



February 9th, 2023

My name is Carlye Eckert and I'm the Community Engagement Director for Dance Parade, New York City's largest dance event and a dance education provider to two dozen schools and community centers. As our events are a "United Nations of Dance" we present and employ hundreds of independent artists and arts orgs, who are a cornerstone of the arts and culture in New York. We believe that live performance has the potential to awaken a communal human experience and helps build a more equitable and vibrant society.

This year, on May 20th we will hold the 17th Annual Dance Parade and Festival in NYC with grand marshals, Elizabeth Streb, Ronald K Brown, and Natasha Diggs, three artists who have devoted their life's work to sharing art, dance, and culture with New Yorkers and audiences all over the world.

Throughout the year, we serve the dance community by employing scores of teaching and performing artists, of which 94% are POC artists and immigrants based in New York State. And through our programs, we reach over 150,000 New Yorkers each year. Through donor and board support, Dance Parade has created a Marginalized Community Fund to support the increased participation of immigrant artists and immigrant-led-groups in the Parade and DanceFest through free registration, audio rentals, parade floats, festival booths, and performance stipends of \$1-\$2K.

In 2023, Dance Parade's Community Engagement Programs, will work closely with public schools across the five boroughs to bring dance education programs to K-12 students exposing them to cultural forms of dance study, and giving them the opportunity to participate on a global stage at the Parade & Festival. Thanks to the work and partnerships in our city that we have developed over the last 17 years, our programming also extends to older adult centers in immigrant communities such as Corona, Bayside Queens, and Parkchester Bronx where we offer joyful physical activity that supports coordination, improved circulation, honors life experiences, and strengthens connections between older Americans, their culture, and the vibrant NYC arts community.

Through continued efforts, we pledge to continue our work of bringing the joy of dance in all its forms to New Yorkers and to help strengthen the visible presence of dancemaking and its integral role in the culture of our city. We are grateful to the NY City Council for financial support as well as the New York State Council on the Arts, The National Endowment on the Arts, for helping us to continue our work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlye Eckert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Carlye Eckert
Community Engagement Director