DANCE SASKATCHEWAN INC.

Annual Report 2021 – 2022

FUNDED BY SASK LOTTERIES

Supported by a Sask Culture Program

DSI respectfully acknowledges that we operate on lands from Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, the territories of the of Nêhiyawak, Anihšināpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda peoples and the homeland of Métis.

Our Mission:

Dance Saskatchewan supports and enables the development of dance, for all, in partnership with and in service of Saskatchewan's dance communities.

Our Vision:

Our vision for Dance Saskatchewan Inc. is to be a thriving organization facilitating the success of dancers and dance providers while growing enthusiasm for dance in all its forms.

President's Message

We have had a very productive and fruitful year! With the hard work of our volunteer board, Dance Saskatchewan was able to implement a new strategic plan that will be in effect until 2026. Our board met regularly to ensure accountability and good governance. We were fortunate to meet for an in-person meeting retreat at Wanuskewin, where many of our board members met face to face for the first time. This experience of engagement, paired with our virtual and "from a distance" work allowed for the implementation of a new budget structure for 2022-2023, a new strategic plan, and a revised operational structure of reporting. With this, our board is conifdent that DSI is emerging from Covid as a transparent and accountable organization for its members and community beyond.

Dance Saskatachewan's period of rebirth continued this year with the introduction of many new programs and pilot programs, and the hiring of an Outreach and Programs Coordinator, Chancz Perry. Our goals of providing support in community building, dance education and practice, and collaborative leadership keep the communities we serve at the forefront of our minds. We held several Town Hall Meetings to hear what the dancers across Saskatchewan have to say. Dance Saskatchewan has been, and continues to be, a service and charity organization dedicated to the dance and movement communities of Saskatchewan.

Our promotion of dance as an art form, a health benefit, a recreational activity, and a component of cultural living heritage has created opportunities of engagement outside our membership and into the dance community at large. Last fiscal year, a residency was developed to promote dance in school as part of the Saskatchewan curriculum. This fiscal year we have been able to place professional artists in three community-based schools. Saltcoats, Regina, and Warman have all benefitted from these residencies. La Ronge and Air Ronge will host a 2023 residency. We are currently seeking artists to lead it.

A focus of our current fiscal year is anti-racism and anti-oppression through dance. Thanks to the Community Initiatives Fund and the Government of Canada, we have been able to offer over twenty one-day workshops to thousands of people across Saskatchewan.

Through the hard work of our membership, the dance community saw a revitalization from Covid-19. Our professional community has been at the forefront of artistic excellence. Dance Saskatchewan would like to congratulate our community members who received awards and recognitions this past year. We are so proud of your efforts! We are also very proud of our pre-professional and recreational dancers. Many of the dance schools were able to compete, perform, and take examinations this year.

Dance Saskatchewan Inc. was founded in 1979 with the purpose of serving the dance community and promoting dance in Saskatchewan. These goals and principles have not changed. Although our organization has gone through many changes over the years, we continue to have the dance communities' best interests at heart. We will continue to advocate for dance and movement. Our organization is like choreography. Although it may change and evolve, the essence of the artists - you, our members, remains a constant.

I want to say a huge thanks to our amazing Executive Director, Sarah Hoag and Administrator, Elaine Thaller. The organization would not be as functional without these two amazing women.

Dance Saskatchewan continues to search for new board and committee members. Interested people can contact myself or the Dance Saskatchewan office for more information on becoming a member of our team. We need your ideas, uniqueness, and perspective to continue to operate in a way that is authentic and representative of the dance ecology in Saskatchewan.

Yours in dance,

Kathy Bond

Kathy Bond,
President, DSI Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

Dance Saskatchewan Inc. members, board, staff and greater community have continued to rebuild and recover from the effects of Covid-19. Our organization was, and continues to be dedicated to the implementation of the 2020-2021 Province Wide Review recommendations for the betterment and growth of the Saskatchewan dance community.

The DSI Board of Directors, which is comprised of members from across the province, worked diligently in 2021-2022 to develop a strategic plan that will carry our organization through to 2026. As our board represents various dance styles and cultures, we hope to continue the action of representation into the future and encourage involvement from new board and committee members.

Accountability has been at the core of our efforts this fiscal year. I sincerely would like to thank SaskCulture, the Eligibility Commitee, and the DSI members and non-members who have come forward with accountable practice suggestions to DSI. We want to continue to work with you to create a transparent, accountable, and well-run organization. This theme of accountability can be seen through our financial review and auditing process. The DSI audit for 2021-2022 is being conducted by Willie Birss at Baker Tilly SK LLP.

DSI saw the addition of Chancz Perry to our staff. Chancz has brought a wealth of knowledge, excitement, and enthusiasm to DSI. His organization skills, artistic excellence, and hard work ethic has benefitted our community greatly. With Chancz, we have been able to increase our reach to both northern and rural communities with the implementation of a residency program, a mentorship program, and beyond.

We are fortunate to have been able to reconnect with long-time members and build connections with new members. We helped promote street dance during the *Trans-Canada Highway Jam,* curated an evening of dance at the *Cathedral Village Arts Festival,* engaged with the youth of La Ronge for *The Circle Unites Us,* promoted young emerging artists and teachers at *Take the LEAD,* worked with students on the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, and so much more.

Thank you to SaskCulture and the SaskLotteries Trust for their continued support and funding. Without the trust, DSI would not be able to operate in the community. DSI is also fortunate to have received grant funding from the Canadian Human Resources Council, the Sasktchewan Community Initiatives Fund, and the Government of Canada. The funds from these grants have been and continue to be put to use in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

This was my first full year with Dance Saskatchewan. I can honestly say I feel blessed for the opportunity to continue to serve the Dance community that I love so much.

Yours in dance,

Sarah Hoag
Executive Director
Dance Saskatchewan Inc.

Meet Our Team

Sarah Hoag,
Executive Director

Chancz Perry,
Outreach & Programs Coordinator

Elaine Thaller,
Administrator

Contract Staff

Jennifer Mercredi, Bookkeeper
Jeremy Morgan, Consultant
Julenne Florida, Student
Siarra Riehl, Library Staff

Board of Directors

Kathy Bond, President
Karla Kloeble, Vice President
Vivian Blais
Charlene Bosiak
Pat Gabel-Yablonski
Trina Gueffroy
Daniel Hughes
James Kowalski (until May, 2021)
Lance Pollard (until Sept, 2021)
Michelle McMillan

DSI has opportunities for students!

This year Julenne Florida joined the DSI team to work in dance research and mapping. Julenne is an emerging professional hip hop artist and teacher!

Meet Our Membership

Dance Saskatchewan had 123 members in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, which was up from the previous year. We introduced a new website in February, with many perks, including an easy way to take out your membership! We are hoping to grow our membership in 2022-2023 with our exciting new benefits and programs. We hope to continue this process of community partnership and support for years to come!

Membership Breakdown

Members in Regina: 28
Members in Saskatoon: 47
Members in Central Saskatchewan: 17
Members in rural and northern Saskatchewan: 25
Members outside of Saskatchewan: 6

31% of our members are either emerging professional or professional dancers!

DSI continued our Covid-19 support from last fiscal year with almost $10,000 going directly to members in need of PPE and safe distance resources for their dance practice or studio.

DSI Spotlight Stories

Mentorship Program

Tessa Rae Kuz, Mitchell Larsen, and Aiyana Ruel

Photo credits: Andrew Parry, Ken Greenhorn

DSI is proud to introduce our mentees and their mentors! We are proud of the work they are doing as artists. The mentorship program is intended to offer a funded opportunity for artists to collaborate and learn in a safe and dynamic way.

Tessa Rae Kuz is from the Treaty 4 Territory of Regina, SK and graduated from University X (formerly Ryerson) with a BFA in Performance Dance. Her approach to movement continues to evolve through an ecological lens. Her choreographic practice seeks to weave threads of connection that invite a cross-pollination of perspectives between the local modern-contemporary and street dance scenes. She recently completed a new solo commission choregraphed by Margie Gillis and feels honoured to be continuing her involvement with The Legacy Project for Margie's 50th Anniversary Season in 2023. Tessa is grateful for the opportunity to expand her body of work through a long-term mentorship with Robin Poitras and Edward Poitras, generously supported by Dance Saskatchewan and New Dance Horizons.

Mitchell Larsen is a gender-fluid, queer multidisciplinary creator and performer who grew up across Saskatchewan. They are particularly passionate about the creation, development, and proliferation of new works.

Mitchell is very grateful for Dance Saskatchewan's support of their mentorship by local and international mime, Frank Engel. They are excited to delve into the differences between Polish and French traditions to gain a deeper specificity of movement, to build a piece of art that is delightfully queer, and to share it with those who are interested in such things.

Aiyana Ruel is a dynamic dance artist and performer originally from Vancouver, BC. Aiyana began professional training in ballet, modern, and contemporary dance under Artemis Gordon at Arts Umbrella. She furthered her training in Toronto, where she obtained a BFA in Dance from York University. Since 2021 she has been an artist with Free Flow Dance Theatre, under the direction of Jackie Latendresse. Aiyana is passionate about movement experimentation and continues to develop as a performing artist and choreographer.

Over $20,000 in direct sponsorship was given during our mentorship program for emerging and established artists to collaborate for the creation of new and exciting pieces!

DSI Youth Ambassadors

Dance Saskatchewan had two Youth Ambassadors this year! They will be invited to our Awards Ceremony in the spring! Congratulations to both of them!

Julia Milnthorpe won the DSI Youth Ambassador Award at the Dance Aberdeen Invitational Dance Festival. Her studio is Thrive Dance SK in Saskatoon.

Victoria Pegg won the DSI Youth Ambassador Award at Leader Dance Fusion. She dances at The Dance Studio of Swift Current.
Photo Credit: Corla Rokochy

The Trans-Canada Highway Jam

Dance Saskatchewan was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Genie Baffoe, Eddy Alvaro, Senyo Akakpo, and Bayani Trinidad in engaging the hip hop communities in both Regina and Saskatoon. The Trans-Canada Highway Jam was a travelling dance battle and celebration that gave opportunities for hip hop enthusiasts and newcomers to show their moves, gain feedback from the pros, and participate in community.

The Regina event took place at Victoria Square Plaza where spectators were immersed in a fun-filled day of dance. The Saskatoon event took place at the 309 Fairmont Drive studiosfor an intimate gathering of breaking and hip hop enthusiasts. We would like to thank the hip hop community for inviting DSI to be engaged with you. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with the street dance communities of Saskatchewan!

TCDC and Dance Saskatchewan

Working Together to Engage the Community

Dance Saskatchewan is so fortunate to have members like you! One of our member groups, the Tri-Community Dance Club, has been making waves and implementing change in Northern Saskatchewan. *The Circle Unites Us* is a perfect example of how community and culture can come together in a perfect waltz. Chancz Perry, Lawrence Roy, and Sarah Hoag traveled to La Ronge to to meet with Camille, Genevieve, and the entire TCDC family in offering a free camp for youth to learn traditional forms of dance such as Hoop Dance, Hip Hop, Tap, and other traditional styles of dance. Kids engaged in creative movement, rhythm work, and inquiry based activities. With the help of videographer, Brandon White and visual artist, Annalisa Heppner, the Tri-Community Dance Club was able to film an arts and education based documentary that premiered in La Ronge on December 3rd, 2022. Dance Saskatchewan is so proud of the effort and dedication the TCDC has to the advancement of dance as living heritage and dance as creative movement. We look forward to more partnerships in the future!

Over $24,000 in direct partnership was offered to the Indigenous Dance Community!

Canada's National Ballet School and LEAD

We are fortunate at DSI to have a wonderful relationship with Canada's National Ballet School. In August of 2022, six young women from all over Saskatchewan were able to travel to Toronto and take part in NBS's leadership program, LEAD. These young women learned valuable skills that will take them anywhere in life.

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Total grant and self generated income for the 2021-2022 fiscal year was over $416,000.

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Community Initiatives Fund

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Grant funds secured in 2020-2021 increased by over $53,000, with $40,000 from the Community Initiatives Fund and $13,000 from theGovernment of Canada Heritage Fund.

Thank you from Dance Saskatchewan Inc!

Dance Saskatchewan would like to thank the following people for engaging with us as consultants, reviewers, and focus group members. We couldn't do it without you!

Deanna Peters
Erin Goodpipe-Ironstand
Josh Martin
Nickeshia Garrick
Stephanie Graham
Jeremy Morgan
Kiegan Lloyd
Randy Morin
Melissa Wallace
Michel Vézina
Connie Moker Wernikowski
Jackie Latendresse
Traci Foster
Ann Kipling Brown
Michelle McMillan

...and all other kind community advisors!

DANCE SASKATCHEWAN INC.

309 Fairmont Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7M 5G7
info@dancesask.com
306-931-8480

www.dancesask.com

for the Love of Dance