



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 2020-2021 fiscal year, FWDC served over 33,000 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 current schedule!

Halloween Show (October 22-24, 2021) - “Vodou Unveiled” is Fort Wayne Dance Collective’s 13th annual Halloween Show. This year’s immersive performances emanate from the Haitian culture of Vodou and will draw audiences into a ceremonial atmosphere of zombies, spirits, and magic. Dancers from the Fort Wayne community and the professional dancers of the FWDC Touring Company will perform pieces that feature hip hop, contemporary, and modern dance genres. With the inclusion of five guest artists from the Jacmel Arts Center of Jacmel, Haiti, the performances will also showcase dances inspired by Haitian culture to deliver a one-of-a-kind show! Live performances will be held at the Parkview Physicians Group ArtsLab.

Choreographer’s Lab Performances (March 5-6, 2022) - 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. More information will be available soon!

Guest Artist Residency (May 4, 2022) - The Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre and the Fort Wayne Dance Collective are thrilled to present Complexions Contemporary Ballet live at the Embassy Theatre on May 4, 2022. Stay tuned for ticket information, as well as workshops and master classes from May 2-3, 2022.

June Family Concert (June 18, 2022) - 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. Stay tuned for more information!

Outreach Programs:

[Dance for Community](#)

[Dance for Diverse](#)

[Abilities](#)

[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
Logan Bloir, Marketing & Communications
Manager
Hayley Barnfield, Program Coordinator
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
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Phone: (260) 424-6574

Contact Information

Social Media

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

Recent News

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

Staff Contact

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