

# Take the Stage

## 2018-2019 Annual Report



### A PROGRAM OF OWEN/COX DANCE GROUP

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### OWEN/COX DANCE GROUP

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Tom Styrkowicz  
Shari L. Wilson  
Jeffrey Zimmerman



***"It opens a new mindset on dance" – Brandon***

**Owen/Cox Dance Group's Take the Stage Program** is pleased to share the highlights of its sixth season spent inspiring Kansas City's youth to personal excellence through the arts.



During the 2018-19 year, Take the Stage (TTS) employed **six dance teaching artists** and an additional **nine professional musicians and performing artists** to conducted **290 dance classes and rehearsals**, and reached **324 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders in eight schools**. Take the Stage presented **13**

**performances** for a **total audience of 2,500** and continued its tradition of collaborating with Kansas City's leading cultural institutions for the benefit of its students. The 2018-19 theme and final showcase were curated with the help of **TTS Season Partner - the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**.

On May 17, Take the Stage presented its sixth annual Event-of-the-Year: *A Night at the Museum—Shine a Light on Me!*, uniting 150 students and educators from TTS partner schools and TeamEXCEL! in a joyful culminating performance with live music. Vocalist Brother John Anderson, and poet/educator T. L. Sanders, narrating as a 'smart phone - gone docent', along with five professional jazz musicians, joined dancers on stage at the Historic Gem Theater, presenting a matinee for TTS partner schools and a public evening show for an enthusiastic full-house. Leading up to the final showcase, students visited the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art for specialized tours and arts-encounter mask-making, as guests of the Museum's Ford Learning Center. Dancers then spent two-action packed days on 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine rehearsing in the state-of-the-art Gem space and visiting the KC Urban Youth Academy. Performers enjoyed delicious lunches provided by Truman Medical Centers, and dined on pizza from Papa Keno's - Crossroads in the Jazz Museum's Atrium before the evening performance. Jason's Deli-Downtown and Pinstripes-Overland Park generously provided sustenance for staff and volunteers during rehearsals. Cake from Cosentino's Downtown Market was enjoyed by students and guests at a post-performance reception.



***"I feel like a million bucks when I'm in Take the Stage." – Luis***

***"Take the Stage makes me want to go to school so you can learn a lot." – Brianna***

***"It helped me concentrate more"***

***– Christian***

***"It helped find more in me."***

***– Ava***



# In 2018-19

## Take the Stage

- Presented TeamEXCEL! dancers at The Gem, Kauffman Center Future Stages Festival, KC Public Library, and at both the Nelson-Atkins Museum's Juneteenth Celebration and Big Picnic.
- Conducted 14- week residencies for:
  - 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Trailwoods Elementary (KCPS)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Whittier Elementary (KCPS)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Frank Rushton Elementary (KCKPS)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Graders at Parker Elementary (KCKPS)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders at Holy Cross School
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Graders at Our Lady of Hope School
- Continued 28-week residencies for:
  - Hartman Elementary
  - Holy Cross School
  - Our Lady of Hope School and
  - Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School
- Conducted Workshops for Down Syndrome Guild of Kansas City
- Strengthened relationships with Truman Medical Center, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance, KC Public Library, Kansas City Young Audiences, American Jazz Museum, Kansas City Urban Youth Academy, Kansas City Public Schools and Kansas City, Kansas City Public Schools.

- Served urban schools where 94% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch, 25-70% are English language learners, 72% are Minority and 25% have an IEP
- Provided highly motivated students from multiple partner schools 20-weeks of advanced training in the TeamEXCEL! Program.



***"It was amazing meeting all the Take the Stage leaders and schools." –***

***Amya***



# Thank You

## \$5,000-\$10,000

The Bright Futures Fund of Kansas City  
Country Club Christian Church  
Estelle S. and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation  
Missouri Arts Council. Art Works  
Frank and Margaret McGee Fund  
Louis and Elizabeth Nave Flarsheim  
Foundation  
Russell and Rebka Sakati

## \$2,500-\$4,999

Linda Nottberg  
Leo Gilbert Wetherill Foundation  
The City of Kansas City, Missouri  
Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund

## \$1,000-\$2,499

The Breidenthal-Snyder Foundation  
Lisa Choules  
Dr. Robert Claassen  
Jan Schoonver  
Jewish Community Foundation  
Jeffrey D. Zimmerman  
Rod Parks  
Kristen and Isam Sakati  
Louis and Frances Swinken  
Supporting Foundation

## \$500-\$999

Burton Justice  
Mary J. Weber Foundation  
Art Wortman  
Sharon and John Hoffman  
Shari L. Wilson

## IN KIND SUPPORT

Kansas City Young Audiences  
Kansas City Public Library  
American Jazz Museum  
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art  
UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance  
Truman Medical Center  
Jeff Evrard Photography  
Jason's Deli  
Pinstripes  
Papa Keno's Crossroads  
The Brave Creative  
Tom Styrkowicz  
Praxis Promotions  
Megan Toal  
Dégagé Dancewear

**Take the Stage would like to thank donors at all levels for their support**

***“There are two major categories of growth that I witness: 1. Respect for self and 2. Confidence. I see them follow rules for TTS that they normally would not. They take pride in what they are doing and who they are becoming. I got to witness one young lady, not even sure of where she was from because of so many refugee camps and countries she's lived in--sing and dance to English words. Her smile said a thousand words in a hundred languages.” – Rebekah Wampler, Whittier Elementary educator***

Take the Stage is thrilled to be a catalyst for personal growth among children in Greater Kansas City. We teach that joyful effort, focus, tenacity and teamwork can lead to personal success. Collaborating with an array of area organizations and civic leaders, we are dedicated to building a community of creative, motivated students who reach for the stars. We look forward to sharing the successes of our coming season with you in the months ahead. **Let's Dance!**



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