

San Diego Dance Community Feedback Sessions

Hopes & Headwinds

One hope for a new dance alliance	One headwind (current challenge/weakness in the dance community)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create incentives for dance community members to more consistently show up for one another at performance, classes, and workshops (industry tickets) ● Funding opportunities for the creation and performance of new dance work ● Celebrating and uplifting art as a way of life → a change in the culture ● Creating visibility around the work already being done, in alignment with each organization's mission ● Information resource for dance artists - funding opportunities, information (educational resources), classes, auditions, studios, studio spaces, etc. ● Build bridges to share audiences ● Working relationship between local dance companies and presenting orgs ● Support and help one another on the organization level ● Considerate about times, locations, etc → consistency ● A better network for professional dancers to take class, see shows, be involved in as many projects as possible, have access to PT ● Day of Dance (Evoke Dance Theater) ● Celebrate Dance Festival (highlighting dance companies and orgs around) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● City of San Diego doesn't necessarily value dance as much as opera and other art forms ● Deficit in the educational system ● Venue, venue, venue...and the production costs associated with it ● Dance could be a stronger institution (K-12)... strengthen to see the value of the dance community ● Too much labor asked of underpaid and overworked artists and administrators ● Until now, need for a 3rd party to be a neutral central source where all info can come to and be disseminated. ● Communication barrier ● Geographic barrier (spread out and traffic) ● Professional dancers in San Diego do not prioritize their own training and maintaining their technique ● City of San Diego doesn't support and showcase San Diego orgs (Art Power, La Jolla Music Society) ● Opportunities of collaborations

- Concern about the robust ideas that can happen without any funding being discussed

- Groundwork being presented on the assumption that the people who have the vision, expertise will be the ones to do it
- Timeline
- We need a dance service org that illuminates what dance orgs that we are doing
 - Marketing and development hub
 - Increase communications and infuse the broader dance community as a cause
 - Advocate on behalf of the dance community
 - Distribute resources
- Town Halls brought people together

Prompt #1

- Repository of information
- Who's got auditions, what's the flavor of each company, what's happening, search functionality
- Advocacy!!!! Finding funding, being on the national stage
- Advocate for San Diego Dance!
- Advocacy within the performing arts community as a whole
- Who does San Diego Dance want to see?
- GAP! Advocacy work could provide resources towards producing independent work (so artists don't have to self-produce)
 - Grants trickle down to independent artists over residency work
- Challenges with retention in this city
- Retention challenge
- Circuit of SEED, emerging choreographers, DR S P A C E, but what then?
- Where does success lead you
- Larger institutions could include subsidies for local artists and smaller orgs
- Money could be distributed differently in the community

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unify the entire dance scene ● Resource for dance teachers to be able to see what's going on in the community to share with students ● Central communications hub to find opportunities (performances, training, rentals, grants, etc) ● Hub so people and audience members can learn about dance happenings in SD ● Representation across entire dance community (cultural dances, hip hop, tap/jazz, social dances, etc) ● Build audiences ● Different leadership structure - elected leadership and representation from broader dance community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you are new to the dance community, it might be difficult to find out about dance in SD ● Primary representation in town halls was the contemporary community ● Can the survey really reach a broad spectrum of the dance community? How do we hear from the voices from all of the different facets ● Origins of the initiative was from Zaquia was from the contemporary modern community ● Efforts are fractured and isolated → necessity for a neutral party <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who's not here? How do we get them here? ● Sustainable funding?? ● Arts and culture funding is not a big priority in the region/US at this time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lot's of funding goes to mental health programs but can the arts be also supported? ● Lack of resources for people who want to start something (individual grants/resources) ● Lack of interest in dance as a whole ● Audiences have not returned since COVID times ● Donors that have sustained individual gifts have passed away, not donated anymore, etc

MEETING NOTES:

- San Diego Dance Alliance failed because of funding issues (Nations of San Diego Dance Festival was expensive)
- San Diego Dance Connect didn't have enough financial support to continue it
 - No paid staff → volunteer shared leadership structure
- Are there opportunities for cross-funding?

PROMPT #1

- A website full of resources
 - Available grants for the months
 - Resources for people who are starting something
 - A list of available organizations in the area
 - Individual profiles to find folk
- Opportunities for outreach
- Needs to have multiple streams of income - membership, how does it all come together
- Monthly newsletter
- ROBUST website!!!
- Membership to dance org
- Robust outreach so that many orgs in the dance realm want to be involved in this → establish this as a go-to place for all dance things
- MARKETING and TRUST-BUILDING
- How to build trust
 - Establish a steering committee that has a broad representation of the dance community
 - Well-respected and enthusiastic members in a steering committee
 - Established and younger artist leaders
 - Diverse representation (genres and multigenerational)
- Define audience of the website and expand the audience
 - Audience is the dance community
 - Expanded audience includes the audience of performance attendees, parents looking for dance classes, etc
- Build a place to build connections
- As we launch this initiative, is the priority to have more in-person engagements (face-to-face getting folk together) or more virtual?
 - Prioritize virtual first
- Is the organization that we are building... is the priority to support individual artists or organizations?
 - The successful orgs support BOTH
 - DANCE COMMUNITY as a whole
 - PAL have Actors Guild built into it
 - Same umbrella to be all-inclusive in supporting individuals and orgs

PROMPT #2: Given the past alliances that fizzled out, what would support long-term sustainability of a new dance service organization?

- FUNDING??? Perhaps membership
- If people feel like they're gonna get something from it, they're going to get it
- Leadership that wants to continue doing the work and is invested in dance
- Cross-pollination of the fields → avoid narrow scope, burlesque dancers

taking Horton

PROMPT #3: Are Town Halls (as Zaquia designed them) still useful today? If not, what formats would work better?

- More forums like this feedback session are needed
- Continue the conversation into the next iteration
- Focus groups to determine priorities
- Monthly check-in with dance community
- **Networking Events!** (quarterly or triannually) to get to know people > Town Hall
 - Tie into dance events
 - Go to different studios/spaces
 - Rotating industry night
- Get the word out to the entire dance community
- Town Halls were necessarily representative and not really needed anymore
- Opportunities felt endless when everyone in dance community are included

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central place for dance enthusiasts to find resources • Networking and info hub for dance community for those involved and want to be involved in the dance hub • Website/calendar • Event that brings people together • Merge audiences into one larger supportive community • Organization that can promote and spearhead initiative to take on the work • Platform/Safe place to innovate within dance • Central platform to bring in underrepresented voices • Networking events to be hosted by a dance org • More resources/funds/space to bring in out-of-town teachers • Create more excitement and prop SD up as a robust dance scene → festival • A map or schedule of dance spaces • Facilitate workshops/performances where people could see and experience cultural dances/different art forms • Since AI is eating art alive, it increases the importance of experiencing dance (human art form) → good timing • Dance organization that is sustainable and LASTS! How do we make this effort sustainable? • Share responsibility • Mentorship opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no central hub • Dance community right now feels pocketed and separated • Support is in classical/concert dance scene right now • Newer voices don't have a platform to stand on (especially like the classical forms that are already supported and heard) • Lack of sustained support and delivery of resource info • Hard to find SPACE in SD • Dance studios that are available are in Liberty Station (loud airplane) and popular/occupied • Some dance spaces are underused because of who's in charge of it • Since there is a difference in culture, there is a gap in understanding diff country's culture • Need to define terms... What does contemporary even mean? What does cultural form mean? • What we call ourselves and what other people see us as • We don't have the resources to sustain these things • BURN-OUT in the leaders of dance orgs • Need to share some of the responsibility • Presenters: La Jolla Music Society and ART POWER not in these meetings • Gig economy in SD • Closed system → not too many outside teachers and companies that come through San Diego

<p>(SUSHI?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bring people together for classes ● WHAT'S THE THING that's gonna get us all in the room together? ● Community-Building Awards? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of resources available to individual artists
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MEETING NOTES:

- The community, presenters, universities, can all collaborate to create a summer dance festival and create a bi-directional flow of information
- Some place to connect with folx — create a close connection between all of the arts community to also help bring in
- Central hub — could the hub get good enough where orgs are planning seasons around each other → conflict and splitting audiences
 - Be in conversation
 - Dance calendar? Go beyond just counterparts... widen the lens and see what else is happening
 - Planning meeting
 - Find situations where sharing resources could be possible
 - Subscribe to particular thing → rather than going to look for something be able to see everything and be exposed to alternate dance forms
 - Liason → reach out to presenters, universities, artists, dance orgs etc to help promote this effort
- Streamline of communications: social media, calendar, whatsapp group, a *way for people to contact each other*
- People could have more direct communication could help bring people together
- Something like SD Arts Matter also serves as an independent source- not tied to any particular dance company per se. All the hurt that has happened in the community has fractured groups and it would be nice to have a space where people can still connect. Love Love Love the idea of an event that can bring us all together! YES JESS!
- There is a scarcity of resources but we also have a scarcity mindset that works against community
- Facilitation of networking events and festivals
- Ease communications, maybe Slack, direct channel
- More funded opportunities to create good quality work by individual dance artists

- More funded opportunities to create good quality work by individual dance artists
- How to keep this sustainable?
 - Tolerance for the grind becomes sustainable when the work feels supported and valued
 - Mutual support, showing up to one another's shows, tiered pricing
 - Traffic, carpool,
 - How do we show up for one another?
 - New York - greatest competition but most supportive
- There are resources in San Diego but we haven't figured out how to leverage them
- Unwelcome due to insular nature
- There's new people that want to be a part of this community → WE NEED TO behave in this way!
- Matter of representation and as a result didn't feel like I belonged
- Overworked makes it difficult to show up to things... don't make assumptions
- Belonging and community takes work and time
- how many places did not intentionally make their spaces feel unwelcoming, but don't know that people felt that way and have no feedback systems and don't know they have something to fix.
- How can a hub help gather that feedback and provide it in a neutral way