

transcenDANCE

Youth Arts Project



CREATING A HOME

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Dear transcenDANCE Supporters,

Having housing security is a critical issue for community-based arts organizations like transcenDANCE, just like it is for our students. We could not be more excited, motivated, and grateful for this new opportunity and what it means for those we serve. This new home will create access and visibility to our organization and programs in a way that we have never had. It will be a hub of creative activity in an area where nothing like this exists. Walking into a space that has natural light, with sprung wood dance floors, great ventilation, heating and AC, that is fresh and inviting, with visible signage in a newer building allows our students, alumni, artists, and staff to feel proud of what we have created. It will be a space that inspires our students and makes them feel valued. We have worked hard for this, demonstrated our commitment to young people, and have created a strong community.

We are ready for this growth. This is the year to create the long-term transcenDANCE home, so that the “inner-home” – the feelings of safety, security, warmth, love, connection, consistency, and all of the foundational needs of our young people – can be nurtured. This is a moment in time when our confidence for what transcenDANCE can do and be to strengthen communities for many years to come is at an all-time high. This is the opportunity we have been waiting for.

Sincerely,

Cat Corral, Artistic/Executive Director and Co-Founder
& The transcenDANCE Board of Directors



WHY WE EXIST

transcenDANCE arose out of several youth-identified needs including access to creative spaces, mentorship, and leadership development.

All young people should have equitable access to opportunities to develop their creative potential and to live richer, fuller lives.



OUR COMMUNITY

The youth who benefit from our holistic programs and services possess inherent strengths and talents, and through their creative work create social change.

transcenDANCE students typically attend Title I schools and live in underserved San Diego communities. Most become first generation college students. Our community of youth and families are overcoming challenges associated with poverty through critical learning, life skills, and artistic contributions.



OUR MISSION

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.



WE ARE BUILDING A HOME

For youth, young adults, and families that will **CONNECT** creative expression and wellness, **CREATE** social change, and **CONTRIBUTE** artistic opportunities and inspiration for many years to come.

OUR GROWTH

- 2005** — transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project is founded with 12 teens and 2 adult co-founders. Programs took place in borrowed spaces and community sites.
- 2006** — Teen Performance Group performs almost 50 times per year at schools, community events, and conferences and gains a positive reputation as a youth-driven, culturally diverse performance troupe.
- 2007**
- 2008** — First studio opened in City Heights on University Ave. Public visibility expands. Drop-in Classes offered for first time.
- 2009** — Storefront Studio becomes an afterschool sanctuary for City Heights youth. Artistic Team expands class offerings, Social Change curriculum is formalized, and community partnerships expand. First contracts awarded from the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.
- 2010**
- 2011** — Received National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Award, Certificate of Excellence.
- 2012** — Moved to the A Reason to Survive (ARTS) campus in National City. Youth and Community Reach expands to multiple neighborhoods through in-school residencies and community partnerships. Received Local Peacemaker Award, National Conflict Resolution Center.
- 2013** — Momentum gained as alumni return as Mentors, Teaching Artists, and Performers. Formal mental health services become integrated into programs.
- 2015**
- 2016** — Ten-Year Anniversary. transcenDANCE is officially recognized as an incredible asset to the arts and culture community in San Diego.

- 2017** — First major performance contract awarded through the San Diego International Airport.
- 2018** — Co-Founder and Artistic/Executive Director Cat Corral Awarded Clare Rose Sabbatical through the Fieldstone Leadership Network.
- 2017** — Huge strides made in organizational infrastructure, increased sustainability, and diversified funding. First National Endowment for the Arts grant awarded.
- 2019**
- 2020** — Citronica site identified and plans for a new facility begin. Programs converted to virtual learning platforms during a global pandemic.





BUILDING A NEW HOME

Many successes were celebrated at our National City studio, but after eight wonderful years it is time for a new home. Lack of heat combined with a leaky roof and short-term lease are prohibiting growth. We need private therapy offices, more studio space, and a long-term lease to ensure a sustainable future. A home that matches our students' talents.

We are preparing to build out, create, and activate a new community site, transcenDANCE Citronica Studios, located at a 138-unit low-income housing complex in Lemon Grove. The main 1,955 square foot state-of-the-art dance studio combined with access to an additional studio, therapy and administrative offices, a kitchen, separate community workshop space, and a conference room will be a hub for creativity and wellness.

In addition to providing security for our organization, we will gain the opportunity to support artists in residence, serve the youth that currently live in the adjacent affordable housing apartments, and be flexible and responsive to changing community needs. Additionally, we will be able to develop new strategically aligned earned income streams including facility rentals and new sliding scale fee-based programs. There is potential to create an intimate performance venue.

The creating of a new community Creative Youth Development arts and wellness space will act as a catalyst for transcenDANCE, alongside partner organizations, to build and strengthen community through innovative approaches.

OUR GOAL

\$400,000

TO COVER THE COST OF

- Architecture & design
- Permits
- Buildout
- Operating expenses

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED IMPACT

Weekly program offerings **increased from 3 days per week to 6 days per week.**

College entrance rate **increased from 90% to 98%.**

On-site program attendance **increased by 300%, from 100 students to 400 students annually.**

Nutrition and wellness, college readiness, and financial literacy offerings **increased by 30%.**

CREATE Performing Group students **increased by 100% from 25 to 50,** including a new middle school group.



Signing the lease with Developer, Ginger Hitzke and Cat Corral

"Most of us didn't have a place to fit in in high school. I was searching. At transcenDANCE, every time I walked in I felt welcome. To find that in a place of dance is so rare. It's so beautiful to me. And this place of dance is a home for so much more. transcenDANCE is where I found myself and learned to love myself."

Eliuth, age 19, CREATE program alumna attending San Diego City College



VALUE WITH OPPORTUNITY

In exchange for finishing the Citronica I space, transcenDANCE will receive 7 years of rent credit and three more years of reduced rent on its 1955 square foot studio as well as access to another studio, administrative offices, a community room and spaces for individual and group therapy.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

Your contribution will ensure the young people and local teaching artists we work with walk out of COVID-19 and into their beautiful new transcenDANCE home.

Your gift will ensure transcenDANCE is a part of the San Diego community for years to come.

WAYS TO GIVE

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<https://tdarts.org>

Mail a check:

transcenDANCE
Youth Arts Project

P.O. Box 52091
Irvine, CA 92619

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