



DANCE LOFT ON 14 AND MOVEIUS CONTEMPORARY BALLET

1. Overview

Guided by the belief in dance as a powerful means for cultural and social transformation, MOVEIUS Contemporary Ballet catalyzes and expands access to the performing arts. MOVEIUS envisions a city where local performing artists thrive, homegrown performances are showcased, and dance is fully accessible.

MOVEIUS operates two interrelated initiatives: 1) **our Dance Loft on 14 arts center and its associated programs, and 2) our professional MOVEIUS Contemporary Ballet ensemble.** We serve artists and audiences through classes, programs, and accessible and affordable rehearsal and performance space; catalyze new dance work; and promote broad and diverse access to performing arts and arts education. Our existing community partnerships include neighborhood Ward-based public schools, individual artists, choreographers, and professional theater and dance ensembles. Dance Loft has become an essential DC performing arts and arts education resource. In 2019, we served more than 2,500 artists with space and over 5,000 audience members.

Central to our vision and programming is an expanded Dance Loft on 14 facility as proposed in the PUD submission. In partnership with Heleos Development – and with support from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Local Initiative Support Corporation, and others – we have purchased our historic Upper 14th Street Corridor building on April 2, 2021. This facility will permanently anchor our programming and presence, support local businesses and community stakeholders, and help make Ward 4 a creative destination in DC. Through this new, expanded facility and our ongoing programming, we can continue to engage artists and community members through accessible, affordable, and locally relevant dance opportunities.

2. Core programs:

DANCE LOFT ON 14 THEATER PERFORMANCE SEASON

We present and co-present 6-8 weekends of dance performances yearly, including newly-launched commissions from 4 local choreographers. We also subsidize theater rates for three to four different 5-week runs of theater (drama) shows. Beyond this, our theater is rented on a first-come, first-served basis, which lowers barriers as we do not have an onerous application and curation process. This is vital for growing a grassroots arts culture. It allows newer/smaller choreographers/companies – who are highly to be included in a curated season elsewhere– to build their audiences and obtain video, pictures, and press. We only show local work, not national and international touring artists.

YOUTH DANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM (SPANISH AND ENGLISH)

In partnership with local public schools, we also offer our Bilingual Youth Dance Education program, which combines arts integration approaches with culturally-responsive dance education to engage students in learning about dance as a social and cultural tradition and dance as a performing art form. Through in-school and after-school programs, and the use of English and Spanish languages, we work with teachers to connect with classroom curriculum using facilitated creative movement activities, Latin social dance forms (like Bachata, Salsa, Folklórico, and Merengue), and Ballet and Modern dance vocabularies. Our program develops positive life skills, practices multiple learning strategies, and cultivates creative capacities.. Current partnering schools include MacFarland Middle School, West Education Campus (pre-school through middle school), Powell Elementary and Spanish Education Development Center (pre-school).



We offer free professional ballet performances to 500-800 DC Public School students yearly. They attend performances in Dance Loft's theater, or free, in field trips organized in partnership with DCPS. Field trip shows are supplemented with pre and post movement workshops.

Lastly, our School at Dance Loft on 14 serves over 60 local families with early childhood dance education.

ARTIST SPACE REHEARSAL RENTAL PROGRAM

Our Artist Space Rehearsal Rental Program at our Dance Loft on 14 facility is at the heart of our efforts to provide local dance and theater artists and companies with regular access to affordable rehearsal and performance space at inexpensive rates. We provide accessible and affordable studio space and office space for emerging performing artists and small to midsize companies in the Washington, DC region. Our facility features 8,000 square feet of custom-built space that includes four dance studios. We offer subsidies to professional artists to use our facility, which includes four rehearsal studios and a black box theater. Costs per studio range from \$8-\$40 per hour for nonprofit use.

MOVEIUS CONTEMPORARY BALLET

Our professional MOVEIUS Contemporary Ballet Company performs two seasons yearly at the Dance Loft Theater, with additional performances at venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Ailey Citigroup Theater, and Atlas Performing Arts Center (12-15 performances annually). The ensemble is known for politically-engaged ballet choreography. Moveius' GLACIER, A Climate Change Ballet, performed at two international climate conferences and has been featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post and more. The company performs for DC middle school students, engaging students and teachers with an arts-integrated earth science curriculum. MOVEIUS' Contemporary Ballet ensemble has received highly competitive commissions from local and national institutions, and performed at the United Nations Climate Summit in 2019. We also offer open company dance classes for the DC dance community.

SOCIAL JUSTICE DANCE FESTIVAL

Our first annual iteration of "CREATIVE IMPACT," a Social Justice Dance Festival and Rehearsal subsidy program launched in 2020 and will continue yearly. It aims to amplify the creative work of DC-area choreographers working at the intersection of dance and social justice and to address and break down cost barriers preventing working dance artists (especially working BIPOC artists and artists who experience other forms of marginalization) from accessing needed studio space to create and continue their work. As part of this unique program in DC, we will host a series of master classes and facilitate community dialogues to engage local communities in conversation and action.



Space for Performances... Space for Rehearsals and Classes... Classes and Shows for our Community



