

The Movement Project



**CATALYSTS FOR
CHANGE**



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THE MOVEMENT PROJECT

The Movement Project (TMP) believes artists can be Catalysts for Change in communities, especially when they are supported and housed in one place. As communities grow and rethink themselves, artists can be a direct resource that further communicates those ideas and provide a space for those conversations to be had.

"Artists are not just content providers; they are REAL catalysts."

Founded in 2009 by Megan Gargano + Rebecca Leuszler, The Movement Project aims to be a major player in pioneering and expanding Cleveland's dance community. TMP's multifaceted approach to providing accessible + affordable rehearsal, training and performance spaces won't leave an artist broke and opens the door to a collaborative environment for artists to explore across arts disciplines.

We provide programming that supports our local artists to continue their training and education in dance, opportunities for employment, as well as residencies that support the creation of new work in northeast Ohio. Our education programming focuses on growing future generations in a well-rounded arts program and preparing students for promising careers, whether in dance or another field.

"Artists provide a space, bigger than one we can imagine, to work through points of contention that we face today."



TMP is uniquely fitted for the job because we are artists.

We are Catalysts for Change.

We face these circumstances daily and are well versed in the setbacks that plague artists and their communities from reaching their fullest potential. It is this unique trait that sets our organization apart and guides us to make decisions based on what the community is saying and needs.

"Listening to the needs of our community is essential in providing real and tangible support."

The world around us is constantly changing and requires creative solutions for many of its challenges. Our job is to slow down, listen and provide those solutions when they arise.

In 2018, Pilgrim Church, the facility where TMP was housed, officially became a sanctuary church to Eulogio Hernandez Box, a married father of four who had lived in central Ohio for nearly 20 years and who was now facing deportation to Guatemala after being reported following a traffic stop.

During his time at Pilgrim, TMP provided free weekly movement classes and uniforms to Eulogio's children when they came to visit during the summer. Eulogio's children were experiencing such a profound loss of time with their father and we were eager to help create a safe space for them to visit and create experiences and memories as a family.



OUR STORY SO FAR

OUR MISSION



The Movement Project's mission is to challenge perspectives, evoke social change and bridge communities through the power of movement.

TMP redefines the status quo and questions predetermined notions of what should be. We do so by:

- Creating thought provoking work
- Providing affordable and accessible dance education and performance to all communities
- Making space for dance and providing programming that supports the needs of today's local artists.

OUR IMPACT

60 %

OF TMP'S
BUDGET
IS DEDICATED TO
PAYING ARTISTS



ECONOMIC

Strengthening our community of artists through financial and resource support is a priority for our organization. By providing space for collaboration and creativity, we can contribute to the economic stability for our current and future generation of artists.

- Over 100 + artists and organizations TMP collaborates with throughout the year.

EDUCATION + OUTREACH

- Over 90 outreach visits each year to schools, libraries and community centers.
- Over 105 classroom hours working with students.
- Offering weekly classes at our school of dance year-round to students ages 3-18 years old.

OUR PROGRAMS


The Movement Project serves the needs of our community through

Supporting Artists | Access + Affordability | Collaborations | Youth Mentorship

1 Supporting Artists

We believe, in order to serve our community to our fullest capacity, it requires us to truly listen to what the community has to say. In 2015, The Movement Project held a series of community meetings focused on hearing directly from artists on their needs, concerns, and hopes for the future of dance in NE Ohio. It was evident that space, resource access, a platform to share work, and fair compensation was lacking in the community. Thus **Cleveland Dance Fest** was born in an effort to provide a platform to support Cleveland dance artists in the creation of new work, while making dance performance accessible and affordable to residents.

CDF is heading into its 8th season, expanding, and engaging new artists and audiences each year. Today CDF serves over 600+ patrons, over 150+ professional artists, and 100+ pre-professional artists in 4 concerts, youth and professional master classes, and a virtual dance gallery.



TMP is committed to providing a sustainable and equitable experience for artists, providing them with fair compensation, resource support, high quality production values, and above all an experience that values the diverse and inclusive gathering of artists to share their work to audiences in an accessible and affordable format.

2 Access + Affordability

TMP aims to ensure access + affordability are not barriers for youth, professionals and community members who attend our events. When planning events, we choose locations that are next to public transportation, convenient highway access and free lot/street parking. To continue affordability for all community members, we seek additional funds to help keep our rental and operating expenses down.



3 Collaborations

When the pandemic hit in 2020, artists' worlds came to a standstill, creating a complete shutdown of all work well into 2021. The need to get artists back on stage was evident, but the reality of the pandemic made in-person events impossible. Rather than cancel Cleveland Dance Fest 2020, along with contracts for 30+ artists, we revamped and launched a virtual dance film gallery in collaboration with the artists who were slated to perform live. Our TMP staff members worked virtually with artists to develop their works into dance films that they could use for future projects as well. In addition, TMP commissioned two artists to receive full resource and collaborative support in developing, filming and the release of their dance films. We felt the work being presented by these two artists was relevant and integral to the process of progressing our community forward.

Bahamian-born and Cleveland-based artist Gabrielle Shipley was one of our commissioned artists. Gabrielle's work *dichotoME: the differences that bind*, was a recognition of a world hyper-focused on our differences and the difficulty of recognizing the shared nuances of the human experience. This duet is an earnest attempt to acknowledge those similarities and find healing in the common grey areas. The final work has been shared virtually and in-person, resonating deeply with audiences, sparking conversations of importance.

These collaborations ignited an evident need for more resource supported opportunities for artists in our community, specifically for black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) community members. In 2022, our goal for Cleveland Dance Fest is to increase applications submitted/accepted by BIPOC communities by recruiting at least two people of color to our adjudication panel and partnering with at least three local dance organizations that represent BIPOC communities. Reshaping our panel and partners will significantly impact the way we review applications and prioritize inclusivity and equitability in our selections, as well as shape the way we authentically connect and support artists through the application process.



4 Youth Mentorship

TMP values the importance of mentoring youth and feels a responsibility to provide them with the support and skills not only to be successful artists, but also successful people within their communities. We do this through our **K-12 Outreach Programs** and our **School of Dance**. Our **Outreach Programs** integrate movement into other subject areas and allow students to explore, ask questions, formulate opinions, and participate physically and mentally in a challenging educational experience. **The Movement Project School of Dance** was

launched in Fall 2017 with a goal to provide accessible + affordable youth dance education to the Tremont Community.

We have since outgrown our space and have relocated to Fairview Park where our new facility can continue to serve our students' needs. Students receive curriculum-based dance education focusing on invaluable academic and life skills such as creativity, problem solving, confidence, perseverance, focus, nonverbal communication, collaboration, dedication, and accountability.





OUR COMMITMENT

ACTION	OUR PROGRAMS
Supporting Artists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="448 743 971 1066">• In 2015, TMP launched the Cleveland Artist Initiative, a program designed to support and fund the creation of new work by Cleveland artists. Over 51% of TMP's operating budget was dedicated to paying artists and in 2022 TMP collaborated with over 150 artists and organizations throughout the year.<li data-bbox="448 1117 971 1440">• Over the past 7 seasons, CDF has grown into a sustainable ecosystem embraced by artists from across Ohio, the regional Midwest, and beyond. CDF funding partners have fueled our ability to maximize artist support, allowing us to pay over \$43,500 towards artists since CDF's inaugural year.
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="448 1495 948 2020">• In addition to our programming in Cleveland, TMP has worked to provide resources to artists, families, and youth throughout the communities of Akron. TMP's outreach programs have included The Akron Art Museum, Miller South School for Visual & Performing Arts, The University of Akron, and our annual year long residency at Firestone CLC. In 2023, TMP officially became a proud Pathway Partner with the College & Career Academies of Akron through Akron Public Schools.

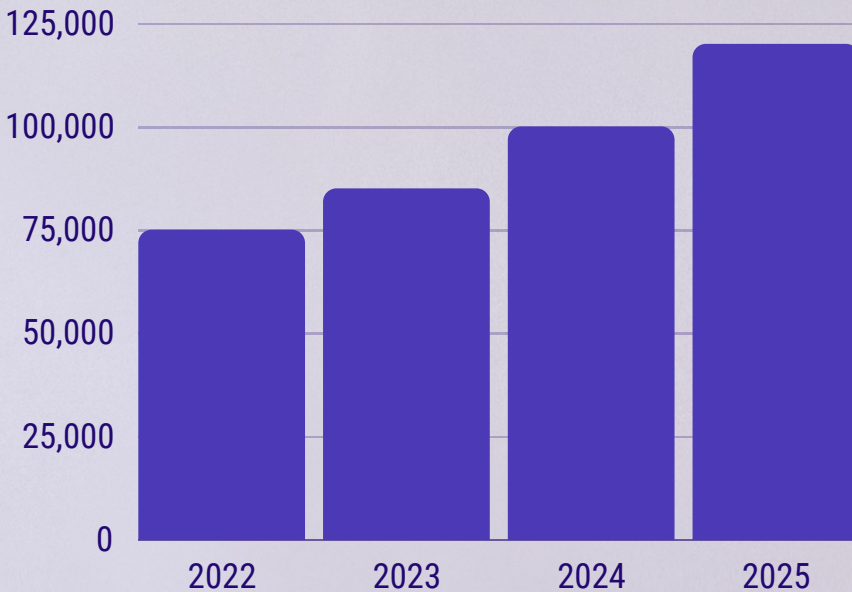


OUR GOALS

THE FUTURE OF TMP



Over the next 4 years we plan to increase our annual operating budget by \$45,000.



95% of budget spent towards program services (dance education, supporting artists & performances/events)

5% of the remaining budget goes towards overhead/general operating expenses

54% contributed revenue
earned revenue **46%**





The Movement Project

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WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR PROGRAMS