

transcenDANCE

Youth Arts Project



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

7755 NORTH AVENUE
LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

WWW.TDARTS.ORG
619-474-4903

2021: A NEW HOME, EXPANDED PROGRAMS & A BROADER REACH



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

transcenDANCE is a nationally recognized Creative Youth Development organization that works with youth ages four to 24 years. Our programs change the trajectory of students' lives by building resilience and confidence, promoting creativity and expression, and instilling life-changing skills such as leadership, collaboration, and community engagement.

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 under-resourced communities and partners with Title I schools, we are connecting with the youth who need our programs and services most. 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, be socially conscious, to volunteer, and to 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 Roles of Sparks, Relationships, and Empowerment, Scales, Benson, and Roehlkepartain, 2010.)



COLLABORATION

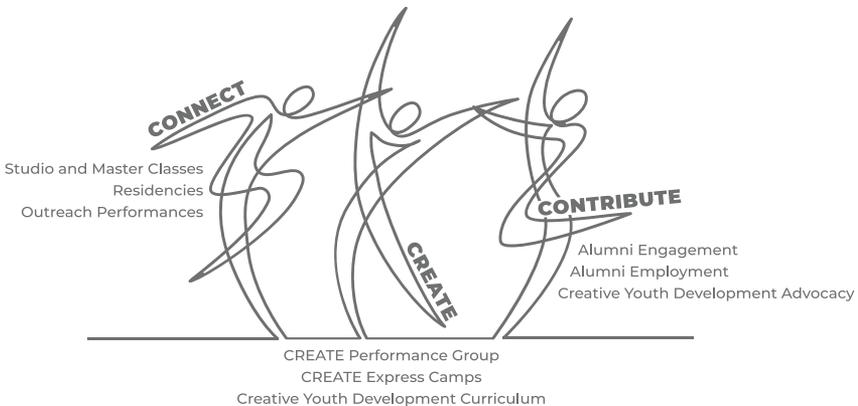
We create strong partnerships, programs and performances with our students, alumni, staff, and artists supported by the resources of our grant-givers, donors, and community partners.

PROGRAM MODEL

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

CONNECT programs include year-round dance and movement classes, in-school and afterschool residencies, school and community partnerships, site-specific and outreach performances, and field trips. In our new transcenDANCE Arts Center, we now are able to offer expanded classes that serve a broader population from age four to adult. CONNECT serves thousands of individuals through direct experiences and as audience members.

The CREATE Performance Groups are the heart of our mission. CREATE runs through the entire school year and 40-45 students receive 300+ program hours, which combine dance and performing arts training with a social change curriculum, encompass therapy and counseling services, teach life and leadership skills, and provide mentorship by professional teaching artists. CREATE was also expanded for the 2020-2021 school year to serve both middle and high school-aged cohorts.



We also offer intensive CREATE Express Camps and CREATE Summer Camp experiences in partnership with San Diego County schools to provide holistic performing arts-based 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.



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

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

CONNECT HIGHLIGHTS 2021

A NEW, MODERN ARTS CENTER & STRONG SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Following the success of the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculums that we created in 2020 for Lemon Grove and San Diego Unified School Districts, we scripted and filmed **six** new ***K-5 Social Emotional Learning through the Movement Arts*** videos for the Lemon Grove School District. The video series was shown to approximately 1,000 students.

In the spring of 2021, transcenDANCE partnered for **five** virtual and hybrid **residencies** for **155 students** at Morse High, Hoover High, King Chavez Prep, Nativity Prep, and with Migrant Education Services. Students experienced high-quality dance education with professional, practicing Teaching Artists and watched our *Home Within a Home* student dance film about the pandemic with pre- and post-curriculum activities.

Still in the midst of the pandemic at the start of 2021, we continued our **outdoor Park Dance Program**, enrolling **42 students ages 9-18**, January through May, and ending with a family performance in Civic Center Park in Lemon Grove.



COURAGE

We support our students as they strengthen their resilience to challenge the barriers they face and expand their ambitions.



In June, we opened our doors as the *new* **transcendANCE Arts Center** and expanded programming to 139 dance class students with classes **three days per week** over **11 weeks** of summer, following Covid safety protocols.

We partnered with the Lemon Grove School District during their summer session to offer dance classes **4 times per week** to **175 youth** ages preschool through 8th grade to **support reintegrating back on campus for in-school learning with peers.**

The San Diego Foundation, in partnership with **San Diego Unified**, awarded transcendANCE with a **Level Up grant** for summer programs which allowed our new Arts Center and all of its summer offerings to reach **new families** just in time for our opening.

For fall programming, **94 students signed up for 8 different in-person class choices**, held **3 days per week for 10 weeks**, including Creative Movement for youth ages 4-6 years, Dance Play for youth ages 7-9 years three times per week, Youth hip-hop for ages 10-13 years, Stretch and Strength for youth ages 10-14 years, Adult Dancing in Community, and Adult Latin Cardio.

Fall school partnerships included **8 in-person classes** with the **Lemon Grove School District**, as well as with **Nativity Prep Academy** 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

We welcomed our first long-term tenant to the Arts Center in fall as well. **The Expressive Arts Institute**, California's only fully integrated intermodal, interdisciplinary **education program for expressive arts practitioners**, now runs their school-year program one weekend per month in our space. The Arts Center allowed for alumni rehearsals, acupuncture/wellness workshops, and audition video filming to happen in service to the community.

transcenDANCE partnered with the **Port of San Diego** for the **third year**, participating in their outdoor holiday festivities, *Wonderfront Wednesdays*, with **4 student/alumni performers** in **3 live performances**, led by an **alum choreographer**, Ronald Davis at the Broadway Pier in downtown San Diego.

Our return to in-person outreach performances also included a November in-studio performance for **capital campaign major donors**, a November performance for **Project New Village**, and a December performance for the winter holiday event in the **Treganza Heritage Park**.



CREATE HIGHLIGHTS 2021

LONGER SESSION, BROADER REACH, ROBUST SUMMER CAMPS

Our core program, the CREATE Performance Group, now runs through the whole school year and includes both a middle and high school cohort. 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.

In October each year, CREATE students begin transcenDANCE'S unique nine month-long program that combines expressive arts and dance with community-building work and mental health services, and includes a social change and community engagement curriculum that develops leadership and life skills.

Each cohort of 20-25 members is its own CREATE Performance Group which works through the school year with professional, practicing teaching artists, guest educators, and program mentors to co-create a dance production that is performed in a professional theatre in front of audiences.



In 2021, we offered our first ever summer CREATE camps – a shortened intensive 7-week CREATE session – for both middle and high school cohorts. The program culminated with two intimate student performances for live audiences in our new Arts Center in August.



Each year, the CREATE Performance Groups choose a socially relevant theme to guide their creative process in producing the annual performance. This fall's theme for the June 2022 performance, ***Echoes of Lemon Grove***, is inspired by local history and draws from the 1931 “Lemon Grove incident,” a United States desegregation court case. The theme work connects this event with what is current and relevant to young people in relation to identity, family and cultural histories, racism, equity, and activism.

October 2021 launched the Youth Leadership team. In September, following an application and interview process, four teens were selected for paid leadership roles where they will serve as co-designers and bridges to the adult staff. This addition will strengthen the team's capacity for peer leadership in the CREATE program.

MEASURING IMPACT

transcendANCE measures its impact with the PEAR (Program in Education, After-school, and Resiliency) assessment tool developed at Harvard University. Post program data from 2021's CREATE summer camp program show strong improvements across the board with the following positive growth rates: action orientation 87.5%, relationship with peers 75%, academic motivation 78.1%, perseverance 76.2%, critical thinking 79.4%, empathy 81.3%, learning interest 87.3%. This quantitative data correlates with students' social and emotional personal development that includes understanding and managing emotions, setting and achieving positive goals, feeling and showing empathy for others, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and making responsible decisions.



COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION

We value direct communication with kindness and respect. We cultivate caring practitioners of our work.

CONTRIBUTE

HIGHLIGHTS 2021

- CREATE alumnus, **Raul Lopez**, generously sponsored our Giving Tuesday event this year, inspiring guests at our free Community Dance Class and **matching contributions** up to **\$5,000**.
- Our **Student Scholarship committee** awarded a **\$4,500 scholarship** to CREATE Alum, Niza Galindo, in support of her college attendance at Long Beach State University where she is in pursuit of science and dance degrees.
- transcenDANCE **employed or contracted 11 alumni** in 2021 through **paid positions** which included: Teaching Artist, Teaching Assistant, Choreographer, Program Coordinator and Video Director/Editor.
- From January to May, we piloted our first **Dance Teacher Training** program with **5 alumni and 1 Lead Artist**, supporting the professional and artistic growth of emerging young adult teaching artists.
- We continued to offer **no-cost individual therapy services** to alumni who needed extra support during the pandemic.
- **CREATE Alum**, Itza Perez, served on the **Board of Directors**.
- Our Artistic/ Executive Director, Cat Corral, attended **three local and state-wide** virtual conference presentations with **select alumni** to educate, inspire, and **advocate for Creative Youth Development Programs**.



FUNDER SPOTLIGHT

THE CONRAD PREBYS FOUNDATION

The Conrad Prebys Foundation Grant

We were honored to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Conrad Prebys Foundation. Consistent with the legacy of Conrad Prebys, The Foundation is dedicated to meeting community need through impactful grantmaking in areas including the performing arts and youth development. This funding will help fully activate the transcENDANCE Arts Center by expanding our breadth, depth, and demographic reach with year-round arts programming, which includes expanded programs, new on-site classes, more specialty camps, added workshops with community partners, unique public performances, two CREATE Performance Groups, and increased alumni projects and employment.

2021 transcendANCE PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

CONNECT

Spring Park Dance Classes

- 42 participants ages 9-18
- 400 program hours

Spring Virtual Residencies

- 5 virtual & hybrid school/community residencies
- 155 students

In-School Summer Residency with Lemon Grove School District

- 175 students
- 4x/ week for 4 weeks
- 1st – 6th grades & a special needs program for preschool through 8th grade classes

Summer Classes at the Arts Center

- 9 classes per week
- 139 students

Fall School Residencies/ Partnerships

- 218 students
- Partnerships with Lemon Grove School District & Nativity Prep Academy
- 14-week sessions

Fall Classes at the Arts Center

- 8 classes per week
- 94 students

Distance Learning Support

- 6 new K-5 Social Emotional Learning video series
- 7 Lemon Grove schools
- 1,000 youth

Community Performances

- Arts Center Construction Groundbreaking event virtual performance
- Arts Center Ribbon Cutting event virtual performance
- 3rd annual Port Partnership Embarcadero performances
- Fall Arts Center donor engagement event performance
- Project New Village community event performance
- Treganza Park holiday community event performance

CREATE

CREATE Summer Camps

- 2 cohorts of middle & high school students
- 40 students total

CREATE Performance Group our flagship, holistic program

- 2 cohorts of middle & high school students
- 9-month program
- 45 students total
- 300+ program hours

CONTRIBUTE

Paid opportunities for the alumni of our CREATE program

- 11 alumni were hired across our CREATE and CONNECT programs
- 1 major Giving Tuesday Event sponsored by an alumnus
- 1 College Scholarship awarded
- 1 alumna elected to serve on the Board
- 5 alumni participated in pilot Teacher Training program



CREATIVE EXPRESSION

The work of transcENDANCE focuses on the power of creative expression in developing social and emotional resilience.

2021 ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our new Arts Center!

The new **transcenDANCE Arts Center** opened its doors in Lemon Grove in 2021! In April, we met 2020's capital campaign fundraising goal to solidify our move and program expansion and also completed the build-out of our new arts center, with 5,000 square feet of multi-use space. This move quadrupled our previous area and provided bigger, modern studios, therapy and staff offices, and a community room. In April, we held a virtual ribbon cutting that garnered notable press and community support and in June, we opened our doors to in-person programming, following Covid safety protocols.

We simultaneously ran CONNECT and CREATE programs during the summer, offering our first ever Summer CREATE Camps and expanded CONNECT programming to youth as young as four years with more class offerings. We also developed and expanded upon our strong school and community partnerships, which allowed us to offer social emotional learning support through dance expressive arts to over a thousand students through virtual and in-person residencies as they emerged from the depths of the pandemic.

Students, alumni, artists and staff are excited and energized in our new home. We invite our supporters and our community to contact us to schedule a time to tour our beautiful new arts center!



COMMUNITY

Students and alumni experience transcenDANCE as a second home that promotes safety and belonging.

Student Scholarship Committee

In 2021, we formally adopted a process to award scholarships to CREATE alumni who are graduating from high school or returning to college. Scholarship will be awarded annually in the summer in support of college tuition and/or housing needs.

Continued racial equity work in 2021

Racial equity and social change have been integral parts of our work since transcenDANCE was formed in 2005. In 2020, transcenDANCE began a deeper journey with this work that will continue for years to come. The journey invites all individuals holding roles at transcenDANCE to deepen awareness associated with systemic racism and other –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 and leadership spaces even more, and to practice using new language and concepts that center racial equity as a more normalized part of doing business.

Over the year, transcenDANCE board, staff, artist and alumni community participated in two training sessions with USD Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies, Dr. Jesse Mills. All individuals in different circles of the organization began writing individual racial equity statements relevant to their identity, role, and practices. Individuals then participated in one-on-one coaching sessions based on this writing, and will continue to do so. This will pave the way for each circle of the organization to co-develop collective racial equity statements by mid-2022. This is co-led by our organization's racial equity committee, consisting of a representative from each circle of the organization. Specific findings have been integrated into our hiring practices to ensure new hires are aligned with our values.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS & GROWTH

Through grants, donations, and earned income, transcDANCE raised a total of \$602,967 in 2021. Additionally, transcDANCE successfully achieved its \$400,000 goal for our first capital campaign in April 2021 that allowed us to build out the new Arts Center, cover new facility and operations costs, and expand programs.

This marked an extremely successful fundraising year and we are immensely grateful for all of the new and returning individuals, foundations, and businesses that allowed us to secure our long-term home!

Revenue

Individual Contributions	\$233,311
Foundations & Corporate	\$160,950
Government Grants	\$147,858
Earned Income	\$60,848

Expense

Programs	\$361,459
Development	\$119,521
Operations	\$107,598





“It feels good to dance, you can express yourself in different ways. It helps with getting out all of those bottled up emotions that you cannot express verbally.”

— Mariyah, age 10

“When I am dancing I feel powerful.”

— Malaysia, age 12



CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS

We strive to continually learn and grow about issues and practices related social, racial, and economic equity so that we can be conscious agents of change.

LEO & ANA-SOPHIA

transcendANCE FATHER-DAUGHTER DUO!

Meet father-daughter duo, Leo and Ana-Sophia, who brought their shared love for dance to transcendANCE in 2021. Leo came aboard as a Teaching Artist and Ana-Sophia joined our CREATE Performance Group program. Here they describe their journey with our program, their favorite moments, and what it's like dancing as a family.

Leo: I've known about transcendANCE for years. Cat and I have common friends in the arts education community and I had done a guest Samba class here pre-pandemic. I started working with the team in the summer of 2021, doing dance classes for Lemon Grove School District Summer Camp. Now I'm happy to be regularly teaching with transcendANCE.

Ana-Sophia: I didn't know transcendANCE was a thing until my mom signed me up for a summer park class with Ms. Cybele. At first, I was hesitant and very, very shy. I didn't want to talk to anyone and I was always in the back. But everybody is super nice and I'm having a lot of fun. I've made a lot of friends.

Leo: While I appreciate the fun and active work, I am most thrilled by Ana-Sophia's growth as a dancer through transcendANCE. She's developed in many ways from the shy and apprehensive student she started as. transcendANCE has accomplished what I, an active dance teacher and dancer, could not do – inspire her to dance – regularly, multiple times a week! I remember when the season was over last year and she said, "What am I going to do?! I can't wait to dance again!"



Ana-Sophia: Performing in the summer was my favorite! I learned that I shouldn't be nervous about people judging me.

Leo: My wife, Theresa, has been into boxing and trapeze and Sophia recently started trapeze, too. Though my movement practice is largely independent from family, we have a general appreciation for movement as health. Beyond teaching, I love dance and I don't dance enough for myself. Like the old Depeche Mode song says, "I just can't get enough!"

Ana-Sophia: I love to learn new moves and tips from my family. I feel excited and happy when I dance.

Leo: My advice for new students: Stay, play, be yourself. You're in a good place. I love transcenDANCE. We have an AMAZING group of Teaching Artists. I wish I could take classes from many of them!

Ana-Sophia: My advice for anyone new to transcenDANCE: if there is something you need help with, you can ask anyone and they will be willing to help. This is a very accepting and fun community, so if you're looking for a place to dance, I recommend transcenDANCE!

SPOTLIGHT

LUCIA – CREATE ALUMNA RETURNS AS A TRANSCENDANCE TEACHING ARTIST

I started dancing when I was five, when my sister and mom would take me to dance classes because I was that toddler that loved to perform in front of family members. Up until 16, I still enjoyed performing in front of others as much as I could. When I heard and saw transcENDANCE from friends in high school, I was most excited about having another opportunity to perform. But what really made me stay was this sense of belonging I had. Not only do I share the same passion for dance, but I got to connect with this community deeper than my other clubs in high school because of our passions for arts.

When I first was a student in transcENDANCE, I remember the rush I got from dancing and rehearsing every day. I remember laying down on the floor, exhausted, next to my friend who was in community college for dance and she said to me, “This is what college is every day.” I replied with “I want that.”

My biggest goal was to attend a four-year university straight after high school. I knew it wasn’t going to be an easy goal, especially since I was first in my family to even apply for universities. But when I joined transcENDANCE, I was able to connect with students/alumni who were in college that gave me advice and support to reach that goal. And as a recently graduated adult, I hope to be that person for future students of transcENDANCE.

When I first attended college, I only wanted to study dance to dance, but I took a choreography class in my second year that inspired me to start choreographing. A few weeks

before my graduation, my Dad told me how none of his family members ever went to college and some like himself didn't finish high school. During my ceremony, I gifted my Dad my stole of gratitude as a way for dedicating my accomplishment to him. It took me a while after graduation to realize how big of an accomplishment it was – not only for me, but for my friends and family.



My first teaching opportunity with transcenDANCE after college was with special needs youth over the summer at San Altos Elementary School. It was challenging at first, since I had no experience teaching neurodiverse youth, but it was the most memorable one so far. Those students touched my heart and they proved how dance and the arts can impact a community.

One of the most exciting parts about being a teaching artist now at transcenDANCE is working with my former teachers at eye level. I'm so grateful for working alongside amazing dancers. I looked up to my former dance teachers at transcenDANCE and professors from college who made me the strong artist I am. And I hope I can be that role model to the future generation of dancers.

I use dance as a form of expression in my life. Dance was there for me when I was a teen trying to figure out who I was and to survive a pandemic and a sudden change in my life. It feels relieving to dance again in an open space after almost two years of only dancing in my living room due to the pandemic.

One of my favorite things about dance is how it's an art that never stops evolving. So, I can't wait to continue learning about dance!

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Cat Corral
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Ky Ngo Dennis
Therapist

Maia Starling
Finance

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(promoted in April)

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Jaime Nixon
Program and
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(hired in December)

2021 TEACHING ARTISTS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS

Tonnie
Sammartano,
Associate Artistic
Director

Viviana Alcazar

Rebecca
Bellingham

Kanna Burch

Ron Davis

Leo Francisco

Eric Geiger

grace shinhae jun

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transcenDANCE

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