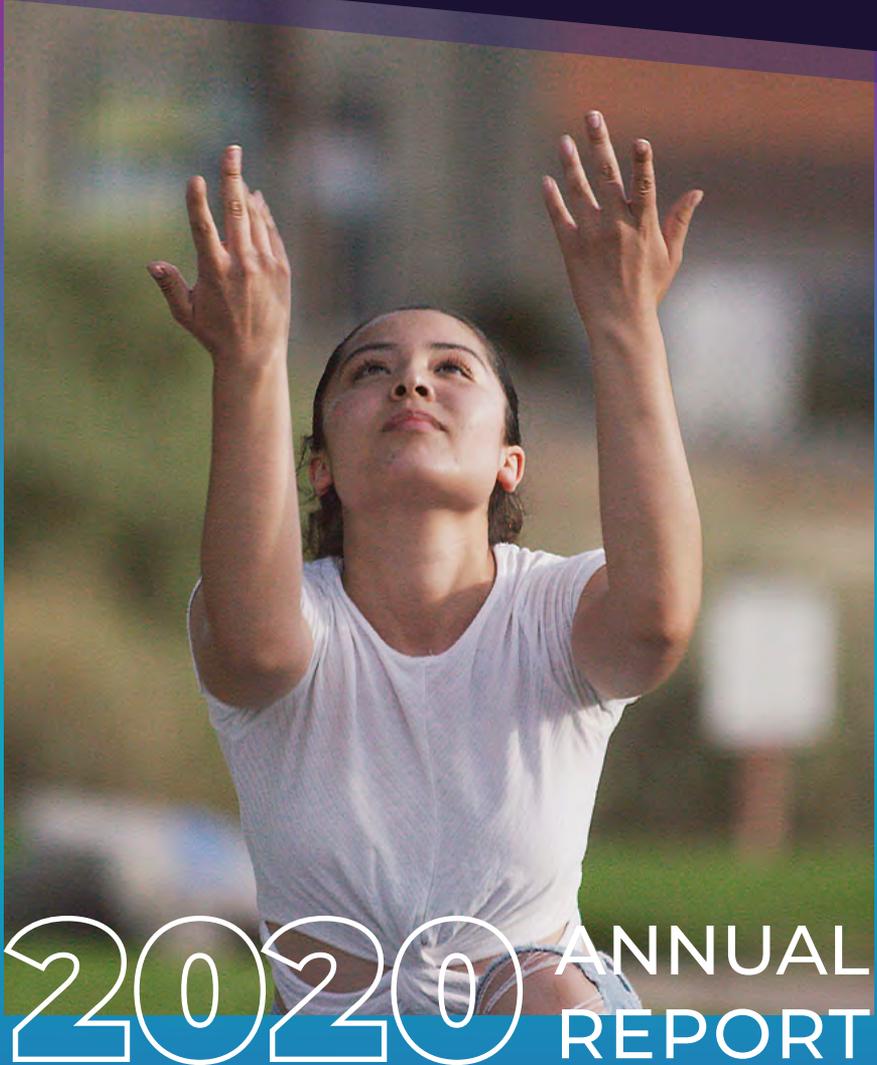


transcenDANCE

Youth Arts Project



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

7755 NORTH AVENUE LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

WWW.TDARTS.ORG 619-474-4903

2020 A YEAR OF CHANGE, CREATIVITY & GROWTH



transcenDANCE's mission
is to guide young people in
underserved San Diego County
communities to transcend barriers,
expand their ambitions, and create
positive change for themselves,
their families, and communities,
through dance and performance.

“During the pandemic, transcenDANCE helped me get through it because we are a family. They did not give up. We moved classes to zoom. We created a film. We always found another way to come together and dance. transcenDANCE always finds a way through. With the restrictions of the pandemic, tD gave me something to look forward to.”

— Haragni, 17 years old



COMMUNITY

We provide our students and alumni with a second home that promotes safety and belonging.

PROGRAM MODEL

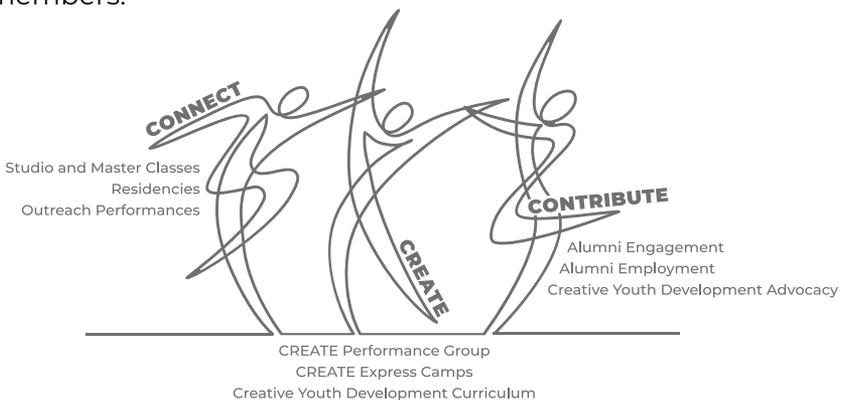
transcendANCE programs and services are delivered through a three-tiered program model: CONNECT, CREATE, CONTRIBUTE

CONNECT programs are open to youth and young adults ages 10-24 and include year-round dance and movement classes at our new arts center, school partnerships, performance residencies in the community, and field trips.

The CREATE Performance Group is the heart of our program model. Through CREATE, students receive 400+ program hours annually, encompassing dance and performing arts, therapy and counseling services, life and leadership skills, and mentorship by professional teaching artists.

We also offer intensive CREATE Express Camps and CREATE Summer Camp experiences in partnership with San Diego County schools to provide educational programming during school breaks.

CONTRIBUTE, our alumni engagement program, supports young adults as they take on paid roles with transcendANCE as choreographers, performers, teaching artists, and staff assistants, as well as leadership roles as mentors, volunteers, and board members.





CONNECT HIGHLIGHTS

PANDEMIC RESPONSE: PIVOT & PROGRESS

- In response to the need identified by San Diego Unified and Lemon Grove School Districts for **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculums**, transcenDANCE created a video series for over 500 students and teachers. The series, which helps to build social-emotional resiliency through dance, movement, and expressive arts, is now being offered to additional school districts.
- transcenDANCE introduced **a weekly intergenerational online community dance** class. The free program provided a sense of community and connected participants while physically apart.
- **Coffee Connectors** brought us together with **over 70** community members and program supporters. Along with our Co-Founder, Cat Corral, transcenDANCE staff and program alumni led informal online meetings to share about our responsive programming. We also were able to spread the news during these meetings about locating and renovating our new arts center – a decade-long dream being realized!

- transcenDANCE **partnered with local middle and high schools to show our CREATE dance documentary, *Home Within a Home***. Students witnessed how other youth experienced the pandemic and worked to maintain a sense of community, connect with nature, and find solace outdoors and within themselves.
- Our Co-Founder (and Creative Youth Development pioneer), Cat Corral along with transcenDANCE alum, Lucia Padilla, **presented at the annual San Diego Unified Visual and Performing Arts Mega Conference** about the importance of bringing **Social Emotional Learning** experiences into the classroom.
- transcenDANCE **partnered with Nativity Preparatory Academy**, a tuition-free private school for underserved youth, to provide an in-person residency in early 2020, also adding a live, online program for the fall of 2020. Subsequently, plans were developed to launch this successful program at three San Diego Title 1 schools in 2021.
- Live virtual “Watch Parties” **celebrated the start of construction** as we began our studio build-out with Lusardi Construction Company. Student families, program alumni, donors, supporters, and hundreds of community members connected online to kick off this momentous occasion.
- A transcenDANCE **Park Program** was designed and implemented outdoors to safely connect young people with each other and with our teaching artists and mentors during COVID-19. This also initiated and grew our **community presence in Lemon Grove**, where our new community arts center was being renovated simultaneously.



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

We teach our students and alumni about the power of creative expression in developing emotional and social resilience.



CREATE 2020

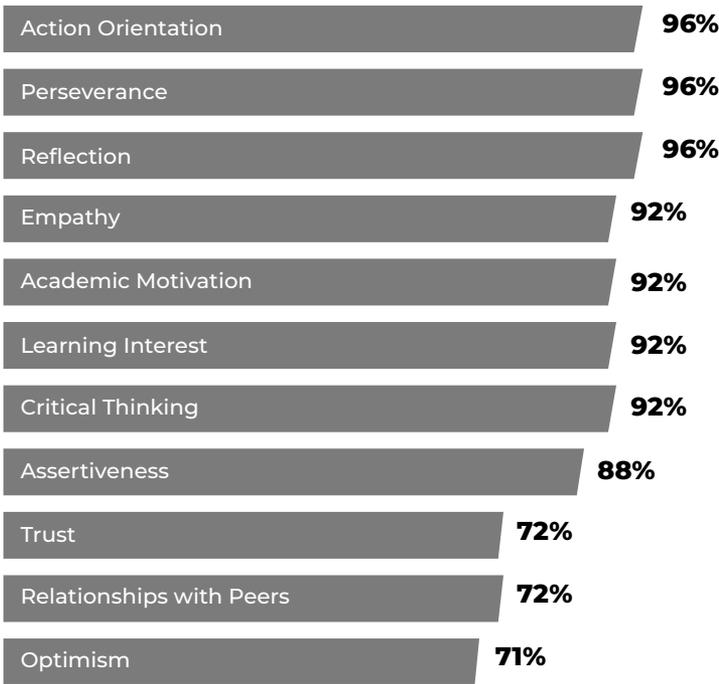
The **CREATE Performance Group**, our core teen program, celebrated its 15th year in the spotlight (literally!) with Jason Mraz. And the CREATE program persisted through 2020 with the same flexibility, strength, and resilience we aim to instill in our students.

We were thrilled to be invited to perform with Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter, Jason Mraz, in his musical adventure, *SHINE*, in February of 2020. 25 transcendANCE students and alumni choreographed and rehearsed for months to perform in two sold-out shows at the Spreckels Theatre in downtown San Diego. The powerful production was adored by audiences. There was no cost for youth to participate in this unique and exciting experience.

SHINE also launched an expansion of the CREATE Performance Group program. Once a five-month long program for high school students, CREATE is now year-round and features both middle and high school cohorts. Students can now grow with the program for seven consecutive years and, through alumni program offerings, remain connected through college and as they enter the workforce.

transcenDANCE measures its impact with the PEAR (Program in Education, After-school, and Resiliency) assessment tool developed at Harvard University. Pre-post comparison data from 2020's CREATE program show strong improvements in social emotional resiliencies, which has been shown to help students understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Percent Improvement by Category



CULTURAL COMPETENCE

We demonstrate the highest degree of sensitivity to social, economic, and political issues that affect our students in our interactions with them, their families, the community, and each other.



COURAGE

We help our students develop the courage they need to challenge the barriers they face and expand their ambitions.

Each year, the CREATE Performance Group chooses a socially relevant theme to guide their creative process in producing the annual performance. The theme Home was chosen for our 2020 production, even before the start of the pandemic. We could never have imagined how our experience of being “at home” would shift so drastically due to COVID-19.

As the uncertainties of 2020 grew, transcenDANCE staff and teaching artists understood that the reflection, therapy, and collaboration provided by our flagship program had become more important for students than ever. We quickly responded to shifting pandemic restrictions and new student needs by moving to virtual distance learning formats and by increasing the availability of therapy and counseling services available to our students.

The need to reimagine our CREATE program led to the production of our first dance documentary film! This unexpected, yet notable endeavor offers audiences a transparent look at how youth experienced the pandemic. The film was an ambitious collaboration by many dedicated parties who overcame mandates and restrictions, scheduling challenges, isolation, quarantines, and uncertainties to produce a high-quality film. Professional teaching artists, wellness practitioners, our staff therapist, a literary playwright, and a professional film production company worked online alongside our students throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The memorable *Home Within a Home* film invited thousands of audience members to witness how young people, determined to feel alive and hopeful in a time of hardship and isolation, created respite spaces within their physical homes and were able to find relief within themselves.



CREATE PROGRAM PANDEMIC RAPID RESPONSE

- With the shift to distance learning and virtual formats, transcenDANCE **met the technology needs** of all students, teaching artists, and administrative staff, ensuring computer and wifi access.
- Staff and mentors checked in and evaluated **food security** and access to **safe spaces** frequently.
- **Mental health services** expanded for students through individual therapy, group counseling sessions, crisis intervention, and resource referrals from our staff therapist.
- Hours for 1:1 and group **mentor sessions** with students increased to support social and emotional wellbeing.

transcenDANCE sends special congratulations to two alumni in 2020:

Emily, who transferred to San Diego State University's Dance Department; and **Niza**, who will be attending Long Beach State University, after being accepted to all four university dance departments to which she applied. We are proud to have both Emily and Niza as actively contributing transcenDANCE alumni.

Congratulations!

CONTRIBUTE HIGHLIGHTS

- Our 2020 alumni artist-in-residency program at the San Diego Central Library was re-envisioned to become a mini dance film series. Each episode provided a **glimpse inside the alumni dancers' vulnerability, joy, and imagination.**
- Throughout the pandemic, our transcenDANCE alumni held **weekly video meetings** for creative sessions that involved movement and dance, resource sharing, and community building conversations.
- Hours for 1:1 **counseling and therapy services for transcenDANCE alumni increased** as they navigated moving home from college campuses and challenges associated with the pandemic.
- A CREATE alum and parent **shared their stories through visual and literary art** during our Giving Tuesday free community contribution. The special online event featured a preview of our *Home Within a Home* film, a dance class, and an opportunity to contribute to transcenDANCE community artists.
- **75% of the artists hired** to produce our CREATE and CONTRIBUTE distance learning programs **were alumni** of the CREATE Program.

CONTRIBUTE

2020 TRANSCENDANCE PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

CONNECT

Intergenerational Classes

- 42 intergenerational participants, two 16-week sessions
- 32 program hours

Park Dance Classes

- 42 youth ages 10-18, 10-week session
- 60 program hours

In-school Residencies

- 54 youth, two 12-week sessions
- 36 program hours

Distance Learning Support

- 6-part video series
- 500 youth

Community Performances & Residencies

- 6-video series
- 7 alumni
- 75 program hours

CREATE

CREATE Performance Group our flagship, holistic program

- 41 young people, year-round
- 437 program hours

CONTRIBUTE

Paid opportunities for alumni of the CREATE program

- 23 alumni were hired across our CREATE and CONNECT programs

2020 ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Racial Equity Work

Racial equity and social change have been integral parts of our work since transcenDANCE was formed in 2005. Through our thematic curriculum that touches upon social issues, along with key partnerships over our 15-year history, we have cultivated a social change element within our programs. However, 2020 was a year that led transcenDANCE to pause and dig deeper into the important social justice issues that rose to the surface.

After the killing of George Floyd in May 2020, transcenDANCE felt a need to reflect on the ways in which we could make a deeper connection to justice work as an organization. We collaborated with Dr. Jesse Mills, Professor of Ethnic Studies at USD, a long-time transcenDANCE supporter, esteemed anti-racist consultant, artist, and community organizer. Dr. Mills facilitated conversations with the Board, administrative staff, and artist and alumni circles, where key questions were raised collectively and reflected upon around our personal stories related to power, privilege, and systemic racism, our individual roles in co-creating an intentionally anti-racist space, and our organizational role in this work that primarily serves youth of color most effected by social injustices.



CHANGE-MAKING

We have a passionate commitment to collective action to improve our students' well-being and success. We create a platform to amplify their voice in the communities they live in.

Instead of rushing to develop new policies and procedures and to put out statements, transcenDANCE started a journey in 2020 that will continue for years to come. The journey invites all individuals holding roles at transcenDANCE to deepen awareness associated with systemic racism and others -isms, to reflect on our values and organizational culture more often, to evaluate how a racial equity lens can be intentionally brought into the program space even more, and to practice using new language and concepts that center racial equity as a more normalized part of doing business. We are committed to this work long term and there are tangible outcomes that will come from this place across the organization. From this strong foundation, the students participating in transcenDANCE programs will have a deeper experience with racial equity in practice as well.



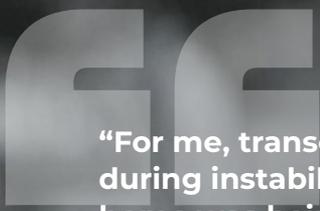
COLLABORATION

We create strong partnerships, programs and performances with our students, alumni, staff, artists, grantors, donors, and community partners.



2020 Capital Fundraising Campaign

Since being established as a grass-roots organization 15 years ago, transcenDANCE has operated out of borrowed, shared, and rundown spaces throughout San Diego County that offered little program security or continuity. Upon identifying a potential new space to relocate and expand our programs, we launched a fundraising campaign in April of 2020 chaired by Board VP, Pat Zigarmi. Through the help of our generous donors and supporters, we met the majority of our goal by December 2020 that would allow us to build out and relocate to our much-needed new home. (Our goal was fully reached in early 2021.) Through partnership with Hitzke Development Corporation, Lusardi Construction Company, and architect, Tom Vorkoper, we were able to turn our dream of a new, modernized studio and long-term lease into reality. We completed the build out in January 2021 and prepared to open our doors with expanded classes to students in the spring of 2021.



“For me, transcenDANCE has been stability during instability. It was a home when my home was being exploded. It’s important for transcenDANCE to have a forever home, some place where kids can always go when they’re having troubles, and go for the happy moments too, where they can share their successes.”

— Bella, age 19, attending Northern Arizona University



The NEW transcenDANCE Arts Center

Our new campus is located on the ground floor of an affordable housing complex, where we are uniquely positioned to offer our services. We now have a new, modern 2,000 square foot dance studio, private therapy and staff offices, a second dance studio, a kitchen, and a community room. With 5,000 square feet of usable space, the new transcenDANCE Arts Center will increase support through year-round holistic programs and, with expanded mental health services, class offerings, workshops, and specialty programs, we will amplify the positive impact on the youth and communities we serve.

Additions to the transcenDANCE Board of Directors

Four new members bring diverse skill sets and experience to our Board. They offer expertise in the areas of science, litigation, multimedia art, design, entrepreneurship, and education. Join us in welcoming Tonya Chavis, Bianca Rennick, Yolanda Tilbury, and Dr. Lori Westin.



COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION

We treat each other with kindness and respect.
We listen and help our students give voice to their experience.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS & GROWTH

Through grants and the help of our contributors, transcenDANCE raised \$722,000 in 2020. This marked a successful year, during which we pivoted to provide responsive programs, planned for future growth, and began construction on our new campus. In comparison to 2019, we saw increases of 35% in government grants and contracts. We also raised over 60% of our capital campaign goal.

Revenue

Government Grants	151,597
Individual Contributions	142,701
Capital Campaign	259,356
Foundations & Corporate	109,352
Events and Other	59,459
Total	722,465

Expense

Personnel Related	287,308
Non-Personnel Overhead	67,521
Production and Event	44,188
Total	399,017



CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (CYD) PROGRAMS

A Proven Solution for Positive Outcomes for Youth

For 15 years, transcenDANCE has provided young people with tools for their health and well-being that allow them to bounce back from difficult situations and adapt to adversity. Because transcenDANCE works in underserved communities and partners with Title I schools, we are connecting with the youth who need our programs and services most and ensuring access. transcenDANCE programs are designed to deeply engage young people in creative expression through dance, performance, and storytelling. We focus on developing young people's flexibility/adaptability (resilience), creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills.

Young people who participate in CYD activities are more likely to have a sense of purpose, be physically healthy, and be socially conscious, volunteer, and have better attendance and higher grades in school. They are less likely to experience depression or to engage in acts of violence toward others. (Adolescent Thriving: The Role of Sparks, Relationships, and Empowerment, Scales, Benson, and Roehlkepartain, 2010)



NIZA'S STORY



“My friend invited us to join transcenDANCE because she knew we were passionate about dance. I originally stayed with transcenDANCE because it was extremely fun. As I stayed longer, I realized how valuable it was and how much I was learning and benefiting – as I continue to do now. transcenDANCE helped me decide which college to choose. But before that they helped me get plenty of amazing dance experience, which was definitely a contributing factor to my acceptances.

I feel a lot of gratitude toward transcenDANCE. Without them I would not have been living my fullest life. What I have achieved and been a part of would not have been a possibility without them – they taught me I should not hold back in what I really want. transcenDANCE cares for its students and alumni. They want us to achieve our goals and plan our future. They hold workshops for us to be better people. It is a place where we can genuinely be ourselves, which is special and extremely important for youth. My family is immensely proud I am a part of transcenDANCE. They are also grateful how helpful transcenDANCE has been in my life.”

Niza Galindo joined transcenDANCE as a student in 2014. She participated in the CREATE program's Performance Group for four years and has been an active alum since 2018.

**These accomplishments are possible
because of our Board, staff, creative team,
and community partners.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Every member of our Board contributes wisdom,
work, and wealth to transcenDANCE.

OFFICERS

Arlene Yang, Board President/
Chair – Attorney, Brown Law
Group

Dr. Patricia Zigarmi, Board Vice
President – Founder, The Ken
Blanchard Companies

Yahairah Aristy, Board
Treasurer – Deputy Public
Defender, County of San Diego

Wendy Endsley, Board
Secretary – Charitable Giving
Office, Father Joe's Village

DIRECTORS

DeLinda Forsythe – CEO
& Founder, Innovative
Commercial Environments

Allison Hayase – Owner/
Principal Consultant, AKH
Consulting

Julie Wester – Compensation
Partner, Becton Dickinson

Talia Morrison, MA, LMFT –
Program Manager, Fred Finch
Youth & Family Services

Juan Oseguera – Deputy
Sheriff, San Diego County
Sheriff's Department and a
transcenDANCE alumnus '08

Yolanda Tilbury - Family
Manager and Home
Economist

Lorelei Westin – Partner, Wilson
Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Tonya Chavis – Director,
Information Technology
Business Partner

Bianca Rennick – Owner/
Teacher, Modern Makers
Collective

STAFF

Co-Founder & Executive/
Artistic Director
Catherine Corral

Managing Director
Sara Blodgett

Program Manager
Paula Perez-Costas

Individual and Corporate
Giving Manager
Cheryl McIlhon

Finance and Operations
Maia Starling

Company Manager
Viviana Alcazar

Therapist
Ky Ngo Dennis

TEACHING ARTISTS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS

Viviana Alcazar

Ron Davis

Eric Geiger

Dr. grace shinhae jun

Zack J. King

Jaime Nixon

Seiha Vor

Jae Davis

Leslie Seifers

David “Darkie” Simmons

Associate Artistic Director

Tonnie Sammartano

Writing and Theatre Director

Rebecca Bellingham

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

UCSD Art Power!

Nativity Prep Academy

SD Unified School District

Lemon Grove School District

emota

Hitzke Development Corporation

Waterfront Arts and Activation,
Port of San Diego

“Everyone was completely blown away by the *Home Within a Home* film. It was incredibly moving. The use of professional editing and spoken word elements just enhanced the beautiful choreography.”

— Talia Morrison, Board Member

FUNDERS

Alliance Healthcare Foundation

City of San Diego

California Arts Council

Pratt Memorial Fund

Clare Rose Foundation, Inc.

Samuel I. & John Henry Fox
Foundation

Serenity Grace Foundation

Seth Sprague Educational &
Charitable Foundation

Nordson Foundation

Jason Mraz Foundation

Thomas C. Ackerman Foundation

Walter J. and Betty C. Zable
Foundation

Blanchard Foundation

David C. Copley



And we are deeply grateful to our many individual donors. Through their trust, wisdom, generosity, and commitment we are able to provide the depth and quality of services we offer our students.



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GET INVOLVED

transcendANCE

Youth Arts Project

- DONATE
- VOLUNTEER
- HOST A FRIEND-RAISER
- ATTEND A PERFORMANCE
- SPONSOR AN EVENT
- PROVIDE A CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP
- JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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