



DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY



**A DANCE COMPANY FOR ALL SEASONS**

Annual Report 2019 / 2020





DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY



## Introduction

If 2019-20 was the “worst of times,” it was also the “best of times.” For starters, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) made headway in providing its outstanding performing arts and education services as well as in advancing the goals and objectives of its strategic planning. On stage DCDC presented four full-evening concerts to the local public and toured nationally and internationally. In the classroom DCDC expanded its services by creating a new corps of dancer-instructors with the establishment of Jeraldyne Blunden Fellows (JB Fellows), who are young dancers on the verge of a professional career in dance.

DCDC also successfully completed its 2017-20 strategic plan. In fact, one of DCDC’s strategic goals is to expand the company’s presence in Cincinnati and surrounding areas. To fulfill that goal, DCDC announced its arrival in the “Queen City of the West” with three sold-out full-evening performances at the Aronoff Center for the Arts. The company also continued its residency at Cincinnati’s Frederick Douglass Elem. School for the fourth consecutive year.



## A DANCE COMPANY FOR ALL SEASONS



The year from July 2019 to March 2020 held all the promise of one of DCDC's most productive and celebratory seasons—a season to capture the essence of all the company's seasons through 52 years of service.

Then, a pandemic struck and changed everyone's world forever. Because of its years of custodial foresight and sound fiscal management, DCDC not only withstood the shock of the pandemic—it thrived! Though services were interrupted for the remainder of the 2019-20

season, basic operations continued as before, and fundraising aggressively increased to take advantage of national, state, and local COVID funding.

Going forward, DCDC, as throughout its long history, becomes stronger through adversity. That is good news for the community DCDC is honored to serve.







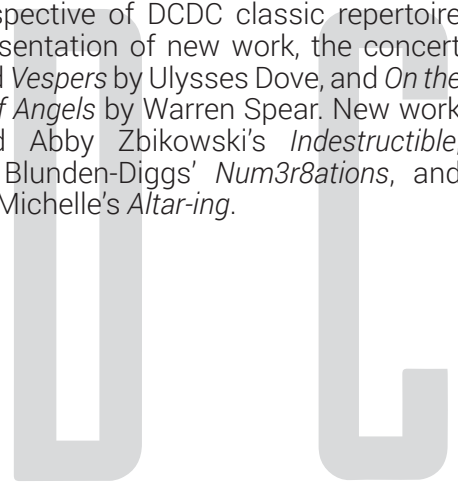
## Performances

The 2019-20 season was named *Celebration*, the final year in a three-year celebration of DCDC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. That season began with a dinner concert held at Dayton Convention Center in August. Over 200 attendees enjoyed soul food to the sounds of funk music, the great music tradition of the 1970s and the 1980s that had its home in Dayton, Ohio.

In October, DCDC presented *Byrd's Eye View*, a full-evening performance of two seminal works by the world-renowned choreographer Donald Byrd: *J. Lawrence Paint: (Harriet Tubman Remix)* and *The Geography of the Cotton Field*. These works had been originally premiered by DCDC and were presented again for the concert stage. The audience at Victoria Theatre also enjoyed two interviews Mr. Byrd gave with moderator Thomas F. DeFrantz, Chair of African and African American Studies and Professor of Dance and Theater Studies at Duke University.

The tenth production of DCDC's *In the Spirit of...* concert series, *In the Spirit of... Abundant Blessings* was DCDC's December holiday season concert. The *In the Spirit of...* concert series celebrates the African American church with dance and song. Live performances included a large roster of community performers from Dayton and Cincinnati: Judah Band, Deron Bell and the ITSO Community Choir, and nationally renowned gospel singer Shirley Murdock. Additional talent included The Jeremy Winston Chorale International, Trotwood Madison High School Choir, Cincinnati Choral Academy of Frederick Douglass Elementary, and Jeraldyn's School of the Dance Performance Ensemble.

*Retro/Active* was DCDC's winter concert. A retrospective of DCDC classic repertoire and presentation of new work, the concert featured *Vespers* by Ulysses Dove, and *On the Wings of Angels* by Warren Spear. New work included Abby Zbikowski's *Indestructible*, Debbie Blunden-Diggs' *Num3r8ations*, and Crystal Michelle's *Altar-ing*.





## Touring

DCDC is a touring company, enthusiastically bringing great dance to audiences nationally and internationally. In November 2019, DCDC performed at New York City's David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center where they shared the stage with dance companies Juilliard Dance and Ronald K. Brown/Evidence. Hosted by Paul Taylor's American Modern Dance, DCDC participated in a tribute to the late choreographer Donald McKayle. DCDC performed McKayle's *Rainbow Round My Shoulder*.

During a second tour to New York City in January 2020, DCDC performed at The Joyce Theater, sharing the stage with dance ensemble Urban

Bush Women. DCDC performed Donald Byrd's *The Geography of the Cotton Field* and Abby Zbikowski's *Indestructible*.

In March, DCDC performed at the Bermuda Festival of the Performing Arts at the Ruth Seaton James Center for the Performing Arts. DCDC's first company and members of the newly formed JB Fellows performed Keisha Lalama's *Shed*, Donald Byrd's *J. Lawrence Paint (Harriet Tubman Remix)*, Ronald K. Brown and Donald McKayle's *Children of the Passage*, and Abby Zbikowski's *Indestructible*.





## Community Engagement

An integral part of DCDC's mission is to use dance to support learning in the classroom and other environments. The following education services are only a sampling of DCDC's community work from July 2019 through March 2020 when the pandemic halted all further activities.

DCDC's JB Fellows and the pre-professional ensemble DCDC2 performed *Our Planet, Our Lives*, a celebration of "Mother Earth" and commissioned by The World House Choir, a music ensemble that addresses environmental issues. DCDC also gave this performance at the Foundry Theater at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, Levitt Pavilion in downtown Dayton, Ohio, and High Street United Methodist in Springfield, Ohio.

At Dayton Correctional Institution, DCDC presented a repertory performance that featured dance works by Shonna Hickman-Matlock and Matthew J. Talley. DCDC has been working with Dayton Correctional Institution for a number of years.

In a program titled *Celebrating Community through Dance*, DCDC performed at the Victoria Theatre a shortened version of the company's full-evening concert *Byrd's Eye View*.

**The  
performance  
invited students  
to see what, for  
many, was their  
first exposure to  
dance as a  
fine art.**

Ten schools participated and senior citizens were also invited. The seniors came from Goodwill/Easter Seals and Another Senior Citizen Center.

Through Muse Machine, DCDC brings education services to a wider network of schools. At these schools, DCDC performed a special presentation called *The Women Behind King*, which sheds light on the contributions of women during the civil rights movement in support of King's enduring legacy. DCDC reached over 6K youths with this presentation through Muse Machine.

## Cincinnati Connection

Not only did DCDC give its premiere full-evening concert at the Aronoff Center for the Arts in February 2020, the company also reached Cincinnati schools.

At the School for Creative and Performing Arts, DCDC conducted a two-week residency in July. The residency was an intensive workshop for dance students that included a live student performance. DCDC conducted two more residencies at the school in October and March.

As in Dayton, DCDC reached a network of schools in Cincinnati that includes Annunciation School, Camp Ernest Middle, City of Forest, Frederick Douglass Elementary (almost the entire school year before the pandemic), Lockland Local Schools, Mamluft & Company, Mt. Healthy South, St. Boniface School, Withrow High, Woodward Career Tech High, and Woodward Career Technical.







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## Strategic Advancement

At the conclusion of the 2019-20 fiscal year in June, DCDC successfully completed its 2017-20 strategic plan. In late 2019, DCDC contracted Michael Kaiser as a consultant for the formulation of that plan. Mr. Kaiser is President Emeritus of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and founder and chief executive officer of DeVos Institute of Arts Management at University of Maryland.

In 2019-20, Kaiser made four visits to DCDC's offices in Dayton to give presentations to a team of individuals from the company's board of directors, executive leadership, and administration. The presentations mapped out the course of Kaiser's analysis of DCDC's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. He articulated a comprehensive approach to maximize current and potential resources to advance DCDC's interests.

Kaiser also met with community members in Dayton and Cincinnati such as Dayton leaders from Charles Berry Foundation, The Dayton Foundation, Levitt Pavilion, Muse Machine, and Ohio Playwrights Circle, and Cincinnati leaders from Cincinnati Arts Association, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Education Theatre Association, and PNC Charitable Trust.

At the same time, since 2018, DCDC has worked with Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF). This consulting firm helps nonprofits excel in their mission and services. Working with NFF, DCDC's leadership learned about the company's business and finances, its financial position, and historical fiscal trends. Between NFF and Kaiser, DCDC availed itself of a double layer of seasoned institutional counsel.







## Then There Was COVID

In March 2020, COVID changed the way we live. In response, DCDC had to cancel its 2020 spring fundraiser along with twenty-eight performances, presentations, and events for the public.

However, DCDC remains undaunted, its vision undimmed, and its mission undeterred. Optimism and enthusiasm remain intact as the dancers, executive leadership, and administration eagerly anticipate a new season of artistic accomplishment and cultural empowerment.

## List of Schools DCDC Served in 2019-20

### ***Beavercreek City Schools***

Jacob Coy Middle

### ***Bethel Local Schools***

Bethel High

### ***Centerville City Schools***

Centerville High

### ***Dayton Public Schools***

Belle Haven  
Edwin Joel Brown Elem.  
Fairview Elem.  
Kemp Elem.  
Kiser Elem.  
Meadowdale High  
River's Edge Montessori  
Ruskin Elem.  
Stivers School for the Arts  
Thurgood Marshall High  
Wright Brothers Middle

### ***Graham Local Schools***

Graham Middle

### ***Hardin Houston Local Schools***

Hardin-Houston High

### ***Kettering City Schools***

Kettering Fairmont High

### ***Miami East Local Schools***

Miami East High

### ***Miamisburg City Schools***

Miamisburg Middle

### ***National Heritage Schools***

Emerson Academy of  
Dayton

### ***New Lebanon Local Schools***

Dixie High

### ***Northmont City Schools***

Englewood Hills Elem.  
Northmont High

### ***Northridge Local Schools***

Northridge High

### ***Oakwood City Schools***

Oakwood High

### ***Piqua City Schools***

Springcreek Primary  
Washington Primary

### ***Trotwood-Madison City Schools***

Trotwood-Madison High  
Westbrooke Village Elem.

### ***Vandalia - Butler City Schools***

Vandalia Butler High

### ***Xenia Community Schools***

Cox Elem.  
Summit Academy  
Community for  
Alternative Learning

Warner Middle

Xenia High

### ***Cincinnati (Parochial and Public Schools)***

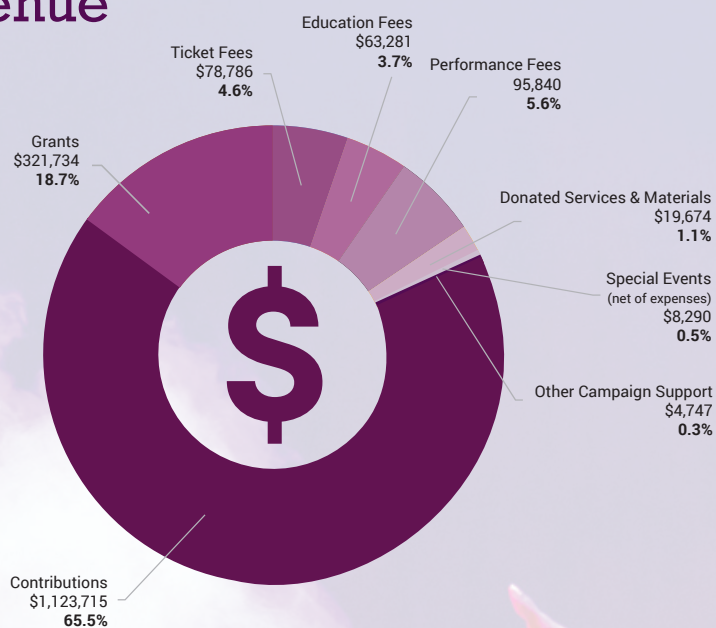
Annunciation School  
Camp Ernest Middle  
City of Forest  
Frederick Douglass Elem.  
Lockland Local Schools  
Mamluft & Company  
Mt. Healthy South  
School for Creative and  
Performing Arts  
St. Boniface School  
Withrow High  
Woodward Career  
Tech High  
Woodward Career  
Technical

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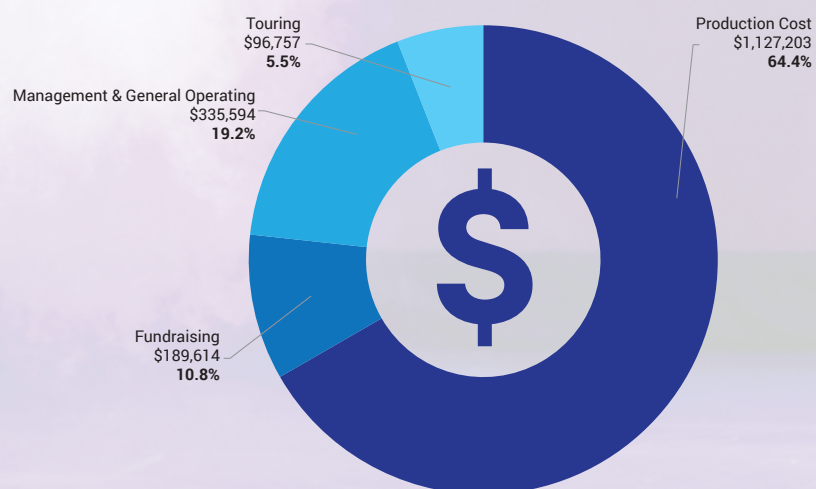


## 2019-20 Financials

### Revenue



### Expenses



### Yearly Income





# *Dayton Contemporary Dance Company gratefully acknowledges its supporters.*

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

## **Unlimited Possibilities** (Gifts \$100,000+)

Anonymous  
Richard Lapedes and Maureen  
Lynch

## **Grand Achievements** (Gifts \$10,000-\$75,000)

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Jerry Brunswick & Monica Snow  
Nancy Sobal  
Eric & Karen Spina  
Joyce Willis

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company performs locally, nationally, and globally. The dance company's education and community outreach program Teaching, Learning, and Caring reaches over 30,000 youths annually, from pre-K through college. With your help, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company can sustain these efforts to impact the world of dance and a child's creativity and development. The lists above are of names of supporters of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. We have tried to ensure the accuracy of our records, but we deeply apologize for any omissions or misspellings. Please call us at 937-228-3232 if you have any questions or corrections.

**Dayton Contemporary Dance Company is grateful to our supporters!**



## FOUNDER INFORMATION

### FOUNDER

Jeraldyn Blunden

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Ro Nita Hawes-Saunders, D.F.A.

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#### CHIEF ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATOR & PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Debbie Blunden-Diggs

#### ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Qarrienne Blayr and Crystal Michelle

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Qarrienne Blayr  
Alexandria Flewellen  
Michael Green  
Stevie Lamblin  
Robert Pulido  
Elizabeth Ramsey  
Nile Alicia Ruff  
Quentin ApolloVaughn Sledge  
Matthew J. Talley  
Sheri "Sparkle" Williams  
Countess V. Winfrey

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Jordan Garcia  
Brianna Rhodes

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Courtney Anderson  
Alexis Diggs  
Courtney Draper  
Breah Duschl  
Jasmin Hines  
Wilhemina Marks  
Tasha'ra Maye  
Sierra McCurtis  
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### WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

L'Amour Ameer

### PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE

Travis Dwyer

### PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE

Kyle Hemsworth

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Executive Officer  
Debbie Blunden-Diggs, Chief Artistic  
Administrator & Producing Director

Qarrienne Blayr, Associate Artistic  
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Angela Burdon, Company Manager  
Christian Davell, Digital and Social  
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Shonna Hickman-Matlock, Director  
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David Hoard, Vice President for  
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Donnel Jones (DJ), Grant and  
Corporate Writer  
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#### EXCLUSIVE TOUR REPRESENTATION

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937-228-3232, ext. 111  
[michelle@dcdc.org](mailto:michelle@dcdc.org)



DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY

## The Mission

*Rooted in the African  
American experience, the  
Dayton Contemporary Dance  
Company is a culturally diverse  
contemporary dance company  
committed to reaching the  
broadest audience through  
exceptional performance and  
arts-integrated education.*

2019 | 2020

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