



# Press Kit



## Background

### **Mission**

The mission of the Fort Wayne Dance Collective is to inspire and empower people of all ages and abilities through movement and rhythm.

### **Goal**

We believe that all people should have access to the arts because movement can change the world. This is accomplished through diverse programming that cares for both the mind and body. At FWDC we establish a strong, non-competitive and experimental foundation of dance and drumming training.

### **History**

Fort Wayne Dance Collective was formed in the summer of 1978 when five women met at a modern dance workshop sponsored by the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau. After the workshop, Cathy Craighead, Randy Levy, Liz Monnier, Krista Schloss and Lisa Tsetse decided to continue the momentum of creative expression by starting a non-profit modern dance organization. As a result of this momentum, Fort Wayne Dance Collective was born. In March of 1980 FWDC began supporting on-site classes, guest artists from New York City and San Francisco, and outreach programming.

In January of 1999, FWDC became a principal partner of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne. The following year they began offering a Taiko Drum Class, the first of such group in the state of Indiana. To this day, Fort Wayne Taiko is the only Taiko group in Northeast Indiana.

In the 2018/2019 academic year, FWDC served over 40,000 people throughout Northeast Indiana and has provided scholarships, work-study opportunities, community programming, classes and performances to this region for over 40 years.

## **Current Programming**

Each season, FWDC provides a diverse line-up of events to engage the Northern Indiana community with our passion for fostering the creative energy in everyone. Below is a selection of our upcoming special events.

## Events:

For a current look at our class schedule, please visit this [link](#)

## Outreach Programs:

[Dance for Community](#)

[Dance for Disabilities](#)

[Dance For Health](#)

[Dance in Education](#)

## Staff & Board

### Current Staff Members

FWDC is comprised of four full-time staff members. *Full bios may be obtained by clicking each staff members' name.*

[Elise Alabbas](#), Executive Director

[Mandie Kolkman](#), Artistic Director

[Ashley Benninghoff](#), Artistic Manager

[Stephanie Carlson](#), Development & Program Manager

[Cassie Herdon](#), Administrative Coordinator

### Current Board of Directors

Karissa Reeves, *Board President* - Parkview Health

Leslie Snare, *Vice President* – Account Executive, Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

Teresa Schomburg, *Treasurer* –AVP, Business Banker at First Federal Bank

Kathleen Alter – Internal Auditor, Parkview Health

Jared Baker – Attorney, Burt, Blee, Dixon, Sutton & Bloom, LLC.

Leslie Wade – Health Promotion Disease Prevention Program Manager, VA Northern Indiana Health Care System

Krista Schloss - Retired, North Adams Community Schools

Kathleen Martinez - Risk Analyst, Parkview Health

Megan Farris - Private Banker Support III, Old National Private Banking

## Collateral Material

### Style Guide

To obtain digital logo files, please follow this [link](#)

### Photos

Photos available upon request, please contact:

Mandie Kolkman, Artistic Director

Email: [mandie@fwdc.org](mailto:mandie@fwdc.org)

Phone: (260) 424-6574

## Contact Information

### Social Media

- a. [Facebook](#)
- b. [Twitter](#)
- c. [YouTube](#)
- d. [Instagram](#)

### Recent News

<http://fwdc.org/about/press/>

### Staff Contact

Elise Alabbas, Executive Director

E- Mail: [elise@fwdc.org](mailto:elise@fwdc.org)

Phone: (260) 424 – 6574

Address: 437 E Berry Street Suite 203, Fort Wayne, IN 46802