



Annual Report

2022

Creating a more inclusive landscape for
the future of ballet

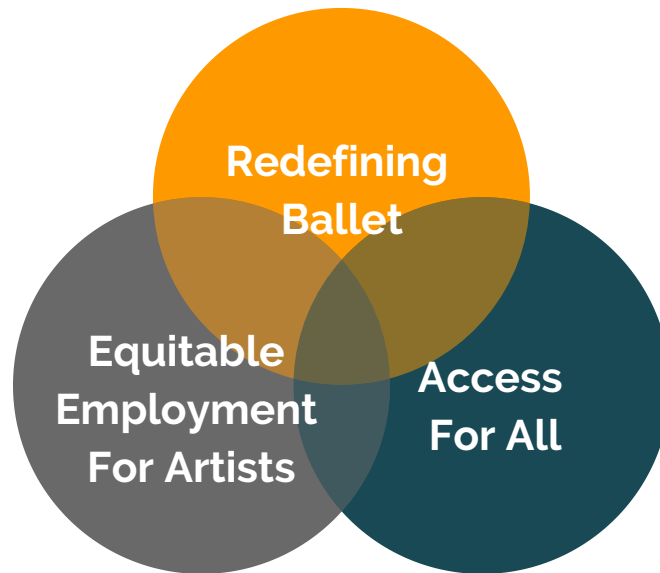
MorDance is a trailblazing, women-led ballet company striving to advance accessibility, diversity, and creativity in ballet by fostering empowered environments for artistic expression.

Table of Contents

3	Vision
4	Letter from Artistic Director
6	The Company
7	Redefining Ballet
8	Press
10-11	Outreach Impact
12-13	Financial Overview
15	Board Of Directors



MorDance's overall vision is embodied through



Redefining Ballet

MorDance believes that dance has the capacity to express and negotiate complex contemporary issues surrounding race, gender, and the environment through its unique power to transcend language. Our repertoire transforms themes of activism and humanity into captivating movement, inspiring audiences to become more civically engaged and socially responsible. We are dedicated to reimagining the ballet artform as a vessel of learning and impactful change.

Access For All

MorDance's commitment to making dance accessible to all is present throughout the organization including our historically low ticket prices, free annual student performance, and youth workshops serving economically under-resourced districts across New York City.

Equitable Employment for Artists

MorDance simply would not exist without our artists. From breathtaking performances to immersive in-school workshops, our artists inspire awe and encourage creative expression across audiences. MorDance is committed to employing dancers, musicians, composers, and designers from diverse backgrounds and identities who have been historically marginalized in the field of ballet. Together, we stand as advocates for equal opportunity and representatives of a more dynamic future for the performing arts.



Dear Friends of MorDance,

Our 2022 season was filled with surpassed goals, impactful collaborations and performances, and new audiences touched by the art of ballet. MorDance's commitment to greater accessibility in the arts continues to be at the forefront of our initiatives. In 2022, we increased our youth outreach by 33%, connecting with over 600 students through in-school dance workshops in some of NYC's most underserved school districts. Though COVID restrictions remained in place for our annual student performance, and public school field trips were put on hold this spring, we were able to work with a team of videographers to livestream the event. The livestream allowed us to significantly expand our reach and continue to bring the art of ballet to life for these young audiences.

This year our Spring Season performances rose to new levels of critical acclaim. Jerry Hochman of "Critical Dance" writes, "MorDance's New York season, scheduled for two nights last week at Symphony Space on the Upper West Side, was, to put it mildly, a knockout". Behind the scenes we worked to bring arts enthusiasts closer to our art than ever before, establishing a new membership program that provides extraordinary access to MorDance while garnering support for our annual activities. Members enjoy special opportunities to experience our dancemaking, learn about the ballet artform, and truly become a part of the MorDance family. Support from new members also helped provide nearly 200 free tickets to students in programs such as Ballet and Beyond and the Bronx Academy of Music who otherwise would not have access to live ballet performances.

MorDance's conception of artistic excellence is inseparable from the company's dedication to accessibility and creativity. We envision an equitable future where everyone, no matter one's background, identity, or socio-economic circumstance, has the opportunity to access the arts. MorDance believes that dance, and art at large, has the great potential to navigate the complexities faced by our society and our world. As we near a milestone in 2023, MorDance's tenth season as a company, we are ready to take our mission to new heights. We are ready to innovate and expand upon our ambitious repertoire that has inspired audiences over the past decade. We are ready to launch into a new season redefining ballet and making dance accessible to all. Thank you for your support, kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,

Morgan McEwen
Artistic Director

Youth engagement begins with the opportunity for personal discovery, wonderment, and meaningful experiences. MorDance knows that the confidence imparted by dance opens doors to success in the arts and beyond.





Polina Nazaykinskaya



Josh Knowles



Becky Hiesler



Emily Cardea



Shaquelle Charles



David Hochberg



Tevin Johnson



Camila Rodrigues



Lauren Treat



Claire van Bever



Joe LaLuzerne

What

MorDance is a trailblazing, women-led ballet company striving to advance accessibility, diversity, and creativity in ballet by fostering empowered environments for artistic expression. Since launching in 2013, we have embodied our mission to break free of ballet's historically homogenous structures by creating groundbreaking original works, centering underrepresented voices and contemporary narratives, and leading youth outreach initiatives serving thousands of students in under-resourced communities across New York City.

Why

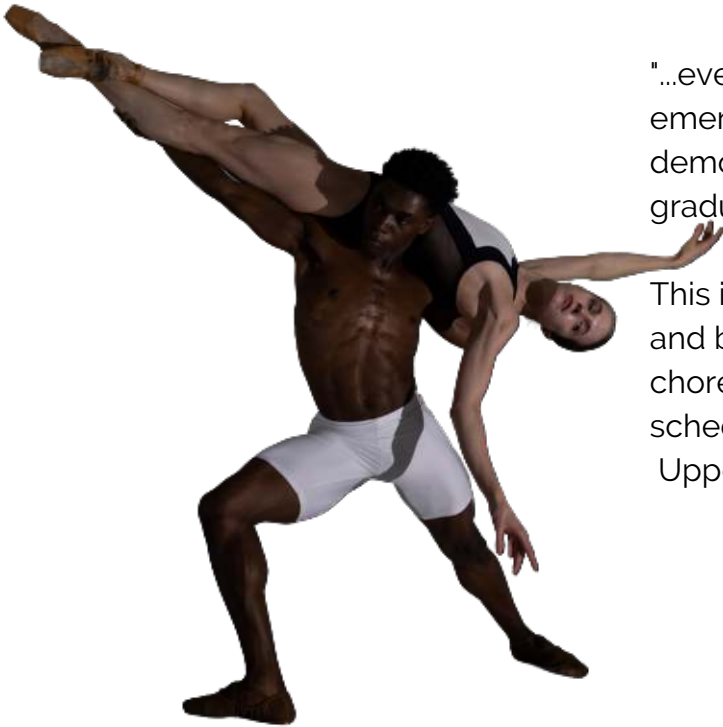
As reported by a study funded by the National Endowment for The Arts, empirical evidence supports claims that engaging with art is essential to the human experience. Among adults, arts participation is related to behaviors that contribute to the health of civil society such as increased civic engagement, greater social tolerance, and reductions in other-regarding behavior.

A 2019 study conducted by the Brookings Institution and Houston's Arts Access Initiative found that a substantial increase in arts educational experiences among students has a remarkable impact on students' academic, social, and emotional outcomes. Relative to students assigned to the control group, treatment school students experienced a 3.6 percentage point reduction in disciplinary infractions, an improvement of 13 percent of a standard deviation in standardized writing scores, and an increase of 8 percent of a standard deviation in their compassion for others. In terms of measuring compassion for others, students who received more arts education experiences were more interested in how other people feel and more likely to want to help people who are mistreated.

How

MorDance serves a vibrant community of art enthusiasts across New York City representing an array of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Our commitment to accessibility encapsulates a wide audience from long-standing patrons of ballet to those who have yet to be introduced to the genre. We are able to reach under-resourced populations through a strong network of outreach partners that have been consistently expanding since our launch. We are proud to partner with longstanding community organizations and public institutions serving marginalized, disenfranchised, and at-risk youth. In 2022, MorDance worked with eleven organizations including STEM From Dance, Bronx Academy of Music, Ballet and Beyond, PS 23, Ps 127, and PS 110 who are essential in facilitating our youth outreach initiatives.

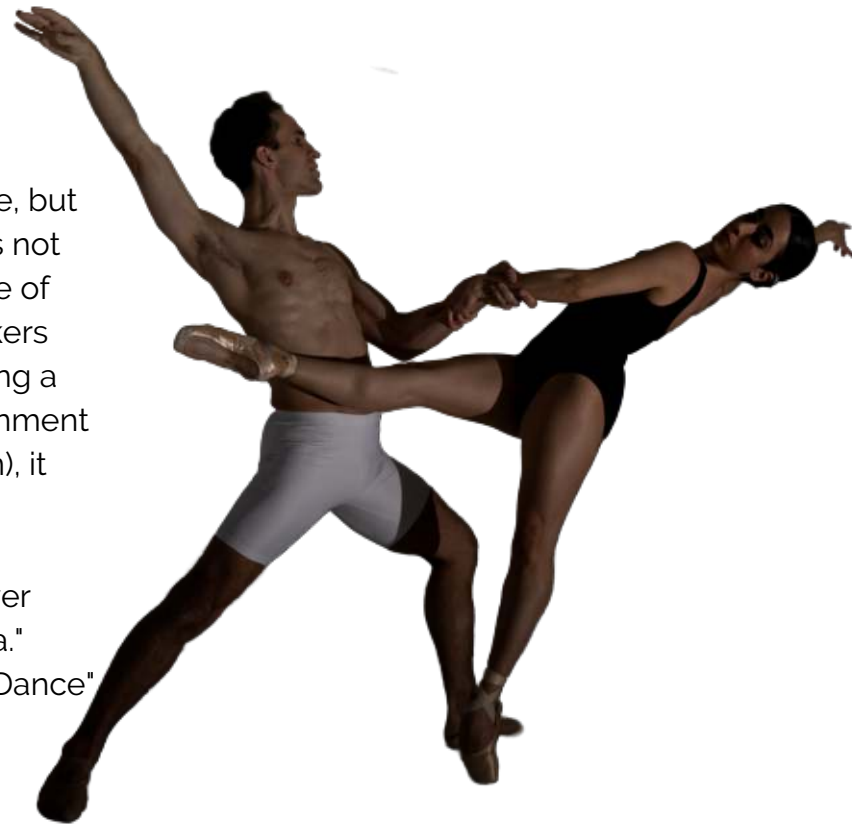
MorDance believes that achieving artistic excellence is not only to combine technical prowess with innovative expression but to consistently articulate beyond words a notion that is deeply felt, no matter the background or lived experience of the spectator. Our works of ballet compassionately welcome viewers into each story. Every year MorDance moves towards the goal of artistic excellence through our capacity to engage, inspire, and empower a diversity of audiences.



"...every once in awhile you come across a program by an emerging company which is not only good, but which demonstrates convincingly that that small company has already graduated to "Big-Time" status.

This is the case with MorDance, a New York-based, female-run, and ballet-oriented company founded by dancer and choreographer Morgan McEwen in 2013. Its New York season, scheduled for two nights last week at Symphony Space on the Upper West Side, was, to put it mildly, a knockout."

-Jerry Hochman, "Critical Dance"



"Humanism is indeed a social consciousness dance, but it needs no hammer to make its point. Although it's not subtle (its targets are made crystal clear by the use of spoken-word excerpts from five well-known speakers and social activists each addressing and highlighting a particular issue, from women's rights to the environment to racism to sexual prejudice to rampant starvation), it comes across that way – to its credit...With its understated approach, Humanism ended up accomplishing more than preaching to the choir ever could. It was another brilliant, and unexpected, idea."

-Jerry Hochman, "Critical Dance"

"With the JCC being focused around community and McEwen not wanting ballet to be seen as an "inaccessible art form," McEwen said she wanted the doors open during rehearsals so those in the building could hear and see what was going on, which is something that can't happen in NYC spaces. "When we were talking about the residency, I said when we're here I want our doors to always be open so that if anyone is wants to pop their head into rehearsal we wanted to make that happen," McEwen said.

While studio time and space have long been at a premium, that's never been more true than during the pandemic. Many spaces still haven't opened their doors to outsiders, so small companies like MorDance are on the lookout for quality guaranteed spaces. "As an arts organization that doesn't have a brick and mortar space, we're swimming up a stream without a paddle right now," McEwen said."

-Todd Sliss, "Scarsdale Inquirer"



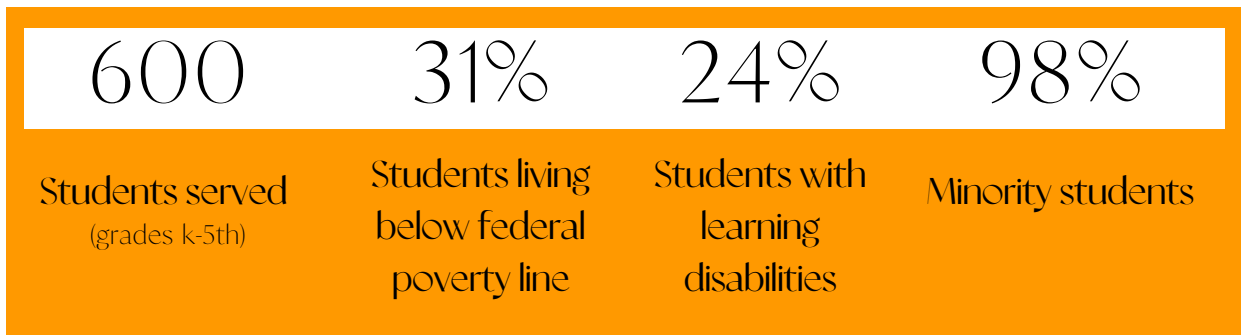
"As a female founder and artistic director in a field dominated by male voices in leadership roles, it has always been my goal to celebrate and support underrepresented voices and perspectives. Dance has the great potential to explore challenging topics with a sensitivity that cannot be expressed by words alone. I feel that every ballet we create is an opportunity to use our platform for dialogue, education, and awareness."

-Artistic Director Morgan McEwen



In School Performances and Workshops

MorDance believes that youth engagement begins with the opportunity for personal discovery, wonderment, and meaningful experiences. Time and again we have witnessed the confidence imparted by dance and how it opens doors to success in the arts and beyond. The vast majority of students served by MorDance fit into one or more of the following demographics: live below the poverty line, experience homelessness, are a member of an underrepresented minority group, experience a learning disability. MorDance envisions an equitable future where all young people, regardless of circumstance, have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.



My favorite part of being with MorDance was learning all the ballet steps and all the positive feelings I felt while dancing from the dancers.

-Sixth Grader, Anahla V.

The show was amazing. I've never seen a show like that, and wish to see another one again.

-Fourth Grader, AJ

MorDance taught me that dance is pretty cool. I think dance and art is important because it encourages creativity and individuality.

-Seventh Grader, Avon T.



Spring Season Live Stream

Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions for NYC public schools and theater spaces we continued to think creatively and were able to bring the art of dance to students across the city via an interactive live stream performance.

Over 1,000 students tuned in from their classrooms to Peter Norton Symphony Space

Low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are more than 2x as likely to graduate college as their peers with no art education.*

Students who regularly participate in the arts are 4x more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.*

Students who regularly participate in the arts are 4x more likely to participate in a math or science fair.*

Students who regularly participate in the arts are 3x more likely to win an award for school attendance.*

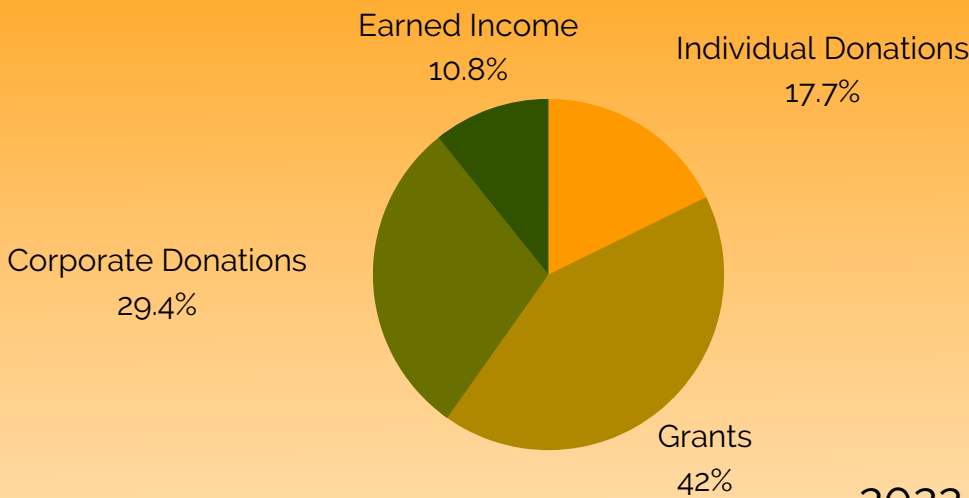
Students who regularly participate in the arts are 3x more likely to be elected to class office.*

*Statistics by Americans for The Arts

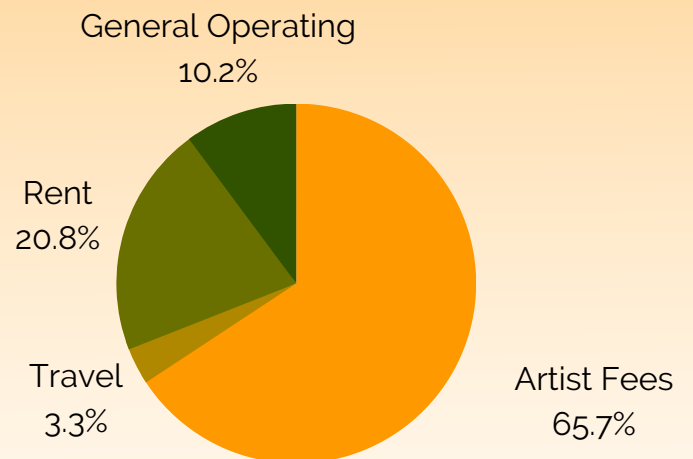


	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Revenue	\$54,428	\$62,315	\$40,607	\$69,561	\$128,521
YoY Change	↑ 46%	↑ 14%	↓ 35%	↑ 71%	↑ 85%
Expenditures	\$73,508	\$68,644	\$23,748	\$49,889	\$145,090
Funds Balance	\$7,263	\$934	\$17,793	\$37,465	\$20,896

2022 Revenue Breakdown



2022 Expenditure Breakdown



Increased 2022

Expenditures Explanation

- Dancers received a 10% increase in hourly compensation
- 33% increase in youth outreach initiatives
- Artistic director began receiving annual salary
- Studio and theater rent increased post COVID



MorDance extends special thanks to these supporters:



The Kaleta A Doolin Foundation
 The Danaher Lynch Family Foundation
 The O'donnell Green Music and Dance Foundation
 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
 Dance/NYC

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| Kristine Covillo Lynch | Arthur Matuszewski | Victoria Sturner | |

Support from our donors and sponsors helps to ignites our team of artists, outreach programs, and performances all year long.

MorDance's conception of artistic excellence is inseparable from its commitment to accessibility and creativity. To achieve artistic excellence is not only to combine technical prowess with innovative expression, but to consistently articulate beyond words a notion that is deeply felt, no matter the background or lived experience of the spectator.





Morgan McEwen
President



Ora Solomon
Secretary



Lauren Stiroh PhD
Treasurer



Evelyn Swaim



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Elizabeth Rodbell



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