



ACCENT DANCE NYC

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2023



Dear Friends of Accent Dance NYC,

As we look forward to celebrating our fifth anniversary this fall, we cannot thank you enough for your support in helping Accent Dance NYC have a successful year in school classrooms, on stage, and in the studio. It has been a year that has brought so much to those we care about— our students, professional dancers, teaching artists, and arts-education-lovers alike.

As you will read in this Annual Report, fiscal year 2023 was characterized by rapid expansion of our educational and professional programming. Among other milestones, the 4,424 school-aged students reached this year is nearly twice of all previous years combined!

Accent Dance is dedicated to arts education and concert dance performance. We support, educate, and empower underserved youth to develop their individual and collective voices through dance, to become creative leaders, and to shape their future for the better. We continue to expand and refine our programming to encourage the appreciation, study, and amplification of diverse cultures, histories and identities through an ever widening range of dance and musical forms. We also strive each year to incorporate new and timely activism elements and topical issues into both our educational and concert dance work, including themes touching upon social justice, identity, inclusion, and self-discovery.



At Accent Dance, we believe in the power of dance to transform lives.

As we near a fifth year milestone in 2023, we are ready to take our mission to the next level, further elevating the rich cultural heritages of the communities we serve.

Thank you for being part of the Accent Dance NYC family!

With gratitude,

Andrea Ziegelman

Executive and Artistic Director

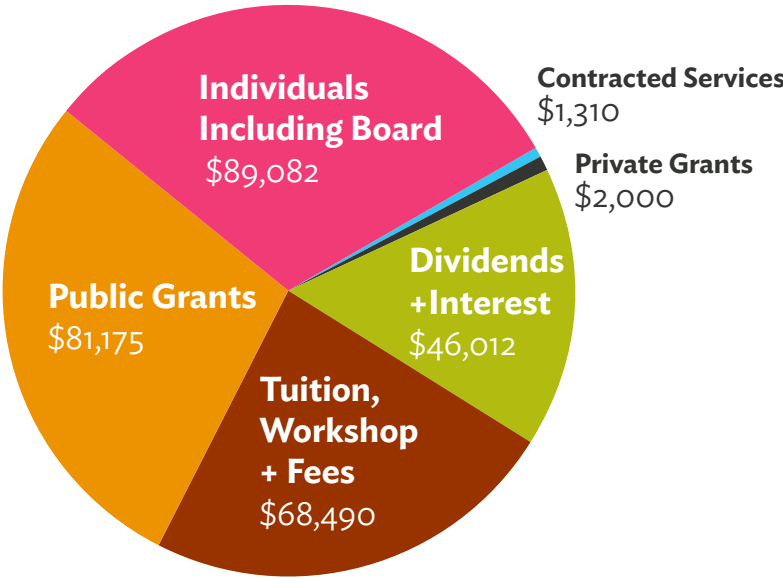


Making an Impact: A Year of Growth

Students prepare to perform at the New Rochelle Public Library for our YMCA Student Community Showcase event.

This year was characterized by rapid growth and development. Over the course of Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023), Accent Dance surpassed its goals through new collaborations and school partnerships, higher than projected revenue, and expanded school and community programming. Strengthening our educational initiatives and committed to serving more young people in marginalized and underserved communities, we reached over 4,400 new students with our engaging and immersive dance programming. It was exciting to inspire in one year almost as many school-age children as we had in our first four years of operation.

Our geographic footprint also continues to grow. We brought programming to the boroughs of the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn as well as the urban centers of New Rochelle in lower Westchester County. Thanks to all of our supporters, we raised money at record levels from individual donors plus our Board (\$89,082.37), the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (\$25,000), the New York State Council on the Arts (\$60,000) and tuition and workshop fees of \$68,489.59.



OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

Our November 2022 gala at the iconic Ballet Arts dance studio in Manhattan was a joyous affair, featuring dinner, dancing, live student and professional performances from our multicultural team of diverse artists. We also met our fundraising goal, which granted us the means to bring, among other things, our multicultural dance residencies and educational performances – free of charge – to five of our cherished partner schools. Students benefited from our wonderful teaching artists and performers, and were immersed in African dance, step, hip hop, tap, Latin dance, creative movement, folkloric music and dance traditions, and more. Students also participated in culminating performances for family, friends, and their school communities.

Funds raised at our annual gala also allowed us to purchase a beautiful new portable dance stage. This important capital investment opens an infinite number of possibilities for bringing live dance performances to communities in previously unsuitable locations, including city plazas, squares, playgrounds, and beyond.



Accent Dance NYC has provided programming in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, as well as lower Westchester County.

A commissioned work, *The Waters*, premiered at our fundraising gala in November of 2022.





The Gift of the Alebrijes, a commissioned work, at Teatro LATEA in lower Manhattan, was featured on WPIX 11 News.

OUR PROFESSIONAL COMPANY

Our professional company also extended in fresh directions, with new artists and choreographers joining our ranks from diverse dance disciplines. We dipped into this pool of talent, and commissioned work addressing topical issues. One featured work which premiered at our November 2022 gala was *The Waters*, which focuses on an indigenous tribe's struggles in New Mexico following decades of water contamination from a uranium mine. Taking inspiration from this project, we developed educational programs to directly engage students to nurture their power to raise awareness and spark change through their own art-based and community-building projects on urgent environmental and social justice issues. Notably, *The Waters* was the centerpiece of our educational workshop at the New Rochelle High School this spring, and involved several of our artists from the original cast, along with Ms. Coleman, working alongside the dance students from the high school to create new student-led sections of the piece. News 12 covered the workshop, which aired in connection with Earth Day.

We also recently engaged Will A. Ervin Jr., an emerging Black American choreographer, to create a new piece for the company about self love and identity, scheduled to premiere in September 2023.

EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCES, DANCE RESIDENCIES, AND CULMINATING PERFORMANCES

Throughout the year, we offered performances celebrating multiculturalism as well as special events, holidays, and cultures, including Hispanic heritage and Black history. These performances showcased Colombian and Mexican folklore, tango, salsa, contemporary ballet, hip hop, tap, African dance and live drumming. In February 2023, we brought our Black History Month programming to schools across the South Bronx. From exploring the ceremonial dances of Guinea, to the origins of tap dance, to hearing Martin Luther King's words in a new way, our educational program reached over 1,000 school-age children with lessons about culture, history, and acceptance. PIX11 News joined us at PS 55 in the Bronx to capture one of our educational performances, which aired in March 2023. One student remarked to the news team, "I like to see my people dance and do what they want." We also received positive feedback from participating educators who commented that students were engaged and found our program "awesome".

At the New Rochelle YMCA, where our comprehensive dance programming celebrated its first anniversary, youth studied dance-making, contemporary, African and Latin dance, jazz, hip hop, and more. Over 100 students participated in a December 2022 showcase for family, friends and the YMCA staff, and in the Spring of 2023, we deepened our connections at the YMCA by having students participate in a real-life stage experience at the New Rochelle Public Library in which students performed works of hip hop and African dance while also showing off stylized t-shirts and a rap they created during their exploration of hip hop culture. Over 130 family members and friends attended this joyous event.

The fiscal year ended in celebration and community-building. A showcase at Bronx High School of Science featured 80 students coming together to perform from our New York City public school partners and the New Rochelle High School. Accent Dance artists also performed works of African dance and drumming, hip hop, Colombian folklore and more.

Students perform at the New Rochelle Public Library for a culminating YMCA showcase in June.





NEW SENIOR STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

This year's successes also positioned us to hire a full-time Director of Educational Programming and Outreach, Kim Johnson. Kim's years of experience and passion for arts education have taken our programming to the next level. Since her start in March 2023, we have strengthened our core educational curricula, enhanced our communications with schools, provided teaching artists with regular educational guidance, signed additional schools for dance residencies and educational performances, retained several new senior teaching artists, and have experienced other important areas of program growth and development.

We also secured four additional Board members, and now boast an impressive and dedicated team of eleven change-makers with a diverse array of professional backgrounds, including leaders from Lincoln Center, biotech and financial services corporations, law firms, educational consulting firms, and public service.

The demographics of our staff, Board, artists, choreographers, and teaching artists represent our genuine commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, with over 40% identifying as either Hispanic or African American, and the majority of our company, teaching artists, and senior staff identifying as BIPOC.

Our Impact

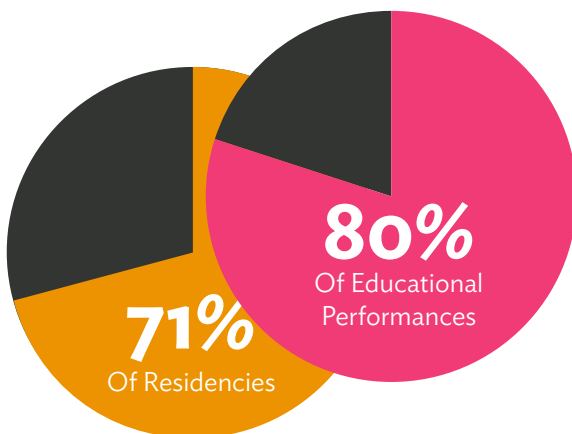
IN FISCAL YEAR 2023, WE:

IMPROVED MORE STUDENTS' LIVES



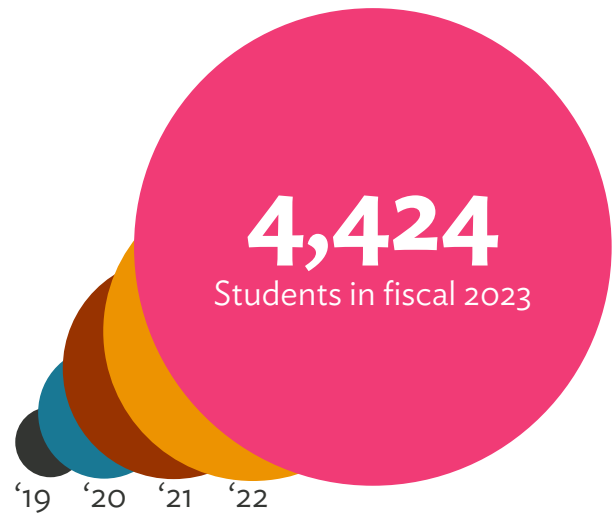
In a recent survey, 87% of our students reported a boost in confidence from the educational experience. 100% agreed it was “an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.” 100% also felt they gained information, learned new material and/or new skills.

PROVIDED MORE FREE PROGRAMS



Most of our programming is provided free of charge, including dance residencies featuring diverse dance forms– African, step, hip hop, Latin, contemporary, ballet, dance making and more. Educational performances celebrate African American and Hispanic history, women’s history and multiculturalism.

SERVED MORE STUDENTS



The 4,424 school-aged students reached this year is nearly twice the number of all previous years combined.

AND:

- Hired a full-time Director of Educational Programming & Outreach
- Secured four additional Board members, and now boast an impressive and dedicated team of eleven change-makers, including leaders from Lincoln Center, biotech and financial services corporations, law firms, educational consulting firms, and public service
- Achieved ongoing media coverage, including tv slots on PIX 11 News and Channel 12 News

Financial Overview

FY 23 (JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023)

Total Revenue	\$288,069.65
Total Expenditures	\$232,288.75
Net Revenue	\$55,780.90

BREAKDOWN OF REVENUE:

Fundraising Income	\$89,082.37
Total Grants	\$83,175.00
Tuition/workshop fees	\$68,489.59
Dividends and interest	\$46,012.29
Contracted services	\$1,310.40

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES:

Artistic Services	\$67,030.14
Salaries/payroll fees	\$65,201.43
Other Professionals	\$26,892.09
Technical/Production	\$14,884.19
Dues, Subscriptions & Software	\$4,601.72
Advertising/Promotion	\$9,933.95
Insurance	\$4,552.00
Equipment/Supplies	\$3,114.97
Event Catering	\$7,476.18
Financial Fees	\$11,972.44
Space Rental	\$10,701.07
Transportation/Misc	\$5,834.41

TOTAL ASSETS = \$1,891,756.28



Council on
the Arts



NYC Cultural
Affairs

ARTSW
ARTSWESTCHESTER

The Power of Dance Education to Change Lives

Our primary audience is school-aged students and community members with limited or no access to arts education programming, including students from low income households or living in temporary housing or shelters. Our audiences are majority African American, Latino/a/x, and Hispanic and live and/or attend school in historically marginalized and underserved areas, including the South Bronx and several neighborhoods in Brooklyn. The poverty rate is nearly 40% in some of these areas, and of the NYC schools we worked with in 2022, 97% of students were economically disadvantaged.¹



A [2008 study](#) showed a remarkable 18-point drop in high school dropout rates based on arts involvement in low-income demographic groups.

We present (and often combine!) a spectrum of multicultural and historical dance styles that are carefully chosen to appeal to our students.

Students from low-income groups with high arts involvement [are more likely](#) to earn college degrees and have better employment outcomes.

A [2007 study](#) showed that students who studied dance scored higher in measures of creative thinking, especially in the categories of fluency, originality, and abstract thought. [Additional studies](#) have shown a solid evidentiary correlation between studying the arts and improved learning in math, reading, and science. This reinforces what we have witnessed first-hand: how Accent Dance NYC's programming has positively and significantly impacted the lives of the children we serve.

¹(sources: data.nysed.gov, greatschools.org)



In Their Own Words

FROM OUR STUDENTS:

“[The Accent Dance teacher] helped me build more confidence in my dancing and open up more.”

—**Dance Residency Student**

“[Accent Dance] had a passionate goal to make us successful.”

—**Dance Residency Student**

“I first was introduced and exposed to the different forms and genres of dance that Accent Dance has to offer at my after school program . . . To this day, I realize that dance increased our self confidence and creative mindsets, which is why it is so important for arts education to be available to kids in education systems, especially in places of low income such as the South Bronx. The arts have had such a strong impact on my life, as well as on other friends that I have known. I am so proud and thankful that Accent Dance is one of the main reasons that I am who I am today.”

—**Former Dance Residency Student, now appearing in Off-Broadway production of *The Tempest***



FROM EDUCATORS:

“They ask: ‘can we have more programming like this, can we have more...more shows like this?’ We’re really really happy to be in partnership with Accent Dance!”

—**Vanessa Trichoche, Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education, The Bronx, NY**

“Thanks for being a wonderful collaborator and partner in dance education. Accent Dance truly enriches the experience for our students.”

—**Deepak Marwah, Director of Performing & Visual Arts (PK-12),
City School District of New Rochelle, New York**



“On behalf of the Y and Webster sites, thank you for organizing such an amazing event. The kids were so excited to be on stage and show off their hard work, even the shyest ones. Families were thrilled to see them perform. And the sense of community as families enjoyed a wholesome and free family event was quite evident based on the conversations, the laughter, the smiles and the prolonged gathering at the end of the show. It was beautiful. Please share our gratitude with the performers, especially the guest drummers and dancers, who took the show to the next level. Awesome!! Thank you for your professionalism, guidance and extraordinary focus to detail!”

—**LeMarie Laureano, Director Education, the New Rochelle YMCA**

“It was such an extraordinary and well-produced presentation for our students . . . [they] really connected to this as we are a school that takes time to celebrate culture and appreciated seeing our uniqueness as individuals. The various dances really portrayed this, and it was just so beautiful.”

—**Educator, PS 226 Elementary School in the Bronx**

“The kids had so much fun and it was great traveling around to different places through dance! There has been a LOT of chatter on the PTA page about how excited the kids were to tell their parents about the performances.”

—**Educator, Hutchinson Elementary School, Westchester County, NY**