



Q1 Impact Report

MorDance Soars: Empowering Growth and Expansion in Yonkers Debut

MorDance, a pioneering women-led dance company and nonprofit, celebrates remarkable growth in its inaugural quarter post-relocation from New York City to Yonkers. Spearheading ballet's evolution as a force for social progress, MorDance breaks barriers of tradition, embracing diversity and inclusion. Launching impactful initiatives such as free after-school dance classes for underserved youth and continuing to captivate audiences through open rehearsals, workshops, and performances, MorDance champions a dynamic, accessible future for the arts, fostering empowered spaces for creative expression.

A Season of Artistry and Community Engagement

During the first quarter of 2024, MorDance's presence has resonated deeply within the community, fostering artistic growth and inclusivity. Through dynamic performances, educational initiatives, and collaborative partnerships, we've empowered individuals of all ages and backgrounds to explore the transformative power of dance, enriching lives and shaping a vibrant cultural landscape.



Open Rehearsals: Peek Behind the Curtain

Dates: January 31, March 19

This quarter, we've extended a warm invitation to our community, welcoming audience members to immerse themselves in the captivating world of MorDance through our open rehearsals. These special events provide a unique opportunity to peek behind the curtain and witness our creative process firsthand. Attendees have the privilege of observing our talented dancers as they breathe life into art, while feeling the electric energy that propels our groundbreaking performances.

Free Public Performances: Dance in the Heart of the Community

March 1 at Hudson River Museum

Audiences were enraptured by the beauty of dance at our free public performances, which marked the start of Women's History Month and our new partnership with the Hudson River Museum. MorDance captivated audiences with their rendition of the company's critically acclaimed ballet, "Humanism," presented in a fresh and immersive manner. Spectators were inspired as they followed the dancers through the gallery spaces, experiencing the performance in a deeply engaging way. [Press coverage by News12](#)



Artist Open House: Supporting a Community of Artists

Dates: April 5

Alongside our dynamic performances and educational initiatives, MorDance was proud to have presented unique events that invited viewers into the heart of our artistic process, fostering accessibility and community engagement. Our Artist Open House event welcomed visual artists from the community into our hub to create alongside us during rehearsals, forging connections and inspiring collaborative creativity.

Enhancing Youth Empowerment and Inspiration through Free After-School Dance Programs

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays

Our recently inaugurated after-school dance initiative now proudly accommodates 110 students every week. These enriching classes are provided free of charge to students from under-resourced communities. With a focus on fostering creative expression, cultivating self confidence, and igniting the potential within our youth, these programs are dedicated to shaping a brighter future.





Forging Vibrant Community Bonds: Collaborating with Westhab for Unique Experiences

Ongoing

In our ongoing commitment to community enrichment, we're thrilled to announce our dynamic partnership with Westhab, an organization dedicated to creating pathways out of poverty. Together, we're crafting unique experiences that transcend traditional boundaries. One such initiative is our recent endeavor to open our rehearsals to 20 families during the school winter recess. By breaking down barriers and fostering connections, we're not only showcasing the power of the arts but also strengthening bonds within our community.

In-School Outreach: Nurturing Creativity and Connection

Ongoing

MorDance is deeply committed to nurturing creativity and fostering connections through our In-school student outreach programs. We strive to bring the magic of dance directly to students, crafting meaningful experiences that go beyond the confines of the traditional stage. Each workshop is meticulously designed to include a captivating performance, hands-on opportunities for students to delve into their own creative processes, and engaging Q&A sessions with our team of professional dancers.



MorDance Serves as Teaching Artist in Residency at Hudson River Museum

January - July

MorDance assumes the role of Teaching Artists in Residence at Hudson River Museum through the summer. Through participatory talks, workshops, open rehearsals, and a culminating performance in the amphitheater, MorDance brings a dynamic blend of dance, choreography, and music to engage visitors of all ages. Additionally, their mentorship within the Junior Docent Program will inspire and guide 80 high school students. Join us as MorDance exceeds expectations and sparks a passion for the arts that will endure for years to come.

MorDance's Monthly Community Open Class

Last Thursday of Each Month

MorDance extends an open invitation to the community each month for our renowned Open Class, consistently held on the last Thursday of every month. With our professional dancers leading the way, community members have the unique opportunity to engage directly in the world of ballet within our studio. Regardless of skill level, participants are warmly welcomed into our inclusive environment, where they receive personalized guidance and encouragement from our expert instructors as they delve into the art of movement and self-expression. This initiative stands as a testament to our commitment to fostering a vibrant and accessible arts community.



Up Next



Free Student Matinees: Inspiring the Next Generation

Yonkers: April 30-May 1 | NYC: May 7-8

Ignite the passion for art in young hearts with our free student matinees. This Spring, we extend a warm invitation to students in Yonkers and NYC to experience the enchantment of live performance, fostering a lifelong love for the arts.

Public Ticketed Performances: Unforgettable Evenings of Dance

Yonkers: May 2-4 | NYC: May 9-11

Reserve your seat for MorDance's spellbinding evening performances in Yonkers and NYC, open to all. Witness the power of movement to captivate, inspire, and evoke our deepest emotions.



- **Watching dance performances with storylines like this can bring people together, because people can talk about the message behind the dances.**

-Jacqueline, 4th grader

- **We can use social issues and make art out of it to make people aware about what is happening around us. In the performance they did this with recycling and women's rights.**

-Renesme, 4th grader

- **It was a really great experience and we were so grateful for this opportunity.**

-Melissa Silverberg, 4th grade teacher

- **I felt happy while watching the dance performance, because I knew that I could do something like that when I get older if I work hard at it.**

-Valentina, 4th grader

- **It was nice to see the dance show because I saw people from different countries or races and it was nice to see everyone together working for the same thing.**

-Joseph, 4th grader

Critical Acclaim: MorDance in the Spotlight - Press Quotes that Illuminate Our Artistic Journey

Its New York season, scheduled for two nights last week at Symphony Space on the Upper West Side, was, to put it mildly, a knockout."

If "Emily" isn't a masterpiece, at least one appropriate to my description of the company... it's pretty close: it's the finest McEwen-choreographed dance that I've seen to date."

"...every facet of the dances comes together brilliantly."

"McEwen presents imagery of the albatross compellingly, perhaps the finest example of bird or flight simulation that I've seen, visually as well as choreographically."

"Based on those pieces I've seen, McEwen doesn't choreograph to music for the sake of choreographing to music. While her dances may, and usually do, amplify whatever score is being used, they're more than efforts to visualize it. Her choreography usually has an apparent purpose beyond that, one that she often makes quite clear even before the dance begins."

"her (Polina Nazaykinskaya) score for "Emily" is a step, or a note, above: it's an intriguing, entertaining, and melodic piece of contemporary classical music"

"The dance grips the viewer immediately and never lets go. There's a pulse and flow to it, a consequence both of the music and choreography, that's reflected in the visual dynamic of every company member. This is true for the other two dances on the program as well"

-Jerry Hochman of "Critical Dance"



Budget Breakdown and Philanthropic Impact

At MorDance, transparency and responsible stewardship of resources are integral to our mission. We are dedicated to providing a clear understanding of how our budget supports the programs that define our commitment to artistic excellence and accessibility.

Annual Budget Breakdown: Sustaining Excellence

Our budget allocation ensures the success of our diverse programs, encompassing performances, outreach initiatives, and educational activities. Here's a breakdown of how funds are distributed:

Artistic Productions (40%):

- Covers production costs, venue rentals, and artistic fees.
- Enables the creation of original balletic works and ensures high-quality performances.

Community Engagement and Outreach (25%):

- Supports free public performances and open rehearsals
- Fuels our commitment to accessibility, inclusivity, and fostering creative expression in underserved communities.

Youth Outreach Programs (15%):

- Funds travel expenses, workshop materials, and free performances for students.
- Sustains our ongoing efforts to bring the transformative power of dance to schools and community organizations.

Operational Costs (20%):

- Covers essential administrative expenses, rent, utilities, ensuring the efficient functioning of MorDance.



Philanthropic Support: Igniting Impact

Philanthropic support is the cornerstone of MorDance's ability to make a lasting impact. Your support empowers us to reach new heights and continue our mission. Here's how your philanthropic contributions will be utilized:

Program Expansion in Yonkers:

- Facilitates the integration of MorDance into the Yonkers community, expanding our programming and reach.

Youth Outreach Enhancement:

- Strengthens our youth outreach programs, providing more opportunities for underserved students to engage with the arts.

Artistic Innovation:

- Fuels the creation of groundbreaking balletic works, pushing the boundaries of the art form and contributing to our legacy of artistic excellence.

Access and Inclusivity Initiatives:

- Supports initiatives to keep our performances affordable, ensuring that everyone in our community can experience the transformative power of dance.

Current Funding Landscape and Gaps: Charting Our Course Forward

MorDance is grateful for the support of our current funding partners, including foundations, individual donors, and corporate sponsors. However, as we embark on this exciting new chapter in Yonkers, there are opportunities for additional support to bridge funding gaps and elevate our impact.

Current Funding Sources:

- Grants - New York State Council on The Arts, Kaleta A Doolin Foundation, O'Donnell Green Music and Dance Foundation, Dance/NYC,
- Individual donor contributions
- Corporate support from matching grants from IBM, Biogen, JP Morgan Chase

Funding Gaps:

- Materials to outfit our new home for dance in Yonkers (flooring, mirrors, seating, sound equipment)
- Increased outreach programming in Yonkers
- Scholarships for under-resourced students
- Creative and production costs for new works and performances

Your contribution can make a significant difference in our ability to address these gaps and ensure the continued success of MorDance's transformative programs. Join us on this journey, and together, let's shape a future where the arts thrive and communities are enriched through the power of dance.