

# batterydancecompany

## Annual Report • Fiscal Year 2014

### PRESENTING FREE & ACCESSIBLE DANCE PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS

#### **32nd Annual Downtown Dance Festival – August, 2013**

Battery Dance Company presented its 32nd Annual Downtown Dance Festival, expanding to 6 locations: Battery Park, City Hall Plaza/Brooklyn Bridge, 55 Water Street Elevated Acre, Bowling Green, South Street Seaport, and Dance New Amsterdam. The program took place from August 9 - 15, 2013, with workshops from August 7 - 9, 2013. The festival brought together 13 companies from 6 countries (France, Greece, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, India), each with its own style and cultural influence. The Festival expanded to site-specific performances and included audience creation of new choreography in a project called The Dance NYC Made. In partnership with the National Museum of the American Indian, the Festival presented Native American company Dancing Earth. The Indo-American Arts Council Erasing Borders Festival of Indian Dance co-presented five companies representing diverse classical Indian styles. NYC media provided lavish coverage which helped attract nearly 8,000 audience members.

### TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE TEACHING ARTISTS

#### **Dancing to Connect Institute– January and June, 2014**

With generous funding from the Booth Ferris Foundation, and in partnership with Universities across the Eastern seaboard, Battery Dance Company launched the Dancing to Connect Institute with two sessions occurring January 6 – 17 and June 9 – 20. In each session, 10 participants, composed of university dance students and professional dancers, learned the time-tested methodology of Dancing to Connect, in addition to arts administration, budgeting, cultural diplomacy, management, and logistics. Expert panels made up of local and international thought leaders presented during each session. The Dancing to Connect Institute not only represents a new earned-income revenue program for Battery Dance Company, but also expands the impact of the organization's methodology across the United States.

# **BRINGING THE ART OF DANCE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF NEW YORKERS**

## **Dance in New York City Public Schools**

In 2013-2014 Battery Dance Company carried out dance education programs in 5 schools across New York City in the Boroughs of Queens, Staten Island, and Manhattan. Students, most of whom were on federally assisted meal programs, engaged in creative workshops and/or a sequential series of dance classes. Schools included Curtis High School in Staten Island, Thomas Edison High School in Queens, Gramercy Arts, Washington Irving, and Union Square Academy high schools in Manhattan. Programming at a planned sixth school was put on hold due to difficulties in scheduling as a result of a change in NY Regents week examinations. Funding from Con Edison, the NYC Department of Education, the NY State Council on the Arts, and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs supported the programming at the five schools. Battery Dance Company is looking to expand its programming to more schools in FY15.

## **PRESENTING AND LECTURING ON CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AND THE ARTS**

BDC staff and dancers were featured at a number of New York City symposiums as panelists, performers, and lecturers. Among the many events, Battery Dance Company was featured at the Municipal Arts Society's MAS Summit NYC, the 92-Y Movement Talks, and the World Policy Institute's Beyond Cultural Diplomacy Symposium.

## **ENCOURAGING CULTURAL DIPLOMACY THROUGH DANCE EDUCATION AND CREATION**

### **Dancing to Connect – Europe**

BDC made its debut in Northern Ireland and returned to France and Greece to conduct outreach workshops focused on conflict resolution and inclusion. Through the Dancing to Connect workshops and performances, Protestant and Catholic youth came together in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and at-risk Muslim youth learned to express themselves creatively in an at-risk Paris Suburb. Continuing its multi-year program in Greece, Battery Dance Company oversaw 5-teacher trainees, trained in the previous year, as they conducted the Dancing to Connect program with youth in Patras. Performances reached over 1,000 members of the general public in each country and had the support of local government officials and mayors. These programs were sponsored by U.S. Embassies in each country.

### **Dancing to Connect – Nigeria**

BDC continued its collaboration with the Society for the Performing Arts Nigeria (SPAN), headlining the 1<sup>st</sup> SpanFest. The multi-faceted program included Dancing to Connect Workshops with 40 underserved youth, musical composition and vocal training with 20 students, master-classes, and a new choreographic creation with over 42 dancers. The program culminated with 3 new choreographic works, three company performances, and one musical performance. Throughout the program, Battery Dance Company provided technical oversight and management for the Festival and trained local

technicians. As a result of the program, the SPAN Founder and Executive travelled to New York City in January 2014 to participate in Battery Dance Company's *Dancing to Connect Institute*, where she was trained in the Dancing to Connect methodology and received instruction on advanced arts administration and cultural diplomacy.

### **Dancing to Connect - The Carribean and South America**

Battery Dance Company made its first foray into the countries of Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay by sending two to three dancers to each country to conduct youth outreach, Dancing to Connect programs, and performances. The local press in each country lavished praise on the programs with one newspaper in Trinidad and Tobago citing the workshops as "a life changin experience". These programs were sponsored by the U.S. Embassies in each country, with additional support provided by La Mancha in Uruguay. Partners in both countries have begun discussions regarding additional programming in FY15.

### **Dancing to Connect – Asia**

Battery Dance Company made its Thailand debut and conducted an extensive array of outreach programs in July, 2013. The one-week program in Bangkok was organized by the U.S. Embassy in teamwork with rumPUREE World Dance studio.

U.S. Ambassador Kristie Kenney and Embassy staff attended the final performance and lavished praise on the company for its ability to engage local youth and minorities.

Coupled with a vibrant program in Laos the previous month, the Asia tour was saved from cancellation through a major grant from Laura and Brooks Entwistle that made up for funding that was reversed following the USG Sequestration.

In Hong-Kong, BDC conducted a two-part program. In November 2013, BDC dancer Sean Scantlebury conducted master-classes, performed, and co-created a new work with Chinese dancers as part of the i-Dance Festival. In June 2014, BDC dancer Carmen Nicole worked with the Arts for the Disabled Association Hong Kong, training local teachers on how to utilize the Dancing to Connect methodology with physically disabled participants.

### **Dancing to Connect – India**

Returning to India after a 5-year hiatus, BDC conducted outreach workshops and performances in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Srinigar, Kashmir. In New Delhi and Kolkata, Dancing to Connect workshops were used to empower young female victims of gender-based violence and human sex-trafficking. In Srinigar, outreach targeted Muslim school students, while in Mumbai, at-risk street youth created their own choreography based on their own creativity. Funding for this program was provided by EmancipAction with additional support from the U.S. Consulate Kolkata, Kolkata Sanved, and the New Delhi Public School in Srinigar.

### **Cultural Diplomacy Toolkit**

BDC continued to populate and refine the first on-line cultural diplomacy toolkit embedded with narratives, lessons learned, project specifics, photos and videos describing the Company's experiences of working in 60 countries with funding from the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation. By the end of FY14, the toolkit had been visited more than 80,000 times from 17,000 unique visitors:

<http://toolkit.batterydance.org>

## IMPROVING BDC'S LOW COST STUDIO SPACE

### Studio Share Program

Each year, Battery Dance Company's shares its two studios with hundreds of choreographers and dance companies. Following upgrades in the heating system during the fall of 2011 and the obtaining of a vending machine providing healthy food and drink options, BDC staff was awarded \$150,000 in grants from the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and New York City Department of Cultural Affairs to revamp the electrical riser and allowing for the installation of air-conditioning in the rehearsal spaces. In FY14, Battery Dance Company was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Hyde and Watson Foundation and \$20,000 from the Fund for the City of New York to support the renovations project, which will be completed in early FY15.

## CULTIVATING DONORS, BUILDING A DATABASE & GROWING THE BOARD

With support from the Board, BDC hosted a fully-subscribed dinner at Bouley Botanical Kitchen in Tribeca in January, 2014, the second event of its kind for the Company. With support from a Taproot pro-bono team, awarded via a service grant in FY13, Battery Dance Company transitioned and rolled-out a customized salesforce.com database system. All donor activities transitioned to the new system, in addition to grant opportunity tracking. The program has yielded significant results for the Company in fundraising. The Board added two new directors during the FY14 year. Rising to the challenge of one Board member who pledged \$35,000 per year for two years for the hiring of Battery Dance Company's first Development Director, the Company was awarded a grant of \$20,000 from the Seth Sprague Charitable foundation. The new development director is expected to be hired in FY15.

## FINANCIALS

The following is an overview of Battery Dance Company's income and expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

**Support & Revenue:** **\$ 912,359**

**Program Expenses:**

NYC Arts Education	\$ 21,667
Downtown Dance Festival	\$ 105,107
DtC Institute	\$ 24,724
Special Projects	\$ 38,265
International Touring	\$ 363,067
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>\$ 735,041</b>

Management & General Expenses: \$ 56,198

Fundraising Expenses: \$ 38,224

**Total Expenses:** **\$ 829,483**

Total Assets: \$ 196,657

Total Liabilities: \$ 123,122

Ending Net Assets: \$ 73,535

Board of Directors

Helena Finn, Chair

Judi Kilachand, Vice Chair

Tameka Alsop, Treasurer

Samantha Sherman, Secretary

Patricia Donohue, Member

Jody Rasch, Member

Audrey Rohan, Member

Cynthia Heelan, Member

Lester Nelson, Member

Shea Gopaul, Member

Laura Entwistle, Member

Joy Toboroff, Member

Caroline Landau, member

Dorit Heimer, Member

President: Jonathan Hollander

*Battery Dance Company Organization is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.  
Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

