2020–2021
ANNUAL REPORT
ART IS THE ONLY WAY TO RUN AWAY WITHOUT LEAVING HOME

TWYLA THARP
TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
04 WHO WE ARE
05 OUR MISSION AND VISION
06 2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS
08 FISCAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM
09 OUR TEAM
10 FISCAL SUMMARY
11 CALL TO ACTION
Dear Vermont Dance Community,

My name is MC DeBelina and I’m excited to announce my position as the new Executive Director of the Vermont Dance Alliance. This past year VDA delved into the virtual world hosting symposiums, classes, film festivals, and many meetings on Zoom. We feel grateful for our community willing to stick with us and support us as we found our way through. We ended our season with a wildly successful Traces event. Traces began in 2016 as a day long festival happening in Burlington. Last year, Traces moved entirely online. This year we were able to host not one, but three Traces events across the state. These events occurred in collaboration with water conservationists, to bring art and environmental justice together.

Looking ahead, we have three goals:

- build a solid and repeatable fundraising strategy
- expand our outreach – find new audience and collaborations
- create a greater web of dancers, dance makers, and dance adjacent humans

We hope you join us on this journey as we face different challenges this year and grow in exciting new ways.

MC DeBelina

Letter from the Founder/Former Director

The fiscal year 2020-2021 was spent proving there is possible within what seems impossible. Behind the many successful virtual programs, encouraging new organizational partnerships, exciting new artist memberships and seamless transition of directorship, was a powerful combination of teamwork, dedication, and belief. I am humbled by the development of the Vermont Dance Alliance, both within this past challenging year as well as over its first five years of growth. Thank you all for the many layers of support you’ve offered to VDA, allowing the spark to ignite into a powerful resource. May dance continue to connect, support and inspire us together.

Hanna Satterlee
WHO WE ARE

We are a passionate community of dance lovers who believe that dance is a transformational art form.

The Vermont Dance Alliance is a foundation for Vermont dancers and a public platform for dance in Vermont. The alliance cultivates deeper relationships between its members, and helps to foster a thriving artistic community throughout the state.
OUR MISSION AND VISION

VISION
Expand visibility + accessibility of dance to every person in Vermont to bolster the creative economy of the state.

MISSION
Provide a network of resources for dance artists
Curate educational opportunities + experiences for movers + audiences
Deepen connections + increase the value of VDA in our community

Develop robust partnerships with organizations with aligned visions
Reach new audiences by funding artists + collaborations
Strengthen + grow membership

LONG TERM GOALS
2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Event Sponsors
Northfield Savings Bank
Onion River Coop
Vermont Federal Credit Union
Rabble Rouser
Vermont Arts Council
Main Street Landing
City Market

Event Partners
Inclusive Arts Vermont
Pride Center
Peace and Justice Center
Black Freedom Fund
Milton Artists Guild

Thank you!

50 Classes/Workshops
12 Performances
740 Participants
60 Teachers/Presenters
120 Members
9 Scholarship Students

2020-2021 PARTNERS
Ballet Vermont
Carla Kimball
Solutions in Motion
Lines VT
Middlebury College Dance Program
Offgrid Media Lab
Paul Bronisław Kmiec
SoBo Studios
UVM Dance Program
Community Engagement Lab
All Wellness VT
The Junction Dance Festival
National Water Dance
Spotlight VT
Open Door Integrative Wellness
Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College
Catamount Arts
Smart Artist Vermont
Traces 2021

Workshop led by Cat Buxton + Nicole Conte

Performance excerpt: Avi Waring

Workshop led by MC Debellina + Michele Braun

Performance excerpt: Cyndal Ellis

Workshop led by Emily Mott + Jess Rubin

Performance excerpt: Sarah Lapinsky
Having VDA as my fiscal sponsor was one of the best choices in my last dance film production. VDA managed my budget, dealing with all financial expenses such as paying the cast, crew, costumes, etc. As a producer, I didn’t have to worry about this aspect of the production. It saved me time to focus on script, choreography, rehearsals, and marketing.

-Paula Higa

VDA’s fiscal sponsorship program helped me bring to life a magical family-oriented production of Thumbelina, set to Vermont-composer Evan Premo’s musical setting of the fairytale. The production offered a beautiful, safe outdoor performance series in multiple Windsor county locations that was seen by over 300 audience members as well as outreach to families and day camps to explore movement, story, and community. Performers included adults, college students, and high school students who participated in a company-style rehearsal process to bring the production to fruition. Specifically, VDA’s fiscal sponsorship allowed me to apply for a grant that matched the project’s community-raised funds, which supported time, costumes, set pieces, and travel expenses.

-Ashley Hensel-Browning
OUR TEAM

JOY MADDEN
Board President

SARAH BRIGGS
Board Treasurer

JEN BERGER
Board Secretary

JESSIE OWENS
Board Vice President

2020-2021 Interns
Liz Westbrook
Isaac Euler
Lauren Best
Ellis Broderick
Karen Canavan
Olivia Roche
Mary Anna Ball

CELIA DEVOE
Administrative Assistant
Most of our income came from our membership and went towards our operating budget. In the future, we hope to remove the financial burden off of our members and expand the amount of artist we are able to compensate and fund.

We plan to create a sustainable fundraising plan in order to expand our outreach, support our artists, + create more opportunities to connect with the greater community.
GET INVOLVED

Help us reach our goals

Develop robust partnerships with organization with aligned visions

Local Business/Organizations

• Sponsor our season
• Sponsor a specific VDA event (check out our yearly calendar)

Reach new audiences by funding artists + collaborations

Audience + Art Supporters

• Come to our events
• Like, follow, + share our posts
• Make a donation today

Strengthen + grow membership

Dancers + Dance Makers

• Join VDA!

MEMBER BENEFITS
Find a network of artists + resources
Get access to discounts to shows + classes
Promote your work on our website + social media
Take advantage of our fiscal sponsorship program

CONTACT US
Vermont Dance Alliance
PO Box 5423
Burlington, VT 05402

info@vermontdance.org
vermontdance.org/donate