

Exhibit C: Information regarding Dance Loft’s Public School Programs



Bilingual Program (serving Pre-K and Kindergarten):

Dance Loft’s unique curriculum has been piloted through the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities Creative Spark program. Rather than teaching “how to dance,” Dance Loft aims to ignite a creative spark in students and engage their artistic exploration through arts integration in line with developmentally appropriate core curriculum standards. Dance Loft’s lessons allow students to create their own movement sequences that explore ideas, expression, characters, animals, and academic concepts from books selected in partnership with classroom teachers, and/or from standard curricula that classroom teachers are mandated to cover. Dance Loft focuses on organic, explorative movement through the imagination. Students learn about dance while building creative skills, practicing multiple learning strategies, and developing positive self-confidence.

Ward 4 preschool students benefit from learning dance education, technique, and foundations that help fine-tune motor skills and improve both cognitive ability and confidence. Additionally, students learn dances in both English and Spanish which helps break down barriers for ESL students and teaches English-speaking students a second language. This creates a well-rounded cultural experience for these young preschool students in their early childhood development to help broaden their experiences and horizons.

Dance Loft’s educational goal is to teach developmentally appropriate movement to provide a place to build their cognitive and physical skills in an atmosphere surrounded by their peers. Children learn basic dance fundamentals that strengthen brain development. This work instills creativity at a young age and instills excitement about learning and the arts. In our existing dance education classes for young children, we witness these successes.

At the beginning of 2022, Dance Loft partnered with Ward 4 schools to provide dance activities for underserved Pre-K and Kindergarten students. With four school partners, Dance Loft is currently serving 18 classrooms and approximately 300 students for in-person programming. These partner schools include:

- **The Spanish Educational Development Center, EL Haynes Public Charter, Powell Elementary, and John Lewis Elementary.**



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Field Trip Program (serving K-2nd grade)

The Field Trip Experience program allows neighboring schools to attend performances at the Dance Loft Theater. Dance Loft’s current program serves students from kindergarten through second grade. Moveius Contemporary Ballet presents ballet pieces that enact the solar system, space exploration, and the world of social insects. The age and grade range of students is targeted due to the fact that Dance Loft’s subject matter of both ballet pieces directly relates to the core curriculum in their science standards. Dance Loft’s field trip program incorporates the Earth and Physical sciences curriculum through movement the way traditional classrooms cannot.

This program also fills gaps in meaningful arts education in our neighborhood, as the community often lacks sufficient arts programming, and very often lacks any dance education at all.

Pre- and post-performance workshops are scheduled around the performances with Dance Loft staff assessing what the students already know about the subjects. All students attending the performance have a post-show discussion onsite to enhance their understanding and experience.

Dance Loft’s goal is to provide an environment that offers children a safe place to be creative and explore dance surrounded by caring adults while also developing connections to their peers and their community. This goal represents this program’s longer-term impacts: children served have what is likely their first exposure to the dance community; Dance Loft hopes to give students a lasting impression that will encourage them to stay involved with the arts community as they grow older and advance in their development. Exposure to the arts and classical ballet performances at a young age, through the lens of familiar subjects from school, will provide students with an invaluable experience.

In 2022, approximately 250 pre-K through 2nd grade students attended professional performances at the Dance Loft Theater through the field trip program at local partner schools. These partner schools include:

- **Center City Petworth Public Charter Schools, EL Haynes Public Charter, and John Lewis Elementary**

