



2022 was an exciting year of growth and achievement for Columbia Dance. Enrollment at the studio has dramatically increased, our INCLUDE Program for dancers with special needs was launched in October, and we successfully introduced our new locally themed Nutcracker to the community after years of planning and hard work. Our organization has continued its mission to develop and expand vital community partnerships. As we navigate a return to normalcy in a post-pandemic society, Columbia Dance is proud to emphasize and expand upon our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

2022 AT A GLANCE

- \$11,000 in financial aid awards
- 7 weeks of INCLUDE classes
- 500 Nutcracker tickets donated to low income families
- 125 audience members for our sensory friendly performances
- 1,654 public school students studying our Nutcracker curriculum and seeing a live performance
- 5,370 members of our community joining our Nutcracker audiences

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Our mission is to enrich lives through dance and we are grateful to our community partners who have helped us reach more people than ever this year.

- Fort Vancouver National Park
- Vancouver Public Schools
- Evergreen Public Schools
- SHARE
- Clark County Food Bank
- YWCA & More

SCHOOL UPDATE

Our studio saw unprecedented growth this year, with **studio enrollment up 13% for the 2022-2023 School Year and up 30% for our Summer Intensives.** Columbia Dance believes any child who wishes to dance should be able to do so, and that cost should not be a deterrent. **With donor support, we provided over \$11,000 in financial aid in 2022.** Columbia Dance believes in taking good care of its staff, and investing in them. **Our board of directors approved a pay increase for our dedicated instructors and an employer sponsored retirement fund,** which is almost unheard of in the dance world for a studio of our size. One of our instructors shared with us this sentiment-

"In my 17 years as a dance instructor I've never felt as valued, respected, or as cared for as I do at Columbia Dance."

● NUTCRACKER DEBUT

December 16th was the world premiere of the new Columbia Dance production of The Nutcracker. The ballet, and its unique ties to the history of Southwest Washington, was prominently featured in the local media prior to opening night including by Oregon Public Broadcasting. Our 2022 Nutcracker hosted **5,370 audience members**, a new record for us. We worked with local partners to provide **500 free performance tickets to low-income families**. In addition, we collaborated with Vancouver Public Schools on Nutcracker curriculum that was studied by every VPS 3rd grader and culminated in **1,654 school students attending a school day matinee** of the production. We also hosted a **sensory-friendly performance, attended by 125 audience members**, including families with members on the autism spectrum or with other sensory challenges.



Thank you for your belief in and support of our work! We would not be able to fulfill our mission of enhancing life through dance without the support of our donors.

● INCLUDE PROGRAM

INCLUDE stands for: Inspiring, with **No Challenges or Limitations**, the **Universality of Dance Experiences**. The INCLUDE program is adaptive dance instruction for children with special needs such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, and related disabilities. After years of pandemic delay, we were thrilled to **launch our first INCLUDE 7 week session in 2022**. This inaugural offering was incredibly successful and **we look forward to 2 more sessions in 2023**.

In the words of occupational therapist and INCLUDE volunteer, Kelly Budnick,

"INCLUDE enables children of varying abilities to be creative and active in a welcoming environment. By providing children with accessible and responsive instruction, dancers are able to challenge and improve their balance, coordination, strength, and sensorimotor integration. Additionally, the benefits of INCLUDE extend beyond the child participants, as teenage mentors and teachers gain skills that empower inclusivity off the dance floor and in the larger community."

● DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Columbia Dance's mission is to enrich lives through dance. Whether it is in our studio classrooms or in our theater audiences, we aim to create an **inclusive environment that brings the benefits of dance to as many people as possible**. In 2022 we formed a DEI committee dedicated to continually evaluating our effectiveness towards this goal and to exploring ways we can grow and improve. The committee's insight has been incredibly valuable and we are excited to continue viewing our work through their lens.