

Take the Stage

Annual Report 2019-2020 Season



“They helped me to believe and not be scared.”

~Becky



Owen/Cox Dance Group’s Take the Stage Program is pleased to share the highlights of its seventh season spent inspiring Kansas City’s youth to personal excellence through the arts.

Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, Take the Stage employed **9 professional musicians and dance teaching artists**, conducted **115 dance classes and rehearsals**, and directly served **256 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders in six schools**. Take the Stage successfully presented **95 dancers in 3 assembly programs for a total audience of 600**.

Take the Stage continued its tradition of collaborating with Kansas City’s leading

institutions by **partnering with Truman Medical Center’s Community Health Strategies and Innovation Team** to create curricular support for its **health-focused annual theme**.

A PROGRAM OF OWEN/COX DANCE GROUP

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Howard Haas

Carol Livingston

Logan Pachciarz

Rod Parks

Shari L. Wilson

Jeffrey Zimmerman

TeamEXCEL! dancers had the opportunity of rehearsing in the studios of KCYA and the UMKC Conservatory. On March 7, the Team performed for **Bloch School of Management Case Study Workshop students at the Alexander Majors Barn**, presenting excerpts for the planned 2020 Event of the Year: **“I Feel Good, Healthy Lessons for Life!”** TeamEXCEL! performed pieces that highlighted the importance of mindfulness, community, healthy fresh foods, sleep, hygiene, and exercise. The next week, things changed, rapidly and drastically.



In an unprecedented season of dance outreach, weathering the storm of school closures and social distancing, Take the Stage (TTS) marked its seventh season living by its four pillars of excellence:

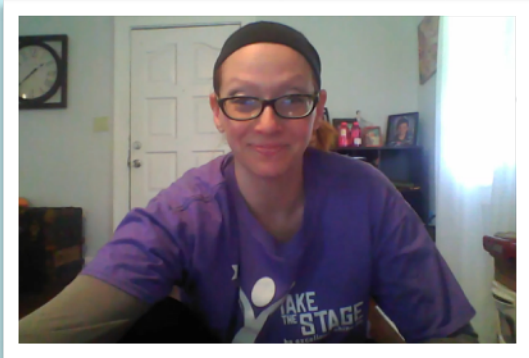
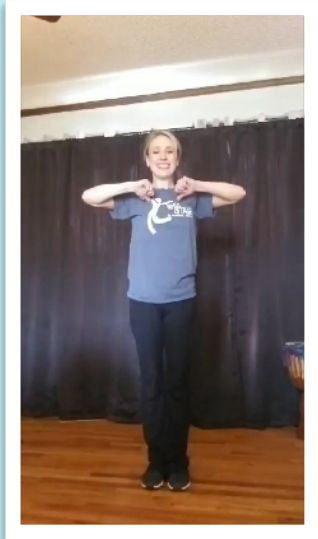
“It makes me feel I can trust myself.”
~Joe

WORK HARD

NEVER GIVE UP

DO YOUR BEST

BE HEALTHY



In 2019-2020

Take the Stage

- Served schools where 94% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch, 25-70% are English language learners, 72% represent minorities and 25% have an IEP
 - **SHORT RESIDENCIES**
 - Trailwoods Elementary (KCPS): 4th grade
 - Whittier Elementary (KCPS): 3rd Grade
 - M.E. Pearson Elementary: 5th Grade
 - Holy Cross School: 2nd Grade
 - Our Lady of Hope School: 1st Grade
 - **LONG-TERM RESIDENCIES**
 - Hartman Elementary
 - Holy Cross School
 - Our Lady of Hope
 - Hosted 3 in-school Bold Moves Assembly presentations with live music
 - Provided highly motivated students from multiple partner school 15 weeks of advanced training in the TeamEXCEL! Program
 - Presented TeamEXCEL! in performance for the Bloch School of Management Case Study Workshop students at the Alexander Majors Barn.
- Presented TeamEXCEL! as part of the Virtual Kauffman Future Stages Festival
 - Connected Owen/Cox Dance Group member Christopher Page-Sanders with Whittier Elementary students
 - Conducted a workshop for Down Syndrome Guild of Kansas City
 - Produced video class content for partner schools to help children stay healthy and engaged during distanced learning.
 - Conducted 22 live classes via Zoom platform for partner schools
 - Engaged all 9 teaching artists
 - Provided Professional Development for TTS Teaching Artist through virtual workshops conducted by the National Dance Institute
 - Maintained connections for future programming by engaging in dialog with local institutions including: Truman Medical Center, UMKC Conservatory, KC Public Library, Kansas City Young Audiences, American Jazz Museum, Johnson County Community College and Strong City
 - Engaged in collaborative strategizing with the Associates of the National Dance Institute

Thank You

\$5,000-\$10,000

The Bright Futures Fund of Kansas City
Country Club Christian Church
Brad Cox
Estelle S. And Robert A. Long Ellis
Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts. Art Works
Frank and Margaret G. McGee Fund
Russell and Rebka Sakati

\$2,500-\$4,999

Missouri Arts Council
Leo Gilbert Wetherill Foundation

\$1,000-\$2,499

Lisa Choules (Eleve Dancewear)
Jan Schoonver
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George W. Ultch and Ada Memorial
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Jeffrey D. Zimmerman
Rod Parks
Kristen and Isam Sakati
Dana Seeley
Louis and Frances Swinken
Supporting Foundation

\$500-\$999

Colin Cox
Jennifer Tierney

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Kansas City Young Audiences
Kansas City Public Library
American Jazz Museum
UMKC Conservatory
Truman Medical Center
The Brave Creative
Tom Styrkowicz
Praxis Promotions
Megan Toal
Dégagé Dancewear

Take the Stage would like to thank donors at all levels for their support

Although TTS did not complete the year as planned, much was accomplished, and the Program has the potential to emerge stronger than ever as a result of remaining flexible, creative and persevering in the face of challenges. We so deeply appreciate the encouragement, help and support of so many in our family that allowed us these outcomes.

Keep Moving! Keep Dancing!



"I truly appreciate all you and your staff do for our kids. You go above and beyond. When the pandemic hit, most places would have just ended, but no, you and your staff kept going and keeping the kids involved through videos. You and your team are awesome....[T]he program is NOT just a job, but a connection to help these kids grow into individuals who always try, do their best and never give up. I hope we can continue to work with TTS for years to come."

~Sue Hoffman

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