

THE
COWLES
CENTER

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022



EVERY.BODY.DANCES.

Sharon Picasso, Cheng Xiong, and Leslie Parker photos by Canaan Mattson.





OUR MISSION

The Cowles Center is a dance and performing arts hub that promotes movement and growth for artists through supportive programs and spaces; engages audiences through dynamic performances; and educates learners of all ages through robust and inclusive education initiatives.

As part of our ongoing work in diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion, The Cowles Center is committed to providing a comfortable home for dancers and dance lovers of all backgrounds, especially our neighbors in the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota, and we are actively pursuing anti-racist practices to ensure that commitments are seen through. To date, we have formed the Programs & Education Advisory committee to center feedback from representatives of communities who are traditionally underrepresented in dance including BIPOC, LGBTQIA2+, and people with disabilities.

OUR VISION

We program an exciting season annually, representing more than 20 local artists and companies that showcase the depth and breadth of the Twin Cities professional dance scene.

We partner with artists and companies in our season by providing subsidized marketing and production support, letting the artists focus on their performances.

We educate through high-quality arts learning programs, serving students of all ages statewide, via residencies, workshops, and student matinees.

We support the growth and life cycle of dancers and companies through our below-market-rate offices, studios, and stages; and through community engagement programs, McKnight Fellowships, and our MERGE program.



THE COWLES CENTER

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COWLES COUNCIL 2022



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Partner, Taft Stettinius & Hollister

KAREN CHARLES

Council Vice-Chair
Artistic Director, Threads Dance Project

MASAMI KAWAZATO

Secretary
Program Director, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council

SHANNON POWELL

Treasurer
Partner, Audit - KPMG

THE COWLES CENTER HISTORY

The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts opened its doors in 2011 and has since welcomed more than 1,000,000 audience members, students, and artists through its doors. This historic arts campus, comprising the Masonic Temple/Hennepin Center for the Arts and the Shubert Theatre, has become a dynamic hub of creativity, innovation, education, and diversity resulting in a vibrant arts community for us to live, work, and play. The Artspace leadership and staff listed below provide significant support to The Cowles Center. The creation of The Cowles Center was made possible through Artspace Projects, Inc., the nation's leading nonprofit arts developer and the current owner/operator of The Cowles Center. Learn more about Artspace and its work at www.artspace.org



COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Property Management

GREG FOLEY

Director, Asset Management

NU LEE

Director, Finance

ANNIE RICHARDSON

Accounting Assistant

PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

2022 meant another full calendar year for The Cowles Center! Celebrating our 12th season this past year, we featured the largest number of choreographers in recent history and paid out over \$35,000 in commissions for new work. The Cowles Center has served the dance community for a little over a decade establishing itself as an important part of the Minnesota dance community. At The Cowles Center, we intend to further highlight and nurture artists, learners, and audiences alike that breathe life into the building.



Atlantis13 photo by Galen Higgins



Crash Dance Productions photo by Taylor Coleen Photography

SPRING 2022

Blacklight: A re:Search Performance by Alanna Morris*+
Presented in Partnership with The Great Northern & Northrop
Supported by Marbrook Foundation

Merges In March*+
• Chitra Vairavan & Valerie Oliveiro - Ancestral Tremors
• Herb Johnson III & Lieutenant Sunnie - Life a Leaf
Merge is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts

Earth Tomes by James Sewell Ballet

The Four Seasons by Ballet Co.Laboratory*
Supported in part by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council

Tapestries 6.0 by Threads Dance Project

MIXTAPE 5G: The Sound of Movement by The MIXTAPE Collective*+

2022 Strawberry Festival: A Student Showcase by Minnesota Dance Theatre & School

DATES

February 4–6

March 5–6,
March 12–13

March 25–26

April 2–3

April 29–May 1

May 6–8

May 27–28

FALL 2022

SOLO by McKnight Fellowships for Dancers *

Canary, Crimson, then Emerald by Black Label Movement

Fall Forward Festival*
• Week 1: Duniya Drum & Dance Ensemble+, Twin Cities Ballet, Rhythmically Speaking
Sponsored by Grand Jeté
• Week 2: Threads Dance Project+, Atlantis 13
• Week 3: Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre+, Black Label Movement, Crash Dance Productions
• Week 4: HIJACK, Aparna Ramaswamy

The Snow Queen by Ballet Co.Laboratory

Who Brought the Humbug? by Rhythm Street Movement*

** indicates work presented by The Cowles Center
+ indicates new work Commissioned by The Cowles Center*

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

McKnight Fellowships Work Sample Workshop

McKnight Fellowships Webinar

Concerto Dance Open Master Class with Steve Rooks

The MIXTAPE Collective Workshops
• Averie Mitchel Brown and Music Director Stefon Bionik Taylor with Mentee Maya
• Desaré Cox and Music Director Stefon Bionik Taylor with Mentee Maya
• Herb Johnson III and Music Director Stefon Bionik Taylor
• J-Sun and Music Director Stefon Bionik Taylor with Yan Pang
• Darrius Strong and Music Director Stefon Bionik Taylor with Yan Pang

Minnesota Fringe Festival

FAIR School Graduation

Dance as a Second Language Workshop with Generating Room artists Carmen Lucia Montoya & Erika Martin

Artist Open House

Fall Forward Festival Workshop

DATES

September 16–17

September 23–25

October 29–30,
November 5–6,
November 12–13,
November 19–20

December 2–4

December 9–18

January 27

February 18

March 12

April 9,
April 16,
April 23,
May 14,
May 21

May 9

June 10

June 10–12

September 10

October 15

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES FOR ARTISTS

GENERATING ROOM

The Cowles Center's Generating room program is an 8-month studio residency program that supports Minnesotan choreographers who need time and space to develop the project or idea without any added pressure of a completed end product. With the support of the Jerome and Taft foundations, this year's generating room will support four early-career choreographers through 200 hours of free rehearsal space, stipends, general administrative support, and a mentor.



2022/23 GENERATING ROOM COHORT



JOSÉ A. LUIS
Photo by Sarah Ashley Dovolos



TUMELO KHUPE
Photo by Reid Jarvi



SYDNEY WARD
Photo by Kianna Notermann



YUKI TOKUDA
Photo by Alice Gebura

Join the Cowles Center in conversations that bring artists together to explore topics relevant to emerging choreographers. We bring in guest community experts to speak on topics such as how to put together a work sample, and tax tips for artists. These conversations are a chance for artists to gain professional and personal guidance. All sessions are free and all are welcome!



Performing artists are invited to Meet With Us! Artists can sign up for a 30-minute consultation to meet with a Cowles staff member and talk through whatever they are interested in knowing more about furthering their professional and artistic life. Subject areas can include topics such as; resume building, engagement strategies, and tools for networking in the local and national dance industry.

MCKNIGHT

ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

The Cowles Center is the administrative center for the McKnight Fellowships for choreographers and dancers. The fellowship delivers financial support to mid-career individuals. Three Choreographer Fellows and three Dancer Fellows are awarded unrestricted funds of \$25,000 to set aside time to study, reflect, experiment, and take advantage of an opportunity to work on a new project.

Support for the individual artists has been a focus for the McKnight Foundation's Arts & Culture program since its inception. The fellowships are designed to enrich and strengthen our community by acknowledging the accomplishments of individual dancers and choreographers by providing room for artistic growth.



2022 MCKNIGHT DANCER FELLOWS (L-R): Leila Awadallah, Sharon Picasso, Cheng Xiong photos by Canaan Mattson



2022 MCKNIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER FELLOWS (L-R): Leslie Parker, Pedra Pepa photos by Canaan Mattson. Rosy Simas photo by Tim Rummelhoff

ARTS IN EDUCATION

2022 IMPACT



Dance Without Barriers brings free, high-quality dance learning experiences to elementary, middle, and high school classrooms in the Twin Cities, Greater MN, and beyond. By using innovative distance learning technology, the usual barriers of cost and transportation are eliminated, and students have access to arts learning opportunities

25 Schools
1,563 Students
233 Sessions
67 Classrooms



First Moves connects motor skill development with critical thinking, social interacting, and creativity. By bringing dance and creative movement to first grade children during a crucial transitional year, First Moves promotes essential learning and studying habits that students will rely on throughout their education and working life.

16 Schools
1,070 Students
177 Sessions
51 Classrooms



Creations empowers high school students to choreograph their own dances and make creative connections with their peers.

5 Schools
70 Students
61 Sessions
15 Master Classes



MovementWise is designed to address the needs of an aging community by encouraging active physical and social participation while engaging the mind, significantly enriching the lives and health of older adults.

16 Sessions
20 Seniors



Our premier dance workshops are taught in-person and virtually across North America. These purchasable interactive learning experiences are tailored to fit into a wide range of programming at libraries, senior communities, summer programs, and schools.

192 Sessions
3,074 Students



During Student Matinees, students are encouraged to be active participants rather than passive observers. They are invited to question dance, engage their curiosity, envision themselves as dancers and art-makers, and move their bodies either from their seats or on the stage.

1 Matinee
5 Schools
278 Students



Online videos created by our world-class Teaching Artists that are available for free for all educators.

62 Videos
17,327 Views



The Creations program returned to an in-person residency format after being virtual the previous year. It culminated in a full day of live in-person master classes and performances on the historic Cowles Center stage. Creations 2022 Showcase

"WOW! This toolkit is phenomenal. I'm so impressed with the quality of the videos and the ease of access. Each dancer clearly brings a wide array of experiences, styles, and approaches to dance. That said, you're so unified in your love for dance and teaching of movement. We're lucky to have you join us at Emerson."

— regarding the First Moves residency toolkit and online resources from Cowles Teaching Artists.



MovementWise programming returned through a robust and joyful partnership with the Lyngblomsten Senior Residence Community in Saint Paul, MN.



A return to in-person Student Matinee programming with Rhythm Street Movement's Who Brought the Humbug? from The Cowles 2022–2023 season after the lingering pandemic and school bussing shortages kept things virtual.

"I didn't know math could be so cool with breakdancing...and I actually like math with moving."

2022 TEACHING ARTISTS

Our Teaching Artists are professional dancers, choreographers, and experienced educators who use innovative approaches to bring dance into classrooms through our Arts in Education programs.



ALEXANDRA EADY
Creative Movement, Contemporary Yurchia, Rhythm and Jazz, Improvisation, Mindful Movement, Moving through Narrative

ALANNA MORRIS
Creative Movement, Movement as Life Practice, Classical Ballet, Classical American Modern Dance

ANAT SHINAR
Creative Movement, Israeli Folk Dance, and Musical Theater

BLAKE NELLIS
Contact Improvisation, Creative Movement, and Interdisciplinary Dance

DEREK PHILLIPS
Creative Movement and Modern

DJENANE SAINT JUSTE
Caribbean Dance, Creative Movement, Folkloric Haitian Dances, and Latin Social Dance



ERIKA MARTIN
Contemporary/Modern, American Ballroom, Latin Social Dance, Jazz, Ballet

ERINN LIEBHARD
American Social Dance, Creative Movement, Modern, and Jazz

KARLA NWEJE
Afro-Modern, Modern, Percussive, and Soul Dance

LISA BERMAN
Breaking and Hip Hop

RENEE GUITTAR
Ballet, Creative Movement, Latin Social Dance, Musical Theater, and Jazz



ROXANE WALLACE
Afro-Modern, Creative Movement, and Modern

RUSH BENSON
Musical Theater, Percussive, and Latin Social Dances

SCOTT STAFFORD
Creative Movement, Modern, Vogue, and Jazz

SUCHI SAIRAM
Storytelling through Bharatanatyam, Indian folk dance

SUSANA DI PALMA
Flamenco

WASWA KALEM
Hip Hop, Locking

SPACES



EVENT AND THEATER RENTAL

The Cowles Center has played host to events ranging from TEDxMinneapolis and pre-show receptions to lunch-hour meetings. Spaces available include:

- Goodale Theater
- U.S. Bank Atrium & Lobby
- TEK BOX Theater
- Target Education Studio

STUDIO RENTALS

Access to comfortable, professional dance space is very much needed by Minnesota's dance artists, teachers, and students. In response to this need, The Cowles Center provides a variety of dance studio spaces available for dancers to rent. In 2022, over 5,000 studio bookings were made with over 6,000 hours of use in our spaces.



CREATIVE & OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

Located on Hennepin Avenue and next door to the Warehouse District/Hennepin Avenue light rail stop, The Cowles Center offers the perfect opportunity for small businesses to be a part of Downtown Minneapolis. Our office and practical-use space leases serve a wide range of professions in a historic downtown landmark with like-minded neighbors.



DECADANCE

Thank you DecaDANCE attendees and sponsors for making our fall fundraiser a success. Over \$55,000 was raised to expand The Cowles Center's Arts in Education programs. The evening was emceed by Ricci Milan and featured performances by Ballet Folklorico Mexico Azteca and Rhythm Street Movement. After the program guests enjoyed a wine pull, photo booth, onstage dance party, and interactive projections by Paul Herwig's Future Projections.



Onstage danceparty at DecaDANCE 2022 photo by Alexis Lund Photography



Ballet Folklorico Mexico Azteca at DecaDANCE 2022 photo by Alexis Lund Photography

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS

The Cowles Center for Dance & the Performing Arts is a nonprofit organization that relies on many sources of funding to provide access to exceptional performing arts and education programs as well as to provide stability for dance artists. We deeply appreciate the support we receive from individual, foundation, and corporate sources.



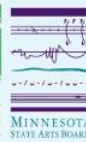
James B. Linsmayer Foundation



ALLY SPONSORS



SUPPORTER SPONSORS



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

\$5,000–25,000

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The Serendipitous
Leverage Fund
Susan White

\$2,500–4,999

Pauline Allison
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Reece Devlin
Shannon Powell

\$1,000–2,499

Karen Charles
Eleanor R. Crosby
Amelia Hardy
David Moore
Patricia Lynn Ploetz
Amit Poddar
Linda Shapiro
Susan E. Timm

\$500–999

Hanna Coleman
Fuller and Constance Cowles
S. Asim Gul
Steve Hoffmann
Kelley Lindquist
Scott Rippenburg
Karen and Steve Sonnenberg

\$250–499

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Leland and Beverly Gehrke
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Erinn Liebhard
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Robert B. Mersky
Thomas Pack
Thomas Ruter
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\$100–249

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Lisa Pate
Archana Ramaswamy and Rumi
Faizer
Mark T. Rise
Paul Schumann
Ximena Silva-Avila
Lisa Tienter



Rhythm Street Movement
photo by Alexis Lund Photography

Please contact April Houston
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to correct any inaccuracies found
within the pages of this Annual Review.