Owen/Cox Dance Group’s Take the Stage Program is pleased to share the highlights of its seventh season spent inspiring Kansas City’s youth to personal excellence through the arts.

Prior to the COVID-19 shutdown, Take the Stage employed 9 professional musicians and dance teaching artists, conducted 115 dance classes and rehearsals, and directly served 256 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders in six schools. Take the Stage successfully presented 95 dancers in 3 assembly programs for a total audience of 600. Take the Stage continued its tradition of collaborating with Kansas City’s leading institutions by partnering with Truman Medical Center’s Community Health Strategies and Innovation Team to create curricular support for its health-focused annual theme.

“They helped me to believe and not be scared.”
~Becky
TeamEXCEL! dancers had the opportunity of rehearsing in the studios of KCYA and the UMKC Conservatory. On March 7, the Team performed for Bloch School of Management Case Study Workshop students at the Alexander Majors Barn, presenting excerpts for the planned 2020 Event of the Year: “I Feel Good, Healthy Lessons for Life!” TeamEXCEL! performed pieces that highlighted the importance of mindfulness, community, healthy fresh foods, sleep, hygiene, and exercise. The next week, things changed, rapidly and drastically.

In an unprecedented season of dance outreach, weathering the storm of school closures and social distancing, Take the Stage (TTS) marked its seventh season living by its four pillars of excellence:

![Image: TeamEXCEL! dancers performing]

“\[quote \]It makes me feel I can trust myself.\[quote\]
~Joe
In 2019-2020

Take the Stage

- Served schools where 94% of students qualify for free/reduced lunch, 25-70% are English language learners, 72% represent minorities and 25% have an IEP

- **SHORT RESIDENCIES**
  - Trailwoods Elementary (KCPS): 4th grade
  - Whittier Elementary (KCPS): 3rd Grade
  - M.E. Pearson Elementary: 5th Grade
  - Holy Cross School: 2nd Grade
  - Our Lady of Hope School: 1st Grade

- **LONG-TERM RESIDENCIES**
  - Hartman Elementary
  - Holy Cross School
  - Our Lady of Hope

- Hosted 3 in-school Bold Moves Assembly presentations with live music

- Provided highly motivated students from multiple partner school 15 weeks of advanced training in the TeamEXCEL! Program

- Presented TeamEXCEL! in performance for the Bloch School of Management Case Study Workshop students at the Alexander Majors Barn.

- Presented TeamEXCEL! as part of the Virtual Kauffman Future Stages Festival

- Connected Owen/Cox Dance Group member Christopher Page-Sanders with Whittier Elementary students

- Conducted a workshop for Down Syndrome Guild of Kansas City

- Produced video class content for partner schools to help children stay healthy and engaged during distanced learning.

- Conducted 22 live classes via Zoom platform for partner schools

- Engaged all 9 teaching artists

- Provided Professional Development for TTS Teaching Artist through virtual workshops conducted by the National Dance Institute

- Maintained connections for future programming by engaging in dialog with local institutions including: Truman Medical Center, UMKC Conservatory, KC Public Library, Kansas City Young Audiences, American Jazz Museum, Johnson County Community College and Strong City

- Engaged in collaborative strategizing with the Associates of the National Dance Institute
Thank You

$5,000-$10,000
- The Bright Futures Fund of Kansas City
- Country Club Christian Church
- Brad Cox
- Estelle S. And Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation
- National Endowment for the Arts. Art Works
- Frank and Margaret G. McGee Fund
- Russell and Rebka Sakati

$2,500-$4,999
- Missouri Arts Council
- Leo Gilbert Wetherill Foundation

$1,000-$2,499
- Lisa Choules (Eleve Dancewear)
- Jan Schoonver
- Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City
- George W. Ultch and Ada Memorial Fund
- Jeffrey D. Zimmerman
- Rod Parks
- Kristen and Isam Sakati
- Dana Seeley
- Louis and Frances Swinken
- Supporting Foundation

$500-$999
- Colin Cox
- Jennifer Tierney

IN-KIND SUPPORT
- Kansas City Young Audiences
- Kansas City Public Library
- American Jazz Museum
- UMKC Conservatory
- Truman Medical Center
- The Brave Creative
- Tom Styrkowicz
- Praxis Promotions
- Megan Toal
- Dégagé Dancewear

Take the Stage would like to thank donors at all levels for their support

Although TTS did not complete the year as planned, much was accomplished, and the Program has the potential to emerge stronger than ever as a result of remaining flexible, creative and persevering in the face of challenges. We so deeply appreciate the encouragement, help and support of so many in our family that allowed us these outcomes.

Keep Moving! Keep Dancing!

"I truly appreciate all you and your staff do for our kids. You go above and beyond. When the pandemic hit, most places would have just ended, but no, you and your staff kept going and keeping the kids involved through videos. You and your team are awesome....[T]he program is NOT just a job, but a connection to help these kids grow into individuals who always try, do their best and never give up. I hope we can continue to work with TTS for years to come."

~Sue Hoffman

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