MISSION STATEMENT

To enrich the quality of life in West Marin by providing diverse cultural, educational and community services in a well-maintained environmentally friendly facility.
THE DANCE PALACE

Turning 50 during a pandemic - a time for reflection, change, adaptation, innovation... and also for celebrating?! These are the diverse worlds the Dance Palace found itself in this past year.

It all began with an inward look. Through a generous grant from the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, and with significant community input, the organization took time for deep reflection. The result was an Adaptation Plan - a blueprint leading the Dance Palace to be more imaginative, creative and resilient. With a re-energized focus, new and improved programs and some infrastructure improvements we are now building steam in order to better serve the community!

Here are just a few items of note:

- Our new partnership with the San Francisco Youth Theater led to a theater week at camp this summer and an afterschool improv theater class this fall.
- We began a successful “Little Ones” program and family concert series, focusing on music and art for children ages 3-5, which was underwritten by the West Marin Fund.
- Our summer camp was redesigned with more emphasis on spontaneous play, multidisciplinary thematic exploration, and a local, outdoor focus.
- We have been hard at work upgrading our AV tech capabilities - so now you can enjoy many Dance Palace events either in person or streaming from the comfort of your home.
- The Art Committee worked with local artists to bring you online receptions, a very well-received CathARTic event, and selected Laurie Sawyer to create a mural on the front of the building. The Committee is now busy bringing the lobby gallery back to life.

In the midst of all of this, we held our big 50th birthday bash! We are so happy so many of you celebrated with us over a full weekend of activities. Singing, dancing, the Fabutaps, concerts, art, a “pop-up” museum, and a variety of performances were just some of the activities that marked the occasion. The icing on the cake, so to speak, was the winning Western Weekend 50th birthday float designed by Robert Cain. Shout out to Walnut Place, Paul Korhummel and Ismael Gutierrez’s Inverness Gardening Services crew who made it happen - and to the fabulous show by the Fabutaps!

And to keep the energy moving, our two new staff members are busy creating all kinds of new educational and performing arts offerings. Look for exciting new classes and events, such as sewing, makers, coding, Contemplative Dance, concerts, and so much more to come. Let’s have some fun!

As you will see on the last page, none of this would be possible without you, our community, supporting the Dance Palace to ensure it thrives. We are incredibly grateful for all of your support.

Warmly,

Bonnie Guttmann
Executive Director
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Many thanks and warm appreciation to Elizabeth Zarlengo and Sally Jones for six years of service to the Dance Palace.

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* Joining the Dance Palace as of Fall 2022
WITH MUCH GRATITUDE TO YOU ALL

Our donors, grantors, volunteers, business and in-kind sponsors keep it all happening!

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Our community’s response to the pandemic has not only kept the Dance Palace going but has enabled us to expand services and capabilities. In the most recently completed fiscal year, contributions from the community rose to 53% of total income for the Dance Palace (see Figure 1 pie chart), compared to the typical share of about 30% in the immediate pre-Covid years. Your generosity proved essential as traditional revenue sources dried up during the pandemic. Dance Palace income from programs, classes, and rentals, still highly impacted by the pandemic, plummeted to only 11% of total income. While the Dance Palace was able to trim its expenses during the pandemic, operating revenue from onsite activities, understandably, fell much further. Community support during this difficult time has been a “game changer” for the Dance Palace.

The other critical source of monetary support during the pandemic came from the many organizations, foundations and charitable funds who recognize the Dance Palace’s central role in the community. One grantor, the William + Flora Hewlett Foundation, should be called out for its extraordinary generosity. In 2021, Executive Director, Bonnie Gutman worked closely with this foundation to secure a $400,000 grant to help the Dance Palace adapt to a post-Covid world. That grant is being spent over a three-year period (2021 to 2023) and has been critical to maintaining and improving the Dance Palace during the pandemic. The Dance Palace’s financial statements, therefore, show a large gain in FY 20-21 from the Hewlett Foundation grant and will subsequently show larger than normal losses for FY 21-22 and FY 22-23 as the money is spent and accounted for as expenses. Overall, if one sums the expected gains and losses from all three fiscal years, we expect the Dance Palace to roughly break even, or show a slight cumulative gain.

In the coming years, our hope is that the Dance Palace will continue to grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of the entire community. We hope to see income from Dance Palace programs, classes and facility rentals return to their normal roles as significant contributors to overall financial health. That said, community support in the form of monetary contributions and volunteering time will always be essential to the Dance Palace’s future. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone in the community who has contributed and helped us envision an even brighter future.

Randy Merk, Board Treasurer

![Figure 1: Dance Palace Income by Category FY21-22]

- $21,671.00 In-Kind Donations (5%)
- $29,821.36 Program Income (7%)
- $54,500.00 Restricted Grant Income (14%)
- $60,914.00 Fundraiser Income (15%)
- $18,513.17 Other Income (5%)
- $213,224.60 Contributed Income (54%)
See you next year!

DANCE PALACE COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER
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