



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:

Onsite Classes - Classes in dance, drumming, and wellness are offered weekly. Visit fwdc.org/classes to view our schedule!

Choreographer's Lab Performances (May 1st and 2nd) - For over 35 years the Fort Wayne Dance Collective has supported the development of local artists by hosting the Choreographer's Lab, a workshop style intensive that gives professional creative and technical support to choreographers. FWDC's artistic staff guides participating artists through their creation process. Artists are also given rehearsal space, dancers to work with and the opportunity to work with lighting designer, Diane Gaby.

This year, the Choreographer's Lab will feature pieces with a focus on the city of Fort Wayne. Applicants are encouraged to create pieces that highlight our city's history, growth (past or present), resilience, and/or thriving arts community. Their final creations will be performed during a LIVE performance following our COVID protocols. We invite YOU to check out a performance and support the debut of NEW performance pieces! Interested in participating as a choreographer in the lab? [Click here to apply!](#)

June Family Concert (June 19th at 4pm) - This annual performance showcases the talents and creativity of the students and artists who take on-site classes with us.

FWDC has offered a variety of on-site classes since 1980! Visit fwdc.org/classes to view our current class schedule. Dance and Taiko classes will have the option of participating in the June Family Concert performed at the Arts United Center. Stay tuned for more information!

For a current look at our class schedule, please visit

fwdc.org/classes

Outreach Programs:

[Dance for Community](#)

[Dance for Disabilities](#)

[Dance For Heath](#)

[Dance in Education](#)

Staff & Board

Current Staff Members

FWDC is comprised of four full-time staff members. *Full bios may be obtained by visiting fwdc.org/staff-board/*

Lee Rainboth, Executive Director

Mandie Kolkman, Artistic Director

Rachel Jones, Development Director

Ashley Benninghoff, Artistic Manager

Sangeeta Reddy, Office Coordinator

Current Board of Directors

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

Jared Baker, *Vice President* - Attorney, Burt, Blee, Dixon, Sutton & Bloom, LLC.
Teresa Schomburg, *Treasurer*-Arts Advocate
Kathleen Martinez, *Secretary* - Risk Analyst, Parkview Health
Kathleen Alter - Director of Community Engagement & Leadership, Community Foundation
DeKalb County
Skip Balkenbush - President / CEO Balkenbusch & Associates, LLC
Megan Severe - Arts Advocate
Krista Schloss - Retired, North Adams Community Schools
Leslie Wade - Health Promotion Disease Prevention Program Manager, VA Northern Indiana
Health Care System

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

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

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