

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-
2024



N E D T

NEW ENGLAND DANCE THEATER

PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHT - SPRING 2024



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Current Members 2024-2025

Jennifer Kurtz, *Chair*

Frances Ortiz, *Artistic Director*

GINNA ORTIZ, *Artistic Director*

Ted Thomas, *Artistic Director*

Anne Briggs, *Audience Development*

Cris Carofano, *Merchandising & Fundraising*

Elizabeth DeMuth, *Enrichment*

Jen Gallagher, *Secretary & Special Projects*

Mary Beth Livengood, *Grants & Sponsorships*

Zibby Perkins, *Communications & Community Outreach*

Sara Schubert, *Volunteer Collaboration*



Thank you

A special thank you to each of last year's Board members - Jeanne Collins, Emily Konrad, and Jonathan Paterson who dedicated their time and resources to the success of our mission. While they move on, we are pleased to welcome new members Mary Beth Livengood and Sara Schubert.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Letter from Chair of the Board

Fall 2024

Dear Friends of New England Dance Theater,

On behalf of the NEDT board, I'm proud to share our second Annual Report highlighting our work and its impact that stems from your generous support. Our mission is to create greater access, awareness, and appreciation of dance, which relies on the thoughtful financial contributions from our donors, countless hours and high energy from our dedicated volunteers, and the confidence and guidance in our partnership with grant funders.

We are mission-focused in three key areas: high-quality productions, community outreach, and dancer enrichment.

This year, we continued many of our signature programs and partnerships, including the **Summer Dance Camp at The Carver Center**, our weekly **STAR Dance Classes**, live accompaniment with the **Norwalk Symphony Orchestra** in collaboration with our *Nutcracker* production, and so much more. Specifically, I'd like to highlight several new or expanded initiatives accomplished this year that exemplify our commitment to our mission.

Lecture-Demonstrations Reached 1,500+ Patrons

We expanded our lecture-demonstration community performances this past year with a resounding response from young and old alike. We raised NEDT and the arts awareness with exposure to more than 1,500 patrons at 10 different venues in Stamford, New Canaan, Norwalk, and Pound Ridge (NY), including Waveny Care Center, Pound Ridge Nursery School, ATRIA Senior Center, the New Canaan Inn, among others.

New Canaan Library Shares Support for the Performing Arts

In September 2023, the New Canaan Library, Stand Together Against Racism (S.T.A.R.), and the New England Academy of Dance (NEAD) partnered to screen professional ballerina Misty Copeland's short episodic film, *Flower*. The panel presentation with famed ballet recognition was a sold-out event and included more than 100 of our ballerinas in attendance. In December, we brought our ballerinas into the Library's Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium to showcase *Nutcracker* excerpts to an audience of more than 250 patrons. Then, this spring, we kicked off the Library's first live performance on the Green (a fantastic new sprawling lawn in the middle of town!) with our competition dancers on our new outdoor stage (purchased during the pandemic), also attracting more than 250 audience members of all ages. *(continued on next page)*

Enrichment: New Dancer Development Program

NEDT launched a new Dancer Development program partnering with NEAD to bring special workshops and seminars to dancers in Ballet 1 and above (ages 6+). Workshops included a hands-on tutorial on making the perfect ballet buns, applying stage makeup, useful approaches to help injury prevention, and a very special Ballerina Bedtime Stories event for our youngest dancers. We are proud that NEDT can directly impact many NEAD dancers with enrichment opportunities.

Insuring Our Most Valuable Assets

NEDT partnered with the school's building owners, the Harmony Lodge #67-New Canaan Masons, to renovate our costume closet. NEDT owns and maintains hundreds of beautiful costumes, and this renovation ensured that they would be stored in the best possible conditions. We are grateful for the support of our 30 generous donors, who sponsored a tutu storage drawer as our fundraiser for this important initiative. We are excited to start the new school year with this beautiful and safe new space for the tutus and all who access it.

This past year was a great success, made possible by YOU—our generous supporters. Thank you for believing in our mission and igniting our work through your donations, time, love for the performing arts, and our blossoming ballerinas!

Many, many thanks,

Jennifer Kurtz

NEDT Board Chair



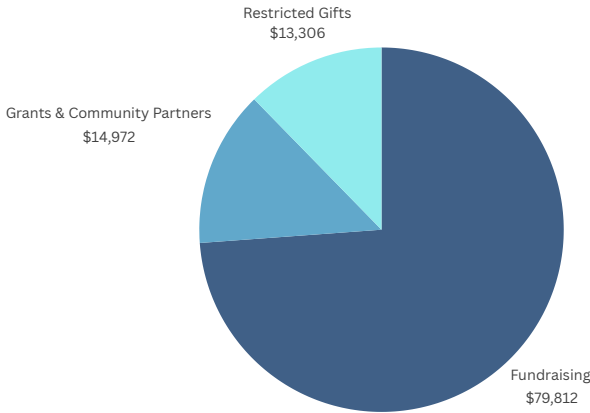
*So proud! Here I am with my two daughters,
Lucy Anne and Ella, enjoying the success of this year's
spring performance of Cinderella at the New Canaan High School.*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2023-2024

NEDT had another robust year of programming resulting in financial stability for our organization. Our financial results were consistent with last year's with strong revenue driven by more strategic fundraising efforts and careful management of our expenses. The success of our Annual Appeal raised critical funds for the significant expense of the live professional orchestra for the *Nutcracker* performances. Our grant partners support our extensive community outreach efforts. NEDT also had significant restricted gifts and expenses for scholarships and our costume closet renovation. We end this fiscal year with a small surplus allowing us to rebuild our cash reserve which was depleted during the pandemic. The following represents the year-end financials as of 8/14/24.

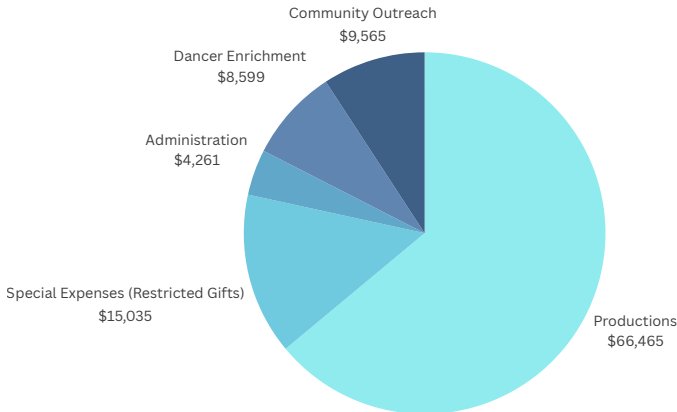
REVENUE

TOTAL: \$108,090



EXPENSES

TOTAL: \$103,924



ANNUAL 2023- GIVING 2024

It is the generosity of the many donors who support NEDT that allows us to sustain and grow our mission to create greater access, awareness, and appreciation of the performing arts through dance. Thank you!

CLARA AND SUGAR PLUM - \$5,000 AND ABOVE

Jeff and Emily Hanlon Family

SNOW QUEEN - \$2,500-4,999

Anonymous

MLE Foundation

DEW DROP FAIRY - \$1,000-2,499

Anonymous

Cris and Nick Carofano

The DeMuth Family

The Spano-England Family

Tim and Jen Gallagher

Phil and Anna Gass

Charles and Kimberly Harper

Martin and Jennifer Kurtz

The Zwick Family

NIGHT FAIRY - \$500-999

Jeanne Collins

Jerry Collins

The Heins Family

Jeff and Lauren Jackson

Robyn and David Jones

Emily and Kristopher Konrad

Brian and Kiana O'Reilly

Jen Kearney and Doug Parker

Jonathan and Deb Paterson

Spencer and Sara Schubert

The Krasnow-Snow Family

The Spadaccini Family

FLOWER FAIRY - \$250-499

James and Jessica Adams

Deborah and Joel Armiiio

Carina and Fabio Calia

The Grambling Family

John and Amanda Harchuck

The Hoffhine Family

The Lardizabal Family

The Livengood Family

Jacqueline and William Maier

The Maissen Family

Mr. and Mrs. Paul McKeown

The McPartland Family

The Nussbaum Family

Cory and Zibby Perkins

The Small Family

The Vartolo Family

The Wagner Family

PARTY SCENE - \$100-249

The Allers Family
Daniel and Roxana Burciago
The Candee Family
The Cheng Family
Dana Cleford
Pablo and Helena Cossaro
The Cottrell Family
Emily Hyland
The Kehoe Family
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick E. Kelly

The Lavigne Family
The Lowry Family
The Allen-Magratten Family
Jessica and Rob Murphy
Patricia O'Reilly
Steve and Colleen Prostor
Craig and Nathalie Schubert
Victor and Angela Silano
The Van Wagener Family
Captain Zig Brewing

GINGER COOKIE - \$50-99

The Casey Family
Anastasia Cucinella
The Kupersmith Family
The Lynch Family
Sandra Miklave
The Popova Family
The Skrelunas Family

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Harbor Access Investor Relations
Morgan Stanley
Piper Sandler
Salesforce Inc.

GRANT SUPPORT

NEDT deeply benefits from generous grant support from the Connecticut Office of the Arts which is part of the state's Department of Economic and Community Development.

We also are proud of our local alliance with the New Canaan Community Foundation and the New Canaan Masons.

Connecticut[®]

Department of Economic and
Community Development

Office Of The Arts



Harmony Lodge #67



New Canaan Masons

Thank You!

THE BOARD OF NEDT THANKS ITS FAMILIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE COSTUME CLOSET RENOVATION AND TUTU STORAGE DRAWERS. OUR BEAUTIFUL COSTUMES AND TUTUS WILL BE WELL CARED FOR AS DESERVED.

THE BRIGGS FAMILY
THE BRO FAMILY
THE CAROFANO FAMILY
THE DEMUTH FAMILY
THE ENGEL FAMILY
THE GALLAGHER FAMILY
THE GASS FAMILY
THE GRZYMSKI FAMILY
THE JACKSON FAMILY
THE JONES FAMILY
THE JOYCE FAMILY
THE KEARNEY-PARKER FAMILY
THE KURTZ FAMILY
THE LANNAMANN FAMILY
THE LARDIZABAL FAMILY
THE LIVENGOOD FAMILY



THE MAIER FAMILY
THE MAISSEN FAMILY
THE ORTIZ-LOWELL FAMILY
THE ORTIZ-THOMAS FAMILY
THE PATERSON FAMILY
THE PERKINS FAMILY
THE PHILLIPS FAMILY
THE PROSTOR FAMILY
THE ROGERS FAMILY
THE SCHUBERT FAMILY
THE STUTE FAMILY
THE TWITCHELL FAMILY
THE VISIEDO-HIDALGO FAMILY
THE WAGNER FAMILY

MISSION DRIVEN HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTIONS

NEDT supported NEAD's December 2023 production of the *Nutcracker* and June 2024 productions of *Cinderella* and *Once Upon a Time*. NEDT underwrites these productions to keep ticket prices affordable for our ballet school and the broader community.

LIVE ORCHESTRA

Collaborated with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, which has more than 35 musicians, to provide live accompaniment for four full-length *Nutcracker* performances.

TOWN SUPPORT

Partnered with the New Canaan High School for full use of its state-of-the-art auditorium as our venue for the *Nutcracker*, *Cinderella*, and *Once Upon a Time*.

COSTUME INVESTMENTS

- Debuted new costumes for the Marzipan and Flute roles in 2023 *Nutcracker* (purchased last fiscal year).
- Curated and purchased new costumes for the roles of Cinderella, the Fairies, both Stepsisters and Stepmother for the spring *Cinderella* performance.



MISSION DRIVEN COMMUNITY OUTREACH

NEDT believes that everyone, regardless of age, ability or financial status, should have access to see and enjoy live dance.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided over 200 complimentary tickets to the *Nutcracker* performances and another 200 tickets to the two performances of *Cinderella* in partnership with other local organizations that serve senior citizens, adults with disabilities, and children from under-resourced schools and programs.
- Provided free access to three *Nutcracker* performances via live stream, accessed by 15 organizations, and reached over 275 people in our local communities.
- Returned to several senior centers and the New Canaan Library to share the magic of the *Nutcracker* by performing excerpts of productions with their residents and the local community.
- In partnership with the New Canaan Library, we presented the first outdoor performance on the Library's new outdoor Green Lawn space, utilizing our outdoor stage with an audience of over 250 patrons.
- Sponsored the outdoor stage in 2023 for the Fairfield Summer Dance Festival, offering performance opportunities to NEAD dancers and other guest dancers.
- In July and August 2023, we sponsored our annual Summer Dance Program at the Carver Center in Norwalk, making a significant impact by providing six weeks of dance instruction to 30 students each week.
- Consistently taught adaptive dance classes in person, in-studio for local nonprofit, STAR, Inc., serving 10-15 adults with disabilities each week, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to this community.



MISSION DRIVEN DANCER ENRICHMENT

NEDT provides numerous enrichment opportunities for NEAD dancers each year, knowing that exposing dancers to a diversity of influence helps encourage both personal and artistic growth.



- Master Class with Christina Johnson, a former Principal ballerina, for NEDT Company dancers following the *Flower* film panel discussion at the New Canaan Library.
- Master Classes for Company and Enrichment dancers by Catherina Gasta, mime and actress; Mary Liz Sell, a ballerina with NYC Ballet; and Kerri Edge, choreographer.
- Doris Driver Scholarship awarded financial gifts to five dancers to support their continued study of dance over the summer months



- Dancer Development workshops reaching over 110 dancers in Ballet 1 and above on topics ranging from bun making to stage makeup to injury prevention.



- Company field trip to NYC to see NYC Ballet and Enrichment field trip to NYC to see American Ballet Theater Studio Company.

Thank you

**TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS
WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY
CONTRIBUTED OVER
500 HOURS OF TIME
TOWARDS HELPING
OUR PERFORMANCES
COME TO LIFE ON STAGE.**

Our internal collaboration is essential to our mission as we connect with the greater community. The camaraderie of our volunteers working together to create an experience for audience members fuels an interest and appreciation of the arts on a local level for all ages. We are grateful to each volunteer who has contributed hundreds of hours to make this happen, including a special heartfelt thank you to the leadership of our Committee Chairs. Every year, in conjunction with each performance, we strive to create a festive environment that transforms audience members. It takes a village!

BOUTIQUE

SUZANNE HECK & LAUREN NUSSBAUM

CONCESSIONS

JENNIFER KRASNOW & DANA CLELFORD

DECORATIONS

JENNIFER GALLAGHER & HANNA FARR

FLOWERS

NATALIE MCPARTLAND,
MARY BETH LIVENGOOD &
MACKIE SPADACCINI

BACKSTAGE CHAPERONES

ALEXANDRA SPELLMAN &
MAIA SAPANSKI

USHERS

DON ALLERS

HAIR & MAKE UP

ROBYN JONES & ERIN LEVINE

BACKSTAGE CATERING

JENNIFER KURTZ & KIMBERLY HARPER

TEA PARTY

CRIS CAROFANO
ELIZABETH DEMUTH
ANNA GASS
EMILY HANLON
KELLY LAVIGNE
DEB PATERSON
ZIBBY PERKINS
COLLEEN PROSTOR
MAIA SAPANSKI
MICHELLE VISIEDO




COMMUNITY & CAMARADERIE



Thank you to our professional photographers who capture the special moments throughout the year and in this Annual Report.

*Dutch Doscher
Sarah Starling
Alejandro Ulloa*

PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHT - DECEMBER 2023




New England Academy of Dance proudly Presents
The Nutcracker
Featuring the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra Ballet

Showtimes
Friday, December 9th
7:30 PM
Saturday, December 10th
10:00 AM & 4:00 PM
Sunday, December 11th
1:00 PM & 4:00 PM
*Children's admission free

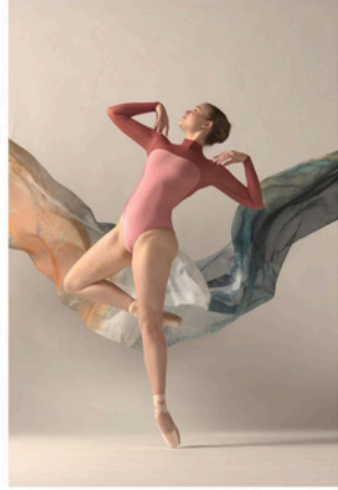
Tickets
NEADance.com or at the
Information
(203) 972-3265
info@neadance.com
New Canaan High School
Auditorium
11 Farm Road
New Canaan, CT 06840

NEAD
New England Academy of Dance



NORWALK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

*NEDT is committed to creating greater
access, awareness, and appreciation
of the performing arts through dance.*



ON INSTAGRAM

**FOLLOW US!
CONTACT US!**



ON FACEBOOK

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NEW CANAAN, CT 06840

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NEDTCO@GMAIL.COM