2024 PROGRAM BOOK

Celebrating 30 Years!

W MEXICO

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES, ONE DANCE STEP AT A TIME.



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THE ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF NDI AND CELEBRATES THEIR GOOD WORK AND IMPRESSIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS OF NEW MEXICO. CONGRATULATIONS ON 30 YEARS OF MAKING AN IMPACT.



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COMPANY AND

Teaching Children Excellence!

NDI NEW MEXICO

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THE DANCE BARNS 1140 Alto Street Santa Fe, NM 87501 Phone 505.983.7646

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Welcome to today's performance and thank you for being here. Your presence and support of the young people on stage is an important part of our community. We expect you will see the impact of NDI New Mexico's programs and the pride of accomplishment on the smiling faces of the performers. Together we will cheer their commitment, personal effort, and achievement in reaching this moment.

Dear Friends

This year marks NDI New Mexico's 30th anniversary as a statewide nonprofit organization. Thirty years ago, NDI New Mexico was founded with the big dream of inspiring children through an engaging performing arts program. We believe that an excellent instructor who teaches with care, joy, and a high standard of excellence can be life-changing for a child. Since our inception, over 150,000 children have experienced NDI New Mexico's values of working hard, doing one's best, never giving up, and being healthy. We are grateful for the support of so many individuals, businesses, foundations, government entities, and public-school partners for helping us reach this incredible milestone.

As part of this landmark year, NDI is renewing our commitment to children, families, and New Mexico communities through the launch of a new strategic plan. This plan will help us continue to serve students across the state while deepening our impact through program quality and our commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. The plan also includes a financial model to support our stability and sustainability as we serve the next generation of New Mexico youth.

We believe that a healthy, engaged, and confident youth is the future of our state and look forward to the next 30 years of teaching children excellence. We hope that you will be a part of it!

On with the show!



Pult Goz by Paul Cassidy

Paul Cassidy Board Chair



unellale

Russell Baker Executive Director



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2023-24 Statewide Programs



Our Mission

NDI New Mexico is founded with the knowledge that the arts have a unique power to engage and motivate children. The purpose of our distinctive programs is to help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence, and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all aspects of their lives.

Celebrating teaching excellence to over 150,000

children in the state of New Mexico since 1994







Stories of Inspiration & Impact

Over the past three decades, NDI New Mexico has touched the lives and hearts of many thousands of New Mexicans. All of them – children, parents, donors, community members, educators, and more – have their own special stories and memories of how NDI New Mexico has impacted them. And as the entire NDI New Mexico family looks to the next 30 years and beyond, we asked a few people to share their experiences, as well as their aspirations for the next generations of youth who participate in NDI New Mexico as a way to succeed and achieve their dreams.

(Jum/Mi Chelsea Aguiar

Chelsea Aquiar is the first to say she was a born performer. "My family has video of me belting out Whitney Houston songs when I was three years old," she said with a laugh. By age five she was taking dance lessons. She attended her first NDI New Mexico performance by age seven. "It was the biggest production I had ever seen, and I was so excited to dance with NDI New Mexico," she said.

Her NDI New Mexico career began, as it does for many children, with the in-school program she joined as a fifth grader at Atalaya Elementary School in Santa Fe. As a talented dancer and natural athlete, she quickly graduated to the SWAT team,

"My dance training at NDI prepared me for a level of professionalism that most people my age and in my industry did not yet have."

then was promoted to the Celebration team, all while taking classes at another dance school.

"What made NDI New Mexico special, and why I made it my home, was the lack of socio-economic divide that you see in many other dance schools," she said. "I always felt like a bit of an outsider at other dance programs. NDI made its environment and programs accessible to everyone, which created a safe and supportive environment. The instructors were very aware of every kid's life story and were very invested in who we were as people. It was my safe space, where I felt truly seen, and where I could make





mistakes and be held accountable but also be loved and supported."

Aguiar remained with NDI New Mexico throughout high school. She attended the North Carolina School for the Arts, studying contemporary dance, then moved to New York City to study acting. Like * so many 20-somethings trying to make it (and make rent) in a big city, she worked multiple jobs while studying acting and auditioning. One of those jobs, as a personal trainer, opened her up to the multi-faceted, entrepreneurial, and highly successful career she has today. She established a

private personal training business, which led to a successful fitness modeling career with companies such as Apple and Adidas, and a consulting business with clients such as Bowflex, Athleta, and Under Armour.

"My dance training at NDI New Mexico prepared me for all of it," she said. "I had a level of professionalism that most people my age and in my industry did not yet have. I knew how to speak with agents and executives, how to present myself in different environments, and how to treat all people with respect. All of that had to do with NDI New Mexico and dance."

Aguiar continues to live in New York City. She is now mother to a three-year-old daughter who, to no one's surprise, loves to dance. Aquiar's career has continued to evolve and thrive. She still models, maintains a robust list of clients in her personal training business, and works as a product development consultant in the fitness industry. Her most recent endeavor is consulting with Hudson River Trading, an algorithmically based, high-frequency trading fund, helping the company develop health- and performance-focused employee programs and initiatives.

"A lot of what made me feel I could do these * things with confidence and success came from my experience with NDI New Mexico and the core belief they instilled in all of us: We are valuable, we do matter, we can succeed, we can contribute, we can bring excellence into other spaces,"

Alummi Bourd Member

Jesse Martinez

"For decades, NDI New Mexico has been a beacon to thousands of children across the state, helping guide them in all aspects of their lives. The young people who have grown up with the program and gone on to personal and professional success consistently say that their involvement with NDI New Mexico was among the pivotal experiences in their lives. Dance has a special meaning to every individual, but when a child's unique expressiveness is combined with a caring community of peers and adults, that child thrives. When a young person learns how to work hard, do their best, and perform as part of a team in front of an audience, there's nothing that can stop them in life! NDI New Mexico enables young people to experience friendship, creative passion, and deeply meaningful experiences with peers as well as dedicated instructors, staff and musicians. I see a future in which NDI New Mexico continues to build and expand throughout the state, helping to shape news generations of New Mexico youth and giving them the skills and goals to succeed in this ever-changing world."











Elisha Wray, Kaylee Dorgan, and Dominic Romero

Santa Fe resident Elisha Wray has a notable position within the NDI New Mexico family: In the early 1990s she was one of the very first NDI New Mexico participants, dancing with co-founder Catherine Oppenheimer as a third grader at Carlos Gilbert Elementary School. Her father, a Santa Fe firefighter and paramedic, served as a volunteer at NDI New Mexico's early public performances. And now, nearly 30 years later, Wray's two children - Kaylee Dorgan, age 15, and 11-year-old Dominic Romero - are NDI New Mexico dancers.

"We are a three-generation NDI New Mexico family," Wray said, adding that she remained with the program through junior high school. "I took to it immediately," she said. "I loved dancing, and I loved the instructors, all of whom had professional backgrounds." The idea that a talented girl like herself living in a small town could study dance with world-renowned artists "didn't seem attainable in Santa Fe until NDI New Mexico was established. It was like being in a movie."

Wray has fond memories of the "old pink church," which was NDI New Mexico's original home, and performing at The Dance Barns when it officially opened in 2003. She also has vivid memories of how her time with NDI New Mexico helped shape her as an adult, professional and parent.

"The discipline and commitment to excellence absolutely informed me as an adult, as did the commitment to the local community and its people. It's something that I have always instilled in my children."

She noted that Kaylee and Dominic benefited from NDI New Mexico's expanded programming over the years, which enabled them to participate as toddlers in classes such as Creative Movement. "Kaylee took to it immediately," Wray said. "Dominic was a bit shy at first, but by the second year he loved it as well. At this point, they have been dancing with NDI New Mexico nearly their entire lives."



She added that both children always felt very welcomed at NDI New Mexico. "In school, there can be competitiveness and negativity for kids, whereas The Dance Barns has always been a safe space, where all kids are embraced as the people they are."

Wray, and NDI New Mexico, have every reason to celebrate Kaylee and Dominic. Kaylee was a standout in both the SWAT and Celebration teams, excelling in ballet. She is currently enrolled in the New Mexico School for the Arts,





with a focus on dance. Dominic is a member of SWAT and excels at jazz technique. He also plays piano and trombone. In addition, both children continue the family tradition of community engagement as volunteers for Assistance Dogs of the West.

"I'm very proud of Kaylee and Dominic," Wray said. "They never give up. Once they set their minds to something, they figure out how to achieve their goal. And a lot of that stems from the discipline they learned at NDI New Mexico."





Top: Elisha with her children, Kaylee and Dominic; From left: Elisha as an NDI New Mexico dancer; Kaylee and Dominic at the Dance Barns; Kaylee and Dominic today!





<u>Ulummi</u>

Jerry Moyle

When third-grader Jerry Moyle showed up one day at his Albuquerque elementary school gymnasium, he was expecting a game of dodgeball. Instead, Moyle encountered an enthusiastic NDI New Mexico dance instructor and a musician seated at a piano. "I thought, 'Wow, this is kind of cool," said Moyle, now 25 years old.

"From there, my love of dance just snowballed," Moyle said. "I had so much fun every time we danced, and especially when we were able to perform in front of an audience. Dancing made me feel like somebody - like I was really being seen as the person I was."

Moyle said that school was challenging for him as a child. He had a hard time focusing on his classwork, was overrun with energy, and found it difficult forming friendships. "Social situations just felt tricky for me, even as a young person," he said. "I just had a hard time reading the room, so to speak. But when I discovered NDI New Mexico, none of that mattered. I felt no judgement there. It was all about laughing, having fun and learning."

A natural dancer but a shy individual, Moyle screwed up his courage in the sixth grade to ask an NDI New Mexico instructor if he could audition for the Super Wonderful Advanced Team. He was, of course, welcomed to the program, and his progression as a dancer, student and individual blossomed from there. He remained with NDI New Mexico until his freshman year in high school. "At that point, I felt I had to really focus on my academics, which is also something I learned through my time with NDI New Mexico." In addition to gaining confidence in new skills, burning off his ample energy and gaining confidence, Moyle added that the sense of community at NDI New Mexico was instrumental in his personal growth. "I am the first to admit I was a handful as a kid," he said with a laugh. "I wanted to be goofy and have fun."

"The staff at NDI New Mexico was so caring and supportive, yet they also understood how to help me channel my energy in a productive way."

"I also formed a lot of close friendships with other kids who had similar issues. We all felt like we fit in at NDI New Mexico, even if we didn't always feel we fit in elsewhere."

After graduating from high school, Moyle enrolled at the University of New Mexico as a math and computer science major. "Honestly, I really struggled with motivation. Computers just weren't a passion for me," he said.

After taking a break from college, he re-enrolled, majoring in psychology, which he finds more rewarding. "I'm working and going to school, so it's a little exhausting, but I know how to stay organized and focused, which are skills I strengthened through NDI New Mexico. I know how to be responsible but also enjoy myself."

Moyle said that NDI New Mexico also helped him tap into his creative abilities beyond dance. "I discovered what it was to not only be a dancer but to be an artist through NDI New Mexico," he said. A natural singer, Moyle has been a member of University of New Mexico's a cappella group, Something Major A Cappella, for the past six years. "I just love singing," said. "It's so much fun and I thank NDI New Mexico for giving me the confidence to pursue it."



Patrick Martinez

Junni

Patrick Martinez, 37, began his NDI New Mexico experience like so many other children: participating as an elementary school student in the in-school program. "I enjoyed it from the very beginning," Martinez said. "Even as a little kid I loved dancing. I saw it as a cool opportunity to dance at school."

Martinez graduated from the in-school program to SWAT, then advanced again to Celebration Team and Company XCel as he continued to develop his dance skills. Along the way he participated in a variety of dance styles and disciplines, but his favorite remained tap. "It's just so much fun," he said. "I loved it immediately. There's something special about the constant feedback you get from the sound and movement of tap dancing."

Martinez participated in NDI New Mexico until his junior year of high school, accumulating countless memories he continues to cherish. For example, he was chosen to participate in a month-long dance program in New York City when he was in 7th grade, staying with a host family and experiencing a big city for the first time. "A few performances also really stand out," he said, noting that he participated in the iconic "Lights, Camera, Action!" performance at the historic Lensic Theater in downtown Santa Fe. "I was also lucky enough to be selected as one of the dancers to represent NDI New Mexico Co-Founder Jacques d'Amboise in a performance dedicated to him. That was an honor."

Martinez is now 37 years old, a father of three and executive director of facilities for Rio Rancho Public Schools. When asked how NDI New Mexico informed his life as a busy professional and parent, he did not hesitate. "Gaining confidence was one of the biggest ways NDI New Mexico impacted me," he said. "I learned how to perform in front of people, which can initially be very intimidating when you're young. But I learned how to express myself in front of people and learned how to play a role within a larger group. That really resonated with me as an adult. I learned how to be present, to try new things with confidence and that if you make a mistake, it's OK - you just keep trying until you get it right."

When asked what he would say to other parents considering NDI New Mexico for their children, Martinez did not hesitate. "I would tell them that NDI New Mexico gave me the opportunity to experience many events and special moments that were very important, and which I simply would not have experienced otherwise. It's just so valuable for so many reasons."





Bourd Member Diane Doniger

"After my husband Pete and I relocated to New Mexico 27 years ago, I decided to find a way to learn about our new state and community. I was introduced to NDI New Mexico and immediately fell in love! I had previously worked for nonprofits that supported children and families, and so the message and mission of the NDI New Mexico went straight to my heart.

I have been privileged to work with the committed staff, dedicated board of directors, and many donors, and they all agree that NDI New Mexico fosters self-esteem, confidence, work ethic, and appreciation for the arts and health and fitness in each child it reaches. This encouragement allows the children to overcome challenges and have their own goals for the future. NDI New Mexico dreams big and has an equally large impact! I thank everyone who has joined me in helping the children of NDI New Mexico reach spectacular heights. Let's see what else can be done over the next 30 years!"









1 Joyor

Carolina Girimonte

"Although I'm in California, 1,300 miles from New Mexico, I always feel connected to NDI New Mexico. My heart knows no distance. For me, NDI New Mexico is a joyous miracle. Students dance into music, mistakes, mastery, and discovery of themselves. That discovery comes with, in my opinion, the most important life skill: learning how to learn.

Learning to learn, I believe, is the passport to a productive and happy life. In NDI New Mexico's safe, caring, healthy, rigorous, and fun environment, a student's learning ability seems to come to life. When I watch a student perform, I see hard work and inspiration. I see curiosity and passion. I see joy and determination. I see learning come alive. I see the child's potential expand.

I see NDI New Mexico's 30-year investment supporting the well-being of children as they become thriving adults. I see the possibility these children will one day impact social issues like knowledge and income disparity, and so much more. I see hope for our collective future over the next 30 years and beyond.

I'm filled with gratitude. We are all connected. Thank you, NDI New Mexico!"





NDI New Mexico has a culture of assessment and commitment to continuous improvement of our programs on behalf of the state's children.

The demonstrably positive impact of NDI New Mexico programs on children's academic performance and personal well-being are crucial as our state continues to grapple with issues such as poverty and sub-par academic performance. This has led us to sponsor many independent studies over nearly two decades to better understand and confirm the link between participation in our programs and children's academic, physical, and social performance, as well as their personal sense of well-being. NDI New Mexico has supplemented this research with our own surveys of students, alumni, parents, teachers, and principals. While the methodologies, data sets, and focus areas have varied, the overarching results show that students who participate in NDI New Mexico programs have higher test scores in writing, math, science, and reading, and also have higher grade point averages than peers. Past analyses have also shown that children participating in the organization's programs have demonstrated improvements in overall physical health, as well as gains in skills such as self-control, focus, planning, and prioritization.

The University of New Mexico Center for Education Policy Research conducted a study over two academic years of more than 41,000 students grades three through nine, comparing grade point averages and standardized test scores of those who participated in NDI New Mexico programs and those who did not. In some groups, NDI New Mexico students had, on average, GPAs a full point higher than their peers in their school district. Overall, NDI New Mexico



In standardized assessments and writing, math, science, and reading, Advanced Training students outperformed their peers by 6% - 17%.



NDI New Mexico Advanced Training students had 10 or fewer absences during an academic year compared to 15-20 absences by peers.

students' GPAs were 30%-42% higher than their peers. In standardized assessments in math, reading, writing, and science, NDI New Mexico students outperformed their peers by 6%-17%.

Importantly, all NDI New Mexico students had significantly higher increases in all outcomes related to health and behaviors compared to their peers, with the greatest gains related to working hard, self-confidence, achieving excellence, tenacity, and goal-setting. NDI New Mexico students also showed impressive gains in teamwork, academic engagement, attempting new things, and focusing in class.

In late 2020, NDI New Mexico announced the findings of an academic evaluation report conducted with The University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center and designed to understand the relationship between children's participation in NDI New Mexico's Advanced Training programs and school-related outcomes, including school attendance, academic performance, and disciplinary behavior. The results, which reflected the 2015-2019 academic years, were impressive:

 Students who participated in NDI New Mexico's Advanced Training programs were more likely to be proficient in math, reading, and science standardized testing compared to children who did not participate. NDI New Mexico's Advanced Training participants had 1.5-2.5 times higher odds of being proficient on standardized tests in those subjects.

- Students involved in the Advanced Training program were also less likely to be chronically absent from school compared to students who did not participate. Students participating in Advanced Training programs had about 1.5-2 times the odds of having 10 or fewer absences during an academic year.
- The odds of having disciplinary infractions at school were also lower among children in NDI New Mexico's Advanced Training programs compared with non-participants. Students who participated in the Advanced Training programs had 2.7 times statistically lower odds of having disciplinary infractions on record.

What remains true year after year, and study after study, is that NDI New Mexico's unique approach of using the creative arts as the catalyst for helping children develop critical life skills such as confidence, discipline, and healthy habits is a powerful weapon in New Mexico's fight against societal issues that negatively impact its youth.

As we begin our fourth decade of teaching children, NDI New Mexico will launch a new program evaluation to assess our impact on the outcomes of our programs tied to our Impact Model for Children and Families. We are committed to learning how we can be better and to helping young people be their best in school and in life. We look forward to sharing the results of this new program evaluation with the community.



Who We Serve

This year we will serve more than 8,000 children, partnering with 271 public school teachers in 90 schools, in 29 communities around the state. In addition we will deliver 200,000 hours of instruction time.

NDI New Mexico programs provide access and opportunity for children across the state: 67% qualify for Federal Free or Reduced Cost Meal Program; 63% are Hispanic, 19% Anglo, 9% Native American/Alaskan Native, 6% Multiracial, Asian/Pacific Islander, African American. We are committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.



OUR, PARTNER

"NDI New Mexico opens a world for our students in a way that no other program can. We talk a great deal about the importance of social/emotional health and learning. **NDI simply makes** that a reality!"

Albuquerque Public School Teacher

21st Century Public Academy Adobe Acres Elementary Alameda Elementary Alamosa Elementary Bandelier Elementary Bel Air Elementary Chamiza Elementary Cochiti Elementary Colinas del Norte Elementary Comanche Elementary E.G. Ross Elementary East San Jose Elementary Edward Gonzales Elementary **Hodgin Elementary** Inez Science and Technology Magnet Janet Kahn School of Integrated Arts Magnet **Kirtland Elementary** La Mesa Elementary Longfellow Dual Language Magnet Los Ranchos Elementary Maggie Cordova Elementary Monte Vista Elementary Montezuma Elementary **Mountain View Elementary** North Valley Academy **Osuna Elementary Puesta del Sol Elementary Reginald Chavez Elementary** Sandia Base Elementary Sandia Vista Elementary Susie Rayos Marmon Elementary Whittier Elementary

Alcalde Elementary **Chimayo Elementary** E.T. Salazar Elementary Hernandez Elementary James H. Rodriguez Elementary **Ohkay Owingeh Community School** Pablo Roybal Elementary School Tony E. Quintana Elementary

Acequia Madre Elementary **Aspen Community Magnet School Atalaya Elementary Carlos Gilbert Elementary El Camino Real Academy Gonzales Community Kearny Elementary** Nina Otero Elementary Salazar Elementary **Sweeney Elementary Turquoise Trail Elementary**

ARTESIA **Central Elementary** Hermosa Elementary **Roselawn Elementary Yeso Elementary Yucca Elementary** Grand Heights Early Childhood CARLSBAD **Cottonwood Elementary** CUBA Cuba Elementary DULCE **Dulce Elementary** GALLUP **Red Rock Elementary** HATCH **Rio Grande Elementary** HOBBS **Booker T. Washington Elementary Broadmoor Elementary** Jefferson Elementary Sanger Elementary Southern Heights Elementary **Stone Elementary Taylor Elementary Will Rogers Elementary** LAS CRUCES Hermosa Elementary **Highland Elementary** LAS VEGAS Mike Mateo Sena Elementary **Sierra Vista Elementary LOS LUNAS Katherine Gallegos Elementary** LOVINGTON Yarbro Elementary MAGDALENA Magdalena Elementary RATON **Raton Intermediate School ROSWELL** Nancy Lopez Elementary Pecos Elementary SILVER CITY/BAYARD/SANTA CLARA **Central Elementary G.W. Stout Elementary** Harrison Schmitt Elementary **Jose Barrios Elementary** SOCORRO **Cottonwood Valley Charter** Midway Elementary **Parkview Elementary** San Antonio Elementary **TAOS/RANCHOS DE TAOS Enos Garcia Elementary Ranchos de Taos Elementary TULAROSA** Tularosa Elementary WAGON MOUND Wagon Mound Elementary

Address of the second s

NDI New Mexico's fundamental belief is that all children have the capacity to learn to work hard, never give up, do their best, and ultimately experience success. Whether children dance with us for one year, or come back year after year, we know their experience has a positive and lasting impact on the way they see themselves and move through the world. "I have a dream that no one will be judged by the size of their body or the color of their skin, but that they will be treated the way they want to be treated and seen the way they want to be seen."

NDI New Mexico Student



In-School Program

NDI New Mexico In-School classes are taught at public elementary schools during the school day as part of the schools' curriculum. These joyful and energetic classes are taught by highly trained NDI New Mexico instructors and professional pianists. In-School classes serve an entire grade level (3rd, 4th, or 5th) and are fully inclusive of all children in a class, including those with special needs. Children in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, Pecos, Pojoaque, and the Española Valley receive 15-30 weekly classes throughout the school year and finish their program with exciting culminating performances. All NDI New Mexico In-School classes are free of charge for children and their families.

Advanced Teams

Many students who are exposed to NDI New Mexico in their public schools demonstrate extraordinary motivation and enthusiasm for the effort and energy this instruction requires. These students are invited to audition to join our Advanced Teams, offered in ten communities throughout the state. Advanced Training happens after school or on Saturdays and starts in the 4th-grade with SWAT (Super • Wonderful Advanced Training) and continues into middle school with the Celebration Team.

HIP to Be Fit ®

TOBE

VDI NEW ME

BE HEALTHY is one of our Core Four messages for how to be excellent in everything you do. We are committed to helping our students develop health and wellness. NDI New Mexico's HIP to Be Fit® curriculum is embedded in all our programs and teaches the importance of exercising, making healthy lifestyle choices, and eating well to improve stamina, performance, and endurance. Our goal is to make a positive impact on the well-being of New Mexico's children and their families by encouraging healthy habits.





"Among the many important foundational elements to NDI New Mexico is the commitment to live musical accompaniment."

~ Kusse Executive Director, NDI New Mexico



Residency Program

Our traveling Residency team brings music and dance to children in rural and urban communities in all corners of New Mexico. The Residency team lives in each community for one to three weeks, conducting daily In-School classes that culminate in exciting, interactive performances in gyms and theaters for their friends and families. Schools, dancers, and communities look forward to NDI New Mexico's visits each year.









After-School

THE DANCE BARNS & THE HILAND THEATER Children ages 3-18 come to The Dance Barns in Santa Fe and The Hiland Theater in Albuquerque each week to participate in high-quality dance and performance training in creative movement, ballet, modern dance, jazz, tap, hip-hop, and more. Classes range from beginner to pre-professional levels and are taught by inspiring instructors using their technical dance expertise along with the NDI New Mexico philosophy and teaching methods. These classes are open to all children in the community. Tuition for these programs is offered on a sliding scale, ensuring that every child has the opportunity for an enriching after-school experience. Whether children are exploring their first experience in dance, taking classes for creative expression and exercise, or have their sights set on a career in the performing arts, our After-School programs build a sense of achievement in a nurturing and noncompetitive atmosphere.

Teaching Excellence[®]

NDI New Mexico is committed to developing highly trained instructors to deliver our award-winning instruction to children across the state. Instructors are the backbone of our programs, and their expertise is vital to a child's engagement and success. Our Teaching Excellence® workshop is a critical building block for training our instructors to develop the skills needed to conduct fast-paced, dynamic, and engaging classes. During the two-week intensive, participants work with children alongside our own master teachers and are immersed in hands-on training in NDI New Mexico's highly engaging, fun, and athletic teaching methodology. To register and for more information, see page 74 or visit our website at ndi-nm.org.



"This methodology benefited me so much as an aspiring dance educator. I learned not only how to inspire kids to dance, but also to become better people through dance!"





New Programs!

As part of its 30th anniversary celebration, and as it looks to serve even more children and their families in coming decades, NDI New Mexico has launched two significant new programs.



Teaching

In Residence

In November of last year, NDI New Mexico announced its inaugural Teaching Artist in Residence Program, designed as a unique opportunity to expand the organization's relationships with world-class choreographers, dancers, and other artists, and to further its mission to help New Mexico youth develop critical life skills and realize their full potential through engagement with the arts.

The first teaching artist in residence was Dana Tai Soon Burgess. A native of Santa Fe and graduate of Santa Fe High School, Dana is a world-recognized choreographer, dancer, cultural figure, and founder of the Washington, D.C.-based Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company. Dana has served as a Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. State Department for 30 years and is the first-ever choreographer in residence at The Smithsonian Institution. In addition to teaching and choreographing for our students, Dana and his company participated in an array of events including master classes, choreograhy workshops for staff and the local dance community, and public events. His choreography was incorporated into NDI New Mexico's annual Spring into Motion performance, End-of-Year Event Dream Big!, and will be seen this summer at The Hiland Theater as part of our Summer Arts Festival. Learn who the 2025 Teaching Artist in Residence will be this May on NDI New Mexico's website TAIR page: ndi-nm.org/tair.

"When I teach a piece, I ask everyone how they feel about the subject. We don't judge individuals for their beliefs. We want to understand everyone's side. NDI's spring show is called Dream Big!, about important dreamers in history. It's a universal need to seek a home where you can feel safe. Where you can dream."

Innagural Teaching Artist in Residence



"We are very excited about this first-ever event, which will provide an entirely new opportunity for us to engage with our current **NDI New Mexico families** in meaningful ways, as well as an opportunity for us to welcome newcomers to explore and enjoy all that we have to offer."

Artistic Director, NDI New Mexico

The Hiland

Arts Festiva

In the Summer of 2024, NDI New Mexico will be hosting its first-ever Summer Arts Festival at The Hiland Theater in Albuquerque. This multi-week, multi-faceted festival represents a new opportunity for families to engage more deeply with NDI New Mexico and is intended to position The Hiland Theater as an important arts, cultural, and youth development hub for the city of Albuquerque.

The festival will offer creative and cultural opportunities for locals of all ages, including: • Dance programs and summer camps ranging from "early steps" classes ideal for the youngest of children, to musical theater and hip-hop classes for middle- and highschool students, and classes for all levels in ballet, jazz, contemporary, and more. • Family movie nights with food trucks, giveaways, free dance classes, and new incentives for NDI New Mexico class registration.

- around the Southwest.
- vendors, family fun, and games and free dance classes.





• The highly popular "Summer Soul-stice Jam," featuring an array of hip-hop dance demonstrations, competitions, and appearances by renowned hip-hop dancers from

 Summer Community Day, welcoming NDI New Mexico families and Albuquerque residents for a celebration of international dance and culture, as well as arts and crafts

Your years of dedication to our Core Four values -WORK HARD, DO YOUR BEST, NEVER GIVE UP, AND BE HEALTHY have given you the tools you need to succeed in life. We are very proud of each of you, and know that you will carry the memories and friendships you have made through NDI New Mexico into your futures.

Our Graduates



MYA (MJ) HODGKISS Turquoise Trail Charter School





ARIANA PORRAS Jefferson Middle School



AMAYA CARREON Santa Fe Prep



FINDLEY JOHNSTON Mandela International Magnet School





CAMILA TAPIA Nina Otero Community School



ARIEL MARTINEZ Pojoaque Middle School

Congratulations.to our Celebration Team graduates from Albuquerque and Santa Fe! From your first In-School program at your elementary school through your participation on the Super Wonderful Advanced Team (SWAT) and Celebration Team, you have shown commitment, tenacity, and teamwork as you endeavored to exemplify excellence.

ALONDRA (LOLA) **ONTIVEROS TRETO Capital High School**



ASHER GONZALES Santa Fe Prep

KAYLEE DORGAN New Mexico School for the Arts

Give the Gift of Excellence

Every donation makes a difference that can last a lifetime for a child.

Your generous investment in NDI New Mexico provides access to excellence for thousands of undeserved children and creates opportunities for youth in our state to build better futures. Our work is guided by our belief in children, as well as our commitment to social responsibility, excellence, sustainability, and financial integrity. To ensure program sustainability, we depend on and are grateful to our diverse funders.



"I have come to fully understand the special power of dance to engage children and the NDI mission 'to help children develop discipline, a standard of excellence and a belief in themselves that will carry over into all aspects of their lives.' The inclusiveness of NDI's creative programming, the dedication and sensitivity of the artistic staff and dance instructors, and the commitment of its leadership have an extraordinary impact on our children."

Kate Moss, NDI New Mexico Board of Directors Vice Chair

Ways to Give

A gift to NDI New Mexico can be made in a number of different ways – as a bequest, as a memorial or tribute to another person, as an online donation, or as a contribution to the NDI New Mexico endowment. All charitable donations help children achieve success and are tax-deductible.

DONATE ONLINE

www.ndi-nm.org/donate

JOIN A GIVING CIRCLE

Circle of Friends: \$1-\$999 Founders' Circle: \$1,000-\$4,999 Circle of Distinction: \$5,000-\$9,999 Circle of Excellence: \$10,000-\$99,999 Pillars of Excellence: \$100,000+

GIFTS OF SECURITIES Common stocks and mutual funds

PLANNED GIVING Bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities and Trusts, or IRA Rollovers

NDI NEW MEXICO ENDOWMENT

Support NDI New Mexico's financial security and initiatives for today and tomorrow

"We believe excellence is possible and necessary for each student. NDI New Mexico's process and principles are about character building and learning in a fun way."

> Catherine Oppenheimer, Founding Artistic Director

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Make a tribute gift in honor of a joyous occasion or in memory of a loved one

FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

Grants and sponsorship opportunities support programs and events

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS AND UNITED WAY

Recommend or designate a gift to support NDI New Mexico programs

MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers will match gifts or volunteer hours donated

MONTHLY GIVING

Sustain NDI New Mexico programs with year-round impact

For more information or to make a donation, please contact Russell Baker, Executive Director russell@ndi-nm.org | 505.557.6044



Silver Syeakers

Your Legacy. Their Future. Your Dancing Footsteps Last Forever.

Thanks to the commitment and planning of our generous Silver Sneakers Legacy Society members today, children in New Mexico will continue to be inspired to work hard, do their best, never give up, and be healthy for many generations to come.

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"If NDI can provide an atmosphere where all of these children develop their self-esteem, learn about health and fitness, work in disciplined situations of mass cooperation, realize their own excellence, and have a good time dancing as well, then how can I not want to be involved? These children are the future good citizens of our world. I am so proud to be a part of this wonderful organization."

> Linda DiPaolo Love, NDI New Mexico Board Member & Silver Sneakers Member





NDI New Mexico is grateful for every gift we receive! Contributions to our various funds annual giving and event support, and capital and endowment gifts – are recognized from the time period March 15, 2023 to March 14, 2024. Please know that every effort has been made to present a complete and accurate list of our supporters. We apologize for any errors or omissions and appreciate your corrections.

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Thank you for your belief in us and for joining us in celebrating our children's success! Your gift is a statement of support of children's futures.







This year we gratefully welcome our NEW 10-year donors!

Larry Barker

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"I have a dream of love - love in yourself, in your family, in your community, love of your differences."

NDI New Mexico student





Generous support from local businesses and corporate foundations enhances our core programs, expands outreach, and sustains our commitment to organizational excellence.

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want to know is whether the person will work hard, do their best, and never give up."

Roxanna Meyers, Albuquerque business owner

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All the NDI New Mexico Dancers, Teachers, Musicians, Staff, Volunteers and Alumni! by Jesse Martinez

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NDI's 30th Anniversary by Pamela Fischer & Richard Fogel

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Our granddaughter, who studies dance at NDI New Mexico by Karen J. Armitage & John Curl

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Sheila Rosen by Mara Rapson

Danny Silver by Davia Nelson

Naila Wittenburg by Jean Erickson



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In loving Memory

In memory of our dear friend, long-time volunteer, and donor, NDI New Mexico honors the life, the family, and the friends of Medora Jennings. Medora was a champion of NDI New Mexico's mission and served in deeply meaningful ways including:

- Board Chair from 1999-2002
- Chair of Albuquerque's first Super Wonderful Irresistible Fundraising Team
- Co-Chair of The Dance Barns "Making the Move" Capital Campaign
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We are grateful for our 30th Anniversary Gala Supporters!

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"Children in New Mexico are our future. Anything I can do to help motivate and inspire them to lead better lives is incredibly important. Giving to the excellent programs and NDI now and in the future is the perfect vehicle."

Julia B. Bowdich, NDI New Mexico Board Member

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Thank you to the many guest artists who joined us this year to enrich the experiences of our dancers and collaborate with our staff: Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company; Luci Tapahonso and Lauren Camp; Audrey Derell; Urban Verbs; Breakin Hearts; Jen Aks; Natalie Benally; Devon Frieder; Gregory Maqoma; and Francisco Gella.

A warm thanks to Principal Christopher Lopez and Gonzales Community School and Principal Melissa Kovac and Sweeney Elementary School for donating rehearsal space. And to all our friends at Espanola Valley High School for hosting the North Show!

Thank you Sabra Romero, Volunteer and IPRA Coordinator-Equity, Diversity and Engagement Department at Santa Fe Public Schools.

Thank you to the many schools and principals who hosted our Train the Trainer Professional Development Workshops this year: Principal Jonathan Davis of Kearny Elementary in Santa Fe; Principal Victoria Franks of Hermosa Heights Elementary and Joseph Flores, Coordinator of Teaching and Learning Fine Arts, in Las Cruces; Principal Nicole Mora-Atencio of Enos Garcia Elementary in Taos; Principal Kate DeHoyos of Central Elementary and Assistant Superintendent Tammy Davis, in Artesia; Principal Donna Johns and Assistant Principal Nancy Johnson of Cottonwood Elementary School in Carlsbad; Superintendent Elisa Vegueria and Principal Kathleen Gallaway of Lake Arthur Schools in Lake Arthur.

We appreciate the Santa Fe Fire Department and Santa Fe Police Department for participating in our End-of-Year Events!

Thank you Katherine Treadwell, Principal Solution Engineer with Salesforce, for your generous pro-bono Salesforce expertise and support in automating and refining our database.

We appreciate the Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham for your support of NDI New Mexico and hosting our Santa Fe Fall Founders' Circle at the Governor's Mansion.

Thank you to the New Mexico Legislature for your continued support of NDI New Mexico and our programs.

We are deeply grateful to Jennifer and Kevin Box for leading an origami workshop with NDI New Mexico Advanced teams.

Thank you Nickoloff Foundation for sponsoring the Santa Fe Gala tent piece.

We are so grateful to Ted Kreifels for serving on the SANTA FE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; Chauna King for serving on the FINANCE COMMITTEE; John Burnham and Susan Dubin for your expertise on the INVESTMENT COMMITTEE; Peter Frank for serving on the AUDIT COMMITTEE; Helen Wertheim for your insights and leadership on the STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: Joe Farr, Katie Gardner, Jerry Landgraf, and Helen Wertheim for serving on the ACTIVATING HILAND COMMITTEE.

Thank you Garcia Automotive Group for hosting the Albuquerque VIP Gala Sponsor party and Museum of New Mexico for hosting the Santa Fe VIP Gala Sponsor party.

Thanks to Payne's Nurseries for donating gifts for our Santa Fe Gala VIP Party and Kakawa Chocolate House for providing Santa Fe Gala chocolate gifts.

Thank you Victoria Bruneni and what The truck for food for special events; John Edward and RCJ Orchards for donating apples for the Albuquerque SWAT team snacks; and Dion's Pizza on Central and Monroe for providing food for our Albuquerque dancers during Dream Big!

Our deepest gratitude to all of our Public Elementary Classroom Teachers, In-school Coordinators, and Administrations for their commitment and helping our programs run smoothly throughout the year.

Very special thanks to our many parent and community volunteers who help us with performances, programs, special events and more - we couldn't do it without you!

"I have a dream that I can achieve anything, as long as I try my best..."



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NDI NEW MEXICO 2024 TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS



YOUNG CHILDREN'S DANCE TEACHER TRAINING

IN SANTA FE | MAY 20-24, 2024 IN ALBUQUERQUE | JUNE 24-28, 2024 ndi-nm.org/danceforjoy

NDI New Mexico is proud to collaborate with Allegra Lillard to present her Dance For Joy curriculum and teacher training. This curriculum and approach to teaching young children will provide solid concepts, activities, strategies, and classroom management tools one can take directly into the studio to support the whole child. The workshop includes classes for Creative Movement for 3-4 year olds, and Pre-Ballet for 5-6 year olds, and is built upon years of practice and research on how the arts can create a joyful journey for young children to reach key development milestones, supporting their physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development.



2024 WORKSHOP | ALBUQUERQUE | AUGUST 19-30, 2024 ndi-nm.org/excellence

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APPLY ONLINE TODAY! Learn more: liz@ndi-nm.org or 505.557.6046

Congratulations to NDI New Mexico on the 30th Anniversary!

WE ARE SO PROUD TO SUPPORT A PROGRAM THAT BRINGS

Joy. Teamwork, Self Esteem. Fitness & Healthy Hubits

TO SO MANY CHILDREN IN OUR STATE.

We appreciate all the students, families, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers, Emeritus Board members and current Board members who have worked so hard to foster the growth and strength of the programs.

And our sincere gratitude to the many donors who have so generously provided the stable base and the financial integrity necessary for NDI's scholarships, plans, and dreams. Your commitment will ensure the future.

We are all lucky to have seen NDI New Mexico evolve and flourish! Let's plan to do what we can to continue its success and excellence.

Diane and Pete Doniger





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