorded recognition of OTF.

Dance Ontario recognized the important funding provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation at the Windsor assembly but unfortunately representatives from the funder or the local MPP were unable to attend due to the timing of the election.

This all-networks meeting cemented relationships and resulted in initiation of regular video conference calls when members have been able to support, encourage and build deeper relationships. Coordinators take it in turn to chair these meetings. Now viewing their differences as assets, the networks are expanding their own memberships and Dance Ontario is aiming to partner and support individual initiatives where possible.

Examples include “branches intensive” in Sudbury which is currently looking to initiate a dance company involving professional choreographers from the intensive to work with local dancers; annual festivals in London and Windsor as well as workshops and site-specific events in Halton, Dufferin and The Soo/Algoma.

The **Windsor Dance Network** is now jointly coordinated by Mary Jo Mullins and John Salalila who bring an extraordinary diversity of experience to task from Modern Dance to Swing. The WDN is supportive of a second *Park Dances* festival in Windsor and is poised for a reboot with new branding and facebook page streamlining their focus as a service organization to build audience capacity and participation in the multiple dance events already occurring within the City of Windsor and Region. They also have plans to create and launch a website, dance events calendar and central email contact base with monthly newsletter releases. There is a vibrant social dance community in Windsor with strong connections across the river to Detroit.

The appointment of Val Calam as coordinator of the **Soo/Algoma Network** has generated a number of excellent ideas that will help the region and its dance artists. Now a three person team: Calam, Sherry Walsh (ex-studio owner, adjudicator, ballet teacher), and Kelly Magill (yoga teacher, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services employee), they became a collective at the end of 2018 in order to apply for funding from Northern Arts Projects (OAC) to offer a week-long summer workshop that included movement classes and other dance resources. Regular workshops are now offered and a possible collaboration with a local art gallery is being investigated. In-roads regarding local choreographers teaching competition classes have been made and some studio owners are showing interest in offering classes for both seniors and persons with dementia or mobility challenges. This network is also interested in presenting a small dance festival and/or intensive for dancers returning home for the summer. Val Calam will talk with colleagues in London and Windsor regarding set up and ensuring inclusivity of local dancers/teachers.

The **Sudbury Dance Network** is currently preparing for a performance series. They have been connecting local professional and amateur dancers to musicians, visual artists, comedians, photographers, videographers to bring accessible live performance to the city’s downtown core. While they have many dance participants they are currently trying to expand their reach to performers in other disciplines in order to build connections within their own community. They are also working on a partnership with the Branch Collective to host a series of workshops in different locations around the city. The main barrier is connecting local studios in this location which is predominantly a competition studio city. The idea is to bring professional dance artists from around Ontario to teach a weekend of workshops in a different studio or theatre every month. This strategy will hopefully encourage students and teachers of each studio to attend and make them more comfortable going to other workshops in different studios, mitigating any negative feelings about dancing with new people.

CONCLUSIONS AND EVALUATIONS



[Images from left to right: London Dance Festival | Sudbury Performances | International Dance Day]

For the last 36 months, Dance Ontario's intent has been to deliver services that built on the success of a proven earlier model with a new \$160,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to create dance networks in Sudbury, Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie. Drawing on mentorships from the existing hubs in London, Halton and Dufferin, we aimed to impact the lives of 11,000 people in the new communities, adding to those reach as a result of our work with the established networks. Ontario residents who have been impacted across the new networks exceeds the anticipated number and the hubs are continuing to increase their influence within their specific communities.

Through the networks in Windsor, The Soo/Algoma and Sudbury, residents as well as dancers in those communities have been offered workshops in a multitude of dance forms; local dance festivals in Windsor and London have brought dance to a demographic ranging from infants to seniors; and dancers have worked with residents of seniors homes as well as those who are differently abled. Networks in Sudbury and Soo/Algoma are also aiming to provide opportunities for dancers who left their home towns for professional opportunities in Toronto or

elsewhere by bringing professional intensives to their hubs in the summer. These dancers will also act as mentors for young dancers in their hometowns.

As a result of this 6-year project, Dance Ontario has succeeded in connecting significantly more people with culture, heritage and the arts by providing access to arts-based learning opportunities and compelling artistic, cultural; and heritage experiences. The organization plans to continue support of the six networks and will apply to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a grant targeting Eastern Ontario communities.

**ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION GROW GRANT BRIEF EVALUATION OF THREE (3) NETWORKS PROJECT
SUDBURY | THE SOO/ALGOMA | WINDSOR**

Confirming sustainability for dance networks outside major urban centres.

Testing the ability of grassroots networks to build community and develop hubs of artistic, cultural and recreational activities to benefit the health and well-being of residents in their specific communities.

Positioning the dance discipline as a viable means to contribute to healthy communities, creating access to the arts, and establishing them as an essential pillar of today's society in the minds of the general public is also a priority.

1. *Will increased dance activities result in more professional dance touring to smaller regions?*
Professional dance touring activities have opened up as a result of the establishment of summer festivals or intensives in London, Halton, Windsor and Sudbury. While the majority of participants are local artists or studios, several have included touring artists where they are able to access funding from federal sources. We would anticipate that this will continue to increase.
2. *Will local presenters/venues see an increase in local audiences and participants?* There has been an increase in sustainable dance activity in each of the regions.

This currently breaks out as follows:

Original Networks Show/Performances 22 Audience/Participants 1225 Workshops/Classes 23

New Networks

Show/Performances 2

Audience/Participants 850

Workshops/Classes 75

3. *Will increased activity include workshops and classes for seniors in addition to more hands-on sessions with differently-abled participants?* This was a priority of the Dufferin and Soo/Algoma networks. In addition, Halton continues to attract seniors and differently-abled participants through their seniors' performance group.
4. *Increases in registrations* have been difficult to measure but we will continue to request this information from participating studios.
5. *Increase in communication and shared learning within the dance community.*
Achieved - online community of 5586 with activity on social media and in newsletters, website traffic and attendance of 32 at each network meeting.
Dance Ontario has 36 new members from the new regions, confirmed plans for numerous future network events and 137 dedicated network volunteers.

We believe that the above demonstrates that small regional networks benefit their specific communities and result in healthier youth in studios. Increased activity within school systems does not however seem immediately likely under the current political climate of cutbacks.

This information will be available for download from our website www.danceontario.ca and made available, together with the Report to funding bodies, on request.

OUTSIDE RESOURCES ALL REGIONS

Service Organizations:

Dance Ontario www.danceontario.ca
Dancer Transition Resource Centre www.dtrc.ca
Dance Umbrella of Ontario www.danceumbrella.net
CDA (Canada Dance Assembly) www.cda-acd.ca
Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists – Ontario Chapter
cadaontario.camp8.org
SOCAN (the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of
Canada) www.socan.ca

Primary Funders:

Ontario Trillium Foundation www.otf.org
Operating Funders:
Ontario Arts Council www.arts.on.ca
Toronto Arts Council www.torontoarts.org
Canadian Heritage www.pch.gc.ca

Education:

CODE (Council of Ontario Drama and Dance Educators)
www.code.on.ca
RAD (Royal Academy of Dancing) radcanada.org
Cecchetti Society of Canada cecchettisociety.ca
Pulse Ontario Youth Dance Conference pulsedance.ca
Learning Through the Arts learning.rcmusic.ca/learning-through-arts

Presenters:

Prologue to the Performing Arts www.prologue.org
The Capitol Centre, North Bay www.capitolcentre.org
The Lyric Theatre, Hamilton www.lyrichamilton.com
Dusk Dances www.duskdances.ca
DanceWorks www.danceworks.ca
Algoma Fall Festival www.algomafallfestival.com
Harbourfront Centre www.harbourfrontcentre.com
Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts www.oakvillecentre.ca
CCI – Ontario Presenting Network ccio.on.ca

Dance and Related Websites:

www.wanttodance.ca
www.highfive.org
www.sharingdance.ca
www.culturedays.ca
www.artsalive.ca

Artist residencies:

www.resartis.org/en/
artistcommunities.org/

Publications:

The Dance Current www.thedancecurrent.com

DANCE ONTARIO BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

SAMARA THOMPSON (Chair) is an independent choreographer and dance educator, specializing in the integration of computer technology with contemporary dance. She has presented her choreography across Canada and was the recipient of the 2004 Paula Citron Award. Thompson began her dance career in Alberta, trained in Canada and the United States with many notable artists, and went on to graduate with her MA and Honours BFA in Dance from York University. She currently teaches at York University and is also a co-host on the Toronto radio show Evi-Dance.

JENNIFER WATKINS (Vice Chair) holds a B.F.A. degree from York University with special honours in dance. Following graduation she continued her dance training at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre as well as exploring other modern and jazz styles in Toronto and New York City. She has served in administrative capacities for the Danny Grossman Dance Company, the Young Audience Division for R.H. Entertainments, Dance Umbrella of Ontario, Theatre Direct and CADA-ON, as well as Interim Grants Officer for the Toronto Arts Council. She received a Harold Award in 2000, worked with *Moving Pictures Festival*, and currently works with the Esmeralda Enrique Spanish Dance Company.

LOLA RYAN (Past Chair) is fluently bilingual and has been involved in theatre and dance across North America and Europe as a teacher, performer and writer since 1975. She has taught and performed across North America and Europe and was a founding member of EDAM, Vancouver's innovative dance and music collective. Currently, she teaches in the Theatre Department at the University of Ottawa, trains dancers and actors in improvisation for performance in Ottawa and Athens, Greece and teaches public classes in Improvisation at Ottawa's Dance Network. Lola

also works extensively in the schools, teaching dance and movement. She has served on the commissioning committee of Dance Ontario and on the board of the Council for the Arts in Ottawa. She was a member of the Arts Advisory Committee to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

ANUSCHKA ROES (Treasurer) has 40 years of experience in the dance field teaching classical ballet, national/character dance, Benesh Movement Notation and pedagogy, as well as producing a series of informational training videos on the latter. An examiner for both RAD and ISTD, she was appointed manager of the NBS Teacher Training Program in 1996.

JADE JAGER CLARK (Secretary) is the Owner/Art Dir of Jade's Hip Hop Academy (JHHA), the only all Hip Hop/street dance studio in the GTA and one of the few of its kind in Canada. Established in Brampton in 2006, the school's impressive reputation attracts students from across the province, to train in its highly acclaimed programs. Jade has raised the profile of authentic hip hop dance and created a successful Performance Company. She is also the founder of Street Dance Canada Inc, organizer of the Canadian Street Dance Championships taking Canadian street dancers to the World Street Dance Championships in the UK. She has received numerous awards and recognition for her innovative programs and business model, entrepreneurship and accomplishments including the 2010 Zonta Young Women's Achievement, 2011 BBPA Harry Jerome Award Young Entrepreneur Award, a nomination for the 2011 Premier's Awards, 2012 Brampton Outstanding Business Achievement Award and was named 2012 Brampton Arts Person of the Year.

JESSE DELL graduated from York University and has since worked as a contemporary dance artist, performing across Canada and the US while creating choreographic works, with a particular interest in multidisciplinary creation. She has performed work by artists including Peggy Baker, Julia

Sasso, and Holly Small, as well as for The Canadian Opera Company, Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, the National Arts Centre, Larchaud Dance Project, The Scandelles and JDDance, a collective she co-founded in 2009 with Jordana Deveau. Jesse has created choreographed for the AGO, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, The School of Canadian Contemporary Dance Theatre, Festival of Dance Annapolis Royal, Half Second Echo collective and Dans Kamera Istanbul. She served as a Guest Judge for Queer Idol Toronto, as an independent creator/producer for Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, and as a costume designer. She is a member of the CADA and the CDA.

JEFF DIMITRIOU is a renowned choreographer, creative director, artist and producer. Best known for choreographing the [2015 Pan American Games Closing Ceremonies](#),^[1] [2015 Parapan Opening](#), [Cirque Du Soleil](#) and noteworthy films as associate on [Suckerpunch](#), [Mirror, Mirror](#), [Twilight Breaking Dawn](#).

ALAN FAIGAL is an educator and community animator who teaches for Ryerson University's Early Childhood Studies Program. Alan's dance training has been in Hip Hop and Urban based genres. He studies and performs Bollywood Dance under the direction of Lopa Sarkar of Divine Heritage Artistry. Pedagogy centers on family support and social justice. His mentorship of practicum students includes the cultivation of self and professional identity. Alan is also the National Youth Outreach Director for Culture Shock Canada, in that role he has designed and implemented community dance programs for ages 2.5 to 18 all across Southern Ontario. Alan has been a movement specialist in the fitness/wellness industry for over 17 years. As a canfitpro PRO trainer he trains and certifies group fitness instructors. He has recently become an ambassador for the Masala Bhangra Workout. Dance floors and academic lecture halls are avenues for his dynamic teaching methods.

JANE GARDINER is General Manager of Quinte Ballet School of Canada that offers professional training program for students in Belleville and provides recreational dance and outreach programs for all ages including Dancing with Parkinsons. She has managed cultural facilities, touring companies, regional theatres and creation-based companies all over Ontario. While Executive Director at Theatre Ontario, she launched a health & safety training program for theatre managers, supported joint marketing programs for summer theatres and worked with Ontario's arts service organizations to secure the initial funding and resources that helped to create ArtsBuild Ontario.

DEBRA KAPP taught Dance at L. B. Pearson School for the Arts, London, for over 20 years and is a graduate of York University's Dance Program (1979). She taught ballet and Creative Dance at the Thornhill School of Ballet and wrote the Dance curriculum for the Thames Valley District School Board, regularly presenting workshops for teachers on how to teach Dance in the school setting. Debra is the Producer/Artistic Director of the show "Art Harvest", an annual showcase of Dance Education programs in Southwestern Ontario, produced as a benefit for the Jason Edmonds Emerging Artist Fund. She won an Award of Excellence from the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America for the innovative and creative programming of the presentation *Resilience in the Face of Trouble and Despair*. Debra is a co-founder of The London Alliance of Dance Educators, and co-owner of Action Pak, a Resource for Dance Educators.

KAYLYNNE (KATE) LOWE is a retired Halton District School Board teacher having taught Dance and Drama to intermediate students for the last fifteen years of her career. Throughout said career, Kate wrote Dance and Drama programmes and curriculum and ran workshops for her colleagues to help teach these subjects. She directed and choreographed numerous school musicals (several of which were student written) and coached

school dance teams. Kate was part of the planning team which developed HDSB's "Creating A Scene" held annually at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga. She was the creator/founder of HDSB's annual dance festival "Florescence" celebrating International Dance day receiving an Award of Merit for her work. In retirement. Kate continues to nurture her passion for dance. She is a dancer with Burlington Footnotes (a senior's performance troupe), also designing and constructing costumes. Kate volunteers in several schools helping with their Dance and Drama programmes, choreographing musicals and developing original dance and drama pieces for festivals. Recently Kate began working with autistic children in an educational setting using the new Ontario Arts curriculum.

TINA NICOLAIDIS is one of Toronto's most popular dance experts with a specialty in Ballet/Jazz & Latin dance. She is the co-founder/Art Dir of City Dance Corps and has been featured in numerous television shows. She has been a dance judge for international level Latin dance competitions and American reality TV shows As a dance advocate, Tina produces and sponsors an annual charity showcase, "Talent Defined". She also gained recognition for training lead actor Jake Simons for his role as the original "Johnny Castle" in North America's fastest selling premier stage production of *Dirty Dancing*. As a choreographer, her accomplishments include choreographing Nelly Furtado's 'Mi Plan' concert tour for 2010/2011.

YASMINA RAMZY is a choreographer and visionary committed to the expression of Bellydance as high art. She spent the first 15 years performing throughout the Middle East for royalty and heads of state, then founded the critically acclaimed Arabesque Dance Company and Orchestra, Arabesque Academy and the International Bellydance Conference of Canada (IBCC). She received her key training from leading masters in Egypt and Syria including Aida Nour of the Reda Troupe and Mohammed Khalil, director of the National Folklore Troupe of Egypt. Her unique and highly

creative choreographies have won numerous awards and been commissioned by many dance ensembles. She regularly performs, teaches and lectures in over 60 cities on 5 continents.

OFILIO SINBADINHO PORTILLO is a choreographer, actor, dancer, designer, photographer, educator, artistic director. His talent led him into landing roles in feature films such as "Resident Evil: Retribution" and in commercials for Virgin Mobile and WarChild foundation. He has worked with artists such as: Nelly Furtado, Kreesha Turner, Feist, Jully Black, Thunderheist, Danny Fernandes and European sensation Cascada. He is the founder of the acclaimed Gadfly Dance Company. His work has been presented during festivals such as Manifesto, Ted Talks Toronto, Luminato, Break Beats and Culture, Toronto Fringe, International Dance Day, and Nuit Blanche. He worked as assistant choreographer in the hit TV show "*So You Think You Can Dance Canada*". Born in El Salvador, raised in Montreal, trained in New York, Ofilio now lives in Toronto.

SASHAR ZARIF Originally from Azerbaijan, Sashar is an acclaimed dancer, choreographer and teacher who has studied many dance forms. Artistic Director of Sashar Zarif Dance Company, he was a member of the Azerbaijan State Joshgoon Dance Ensemble, and received the title "Artist for People of Azerbaijan". A Chalmers Award recipient, he is the founder of Dancers For Peace and recipient (with Holly Small) of the Paula Citron Award for the Best New Choreography at fFIDA for his presentation of a work commission by Dance Ontario.

COMMITTEES (CURRENT)

Executive – Samara Thompson, Peter Ryan, Jennifer Watkins, Sashar Zarif
By Laws, Policy Revisions & Governance - Samara Thompson, Anuschka Roes, Alan Faigal

Awards – Lola Ryan, Jennifer Watkins, Sashar Zarif

Communications/Marketing - Samara Thompson, Jesse Dell

Commissioning - Lola Ryan, Jennifer Watkins, Yasmina Ramzy, Tina Nicoladis, Ofilio Sinbadinho

STAFF

Rossllyn Jacob Edwards has played a significant role in the dance sector for over 30 years serving as General Manager for DanceWorks, presenter of Toronto's longest running dance series, and with the U.S./Canada Performance Initiative and The Canadian Network of Dance Presenters/CanDance. She is committed to providing activities for a broad range of the organization's membership and to bringing them together to strengthen the sector. She moved to Canada following a liberal arts education and career in the public service and politics in the UK and has worked in the corporate, private and not-for-profit sectors. Since 1969, she has held management positions of increasing responsibility in the theatre, visual arts and dance sectors including the SAW Gallery and

Ottawa School of Art (Ottawa), Inner City Angels and DanceWorks (Toronto). She served on the board of COBA, the Collective Of Black Artists, as an advisor to arts councils and independent dance artists. She is Co-Chair of the PASO-OPSA Coalition, and currently serves on the Friends of the Arts Advocacy Network and Ontarians for the Arts (OftA), as well as on advisory committees for ArtsBuild Ontario and George Brown Performing Arts and is a mentor through CSARN.

Amy Hampton Program Manager is a graduate of L'Ecole Superieure de Danse du Quebec. Amy has worked with The Chimera Project, CORPUS, Kaeja d'Dance, Anandam and Larchaud Dance Project. Independently, she has originated roles in works by Robert Desrosiers, Kathleen Rea, Yvonne Ng, William Yong, Lydia Wagerer, Meagan O'Shea, Keiko Ninomiya, and Lincoln Shand. Amy is currently Co-Artistic Director of AKA Dance.

Amy is responsible for programming DanceWeekend as well as for coordination of network activities.

Julie McLachlan *Interim Program Manager/Membership Coordinator* Holding her BFA in dance from York University, Julie McLachlan is a Toronto-based dance performer, choreographer and dance instructor. Julie has had the privilege of performing for Stand Up Dance, Le Groupe Apogee and is currently dancing with Love Letters Cabaret. Julie has presented choreography in The Chimera Project's Fresh Blood and The Toronto Fringe Festival. Recently at ImpulsTanz International Dance Festival in Vienna, Austria, Julie took part in workshops with world-renowned teachers and connected with dance artists from all over the world. As a retired competitive gymnast, Julie is also a certified gymnastics coach and specializes in teaching young dancers acrobatic skills.

Grace Smith *Networks Coordinator 2017-2019*

Peter Kelly *Networks Coordinator 2016-2017*

NETWORK COORDINATORS

Soo/Algoma: *Valerie Calam*

Dufferin: *Catherine Carpenko*

Halton: *Kate Lowe & Alan Faigal*

London: *Bizz Varty*

Sudbury: *Emma Duncan*

Windsor: *Mary Jo Mullins & John Salilina*

BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES

Dance Ontario Dance For Youth Forums

August 2008

Ann-Marie Williams, MA, BFA, RTS, RAD

Dance Ontario Connecting The Dots Report

2013

Ann-Marie Williams, MA, BFA, RTS, RAD

Arts Ed Search <http://www.artsedsearch.org>

The focus of this internet-based clearinghouse is "on research examining how education in the arts – in both discrete arts classes and integrated arts lessons – affects students' cognitive, personal, social and civic

development, and how the integration of the arts into the school curriculum affects student learning and educators' instructional practice and engagement in the teaching profession."

Users of the site can search for desired reports

Reinvesting in Arts Education: Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools

President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, May 2011

<http://www.pcah.gov/resources/re-investing-through-arts-educationwinning-americas-future-through-creative-school>

Partnerships between Schools and the Professional Arts Sector

Evaluation of Impact on Student Outcomes Arts Victoria, November 2011

http://www.arts.vic.gov.au/Research_and_Resources/Research_Projects/A

The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies

CONTACTS - GENERAL

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Tatry Song and Dance Ensemble
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (Windsor)
Windsor & District Highland Dancer's Association
Hart School of Highland Dance
Karen Shevalier School of Highland Dance
Opanak Folklore Group
Slovak Domovina Dancers
Barvinok
Intensity
D2K
Hoa Sen Dance Team
Windsor Swing
Windsor Swing
Windsor Swing
Highland Dance Association
Salin Lahi Dance Group

Dance Schools

Dance Studio of Academie Ste-Cecile
Dare 2 Dance
Janice Brode School of Dance

Competition Schools

All That Jazz Dance Co.
Ballroom At Its Best
Cassiah's Dance Company
Cathy's Dance Studio

Enakshi Sinha
Nilda Ramos
Maria Kulesza
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Dance Barre

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Edmunds Towers School of Dance

Erin's Dance Club

Nancy Pattison's Dance World

Pure Academy for the Performing Arts

TC'z Dance Studio

The Catz Meow

The Dance Academy

Xtreme Danceworks

Pure Academy for the Performing Arts

Companies/Groups

Dance Adventures

Maikeat's Music & Arts Studio

Social Life International Dance Centre

Soul to Sole

Windsor Dance Experience

Artist or Company Name

Elena Semenova

Gerard Gutierrez

John Chan

Anne-Marie Pilon-Gerdun

Janice Brode

Melissa Williams

Katie Mercher-Williams

Lou Paquette

Shanti Guairo

Enakshi Sinha

Lana Khoury

Anh Nyugen

HNM Dance Company