

# Annual Report

## April 2023-March 2024

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Kinesis Dance Society is grateful to live, dance, gather and create on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, today known as Vancouver, BC. At KDS, we recognize and celebrate all types of diversity including and not limited to ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual and romantic orientation, disability, age, and beliefs. We welcome the strength, knowledge, and power that comes from experiencing different perspectives, backgrounds, and cultures, and know this will deepen our shared understanding of the work we do. To achieve our vision of a community where everyone is respected and seen, we must recognize the intersections of power and privilege and actively work to ensure a safer and more equitable environment for all members of our community. As KDS' funder, staff and directors, we agree to do our part in creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

The positive impact Kinesis Dance continues to have in the community is due in a large part to the success of its multi-faceted community outreach program. Each year the activities evolve and adapt to reflect the specific communities targeted and what had been a trend - increased participation. Kinesis Dance is recognized for its creative approach to outreach and its ability to adapt to changing times and expectations.

Our program, that is usually built on three main activities (in-school workshops, community-engaged workshops/performance, research, creation & production of new works) provide unique opportunities that encourage not only physical activity for participants and audiences alike, but also different forms of thinking, feeling and expressing emotions and beliefs. By opening new forms of communication and expression, participants will feel more comfortable with their own bodies, thereby encouraging freedom with dance and other physical forms of communication and exercise.

Kinesis Dance, like so many other organizations, was significantly affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. As in 2023-2024 we were still feeling the long-term effects of the pandemic on the arts, we regrouped and set out on a plan to ensure as much visibility and community engagement as possible. Although a significant challenge, creative solutions were found and the resilience and tenacity of the staff and Board of Directors prevailed.

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From 2019 to 2023, for the first time in our 38-year history, we had to cancel our annual gala fundraisers for several years in a row. The Board has been exploring ways to reinvent this very successful initiative as KDS has always been admired for its ability to gather significant community support, and has successfully hosted its first (since Covid) fundraising event this April 2024. 2019-2023, on-line donation campaigns have netted commendable results but modest in comparison, and budgets have been adjusted to suit. The Company received a federal emergency loan to help see us through this period and the Board has honoured its repayment deadline of January 2024, ensuring sustainability moving forward.

Like all organizations, we are deeply impacted by inflation. As expenses increase our revenues remain the same and, in some cases, reduced. Donations are often lighter and grant applications more competitive than ever straining resources, staff and volunteers to a new level.

The financing of our programs is built on a diversity of revenues: municipal, regional and federal grants (City of Vancouver, Metro Vancouver, BC Arts Council, BC Gaming Commission, BC Tourism, Canada Council for the Arts, Government of Canada), private foundations, earned revenues, donations, and fundraising activities.

Given the events of the past four years, we have entered a new era in order to maintain and build capacity and long-term sustainability. As a dance company with 38+ years of artistic equity and institutional knowledge, the company has secured a solid foothold in the community. The Board of Directors has committed to a long-range transition and legacy plan to better serve our community. In Summer 2023, KDS' board appointed Vancouver dancer Rachel Helten as Associate Artistic Director, and founder and Artistic Director Paraskevas Terezakis started mentoring her into becoming his eventual successor as of Spring 2024. This succession plan will, amongst other things, sees an expansion of our outreach and community engagement, activation of public spaces and enhanced development of new creations and collaborations.

As part of this transition, Carline and Rachel embarked on a diversity of professional development initiatives: Indigenous training with Nahanee Creative, Capacity & Governance workshops with The Vantage Point, Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Accessibility training as part of the year-long Pathways program.

During this period of transition, we will revise our strategic plan, focusing amongst other things on Board recruitment and development, Staff development, fundraising development, ensuring our values are embedded in our organization's policies and all our programs (inclusion, equity, diversity, building a respectful workplace, etc), and building new partnerships.

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## Outreach School Workshops

As part of our regular outreach Dance Out Loud Program, supported through BC Gaming, we went into two francophone schools: Ecole des Colibris and Ecole Rose-des-Vents. From September to June, we met on a weekly basis with children from Kindergarten to Grade 5, and conducted a diversity of introduction to dance workshop, in French.

## Aethernet: a community-engaged dance flash mob for International Dance Day 2023.

*Aethernet* is a community-engaged project that started in 2021-2022 with a 100% remote version at first, that then became a flash mob in 2022-2023, that was performed with communities in Vancouver, North Vancouver and Burnaby.

In 2023-2024, we were invited by The Dance Centre to perform it again for International Dance Day 2023. In April 2023, we conducted a series of community workshops to revisit the choreography, and *Aethernet* was performed on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at šxʷłənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square - Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza, in Vancouver.

The event was very successful, with a broad audience. It was made possible through the support of City of Vancouver, Province of BC – Gaming commission, and The Dance Centre.

*Aethernet – International Dance Day 2023*: <https://vimeo.com/831582949?share=copy>



## Artemis' Embrace

In Summer 2023, led by Rachel Helten, under mentorship of Paras Terezakis, we started the research and creation process for a new community-engaged project: *Artemis' Embrace*.

With this new project, Kinesis Dance wants to celebrate the strength, the courage and the determination it takes to embrace our unique identities. While utilizing the power of movement as a path towards releasing generational, cultural and societal programming, this project aims at creating a choreography that will ultimately be revisited including community dancers, and publicly performed.

In September 2023, for The Dance Centre Open House, we offered a work-in-progress showing, as a sneak peak into our research.

This first phase of research was made possible through the support of Metro Vancouver, Province of BC – Gaming commission, Out/Innerspace Theater, and The Dance Centre.

Due to a lack of funding, the project had to be put on hold and will resume in 2024-2025.

September showing of *Artemis' Embrace*: <https://vimeo.com/867259964?share=copy>



## Bright Shadow

In Winter 2023-2024, Paras and Rachel collaborated in the research and creation of a new dance work: *Bright Shadow*.

*Bright Shadow* merges iconic excerpts from Paras' extensive works with Rachel's multidisciplinary research on Utopia and Dystopia, and centered around the question "what world are we hoping to build together?" The work features dynamic movement, live music, and digital projections.

The work-in-progress was performed in early 2024-2025, during our fundraising event.



One of our many challenges this year (like the year before) has been to find ways to finance our programming. Grant applications are more competitive than ever, straining resources, staff and volunteers to a new level.

Successful Grant applications		Unsuccessful Grant applications		Successful Grant applications received in 2023-2024 but for project happening in 2024-2025	
Funder	Project	Funder	Project	Funder	Project
COV - CASC (Fall intake)	Aethernet – IDD2023	BC Recovery & Resiliency Fund	KDS Operating	Hamber Foundation (Fall intake)	Artemis' Embrace
BC Gaming	Outreach	Community Services Recovery Fund	KDS Operating	Government of Canada: New Horizon	New outreach project for Seniors: Generations
COV-CLS	Training as part of our leadership transition	COV-CASC (Spring Intake)	Artemis' Embrace	Deux Mille Foundation	Artemis' Embrace
Metro Vancouver	Artemis' Embrace	CCA Explore & Create Concept to Realization (April & September intakes)	Artemis' Embrace	BCFFE 2024	Artemis' Embrace
		Various Private Foundations (Shoppers Foundation, London Drugs Foundation, McLean Foundation, Gainey Foundation, Molson Foundation, McConnell Foundation, The Palmer Family Foundation, Anako Foundation, R&J Stern Foundation Hamber Foundation (Spring Intake), YP Heung Foundation)	Artemis' Embrace	<b>Grant applications submitted in 2023-2024 for project happening in 2024-2025, with results still pending at yearend</b>	
		CCA - Seed	Transition	COV -CASC	New outreach project for Seniors: Generations
		BCAC Project Assistance	Artemis' Embrace	BCAC Arts Impact Grant	Transition
		Community Arts Fund	Artemis' Embrace	BC Gaming	Outreach
		BC Fairs, Festival & Events 2023	Artemis' Embrace		
		COV - CASC	Bright Shadow		
		BCAC Project Assistance	Bright Shadow		

**2023-2024 Fundraising initiatives****Goal: \$8,000****Total raised \$7,320.00****Summer 2023 Campaign**

<b>Name of Donor</b>	<b>Amount of Donation</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Platform used</b>
Anonymous	\$100.00	6/1/2023	CanadaHelps
Yvonne Chew	\$100.00	6/1/2023	CanadaHelps
Denis Blais	\$3,000.00	6/5/2023	E-transfer
Cory Philley	\$25.00	6/5/2023	CanadaHelps
Carline Dolmazon	\$1,500.00	6/12/2023	CanadaHelps
Jason Wrobleski	\$50.00	6/19/2023	CanadaHelps
(Monthly) Carline Dolmazon	\$100.00	6/1/2023	CanadaHelps
(Monthly) Roger Lee	\$10.00	6/1/2023	CanadaHelps
(Monthly) Roger Lee	\$15.00	6/12/2023	CanadaHelps
(Monthly) Roger Lee	\$85.00	6/14/2023	CanadaHelps
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,985.00</b>		

**Giving Tuesday 2023 Campaign**

<b>Name of Donor</b>	<b>Amount of Donation</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Platform used</b>
Mirna Zagar	\$100.00	11/28/2023	Canada Helps
Linda Blankstein	\$750.00	11/28/2023	Canada Helps
Jason Wrobleski	\$50.00	11/28/2023	Canada Helps
Anonymous	\$75.00	11/28/2023	Canada Helps
Santa Aloï	\$100.00	12/21/2023	Canada Helps
Denis Blais	\$600.00	11/28/2023	etransfer
(Monthly) Roger Lee	\$10.00	12/1/2023	CanadaHelps
(Monthly) Roger Lee	\$15.00	12/12/2023	CanadaHelps
(Monthly) Roger Lee	\$85.00	12/14/2023	CanadaHelps
(Monthly) Carline Dolmazon	\$100.00	12/1/2023	Canada Helps
Linda Rosenheck	\$50.00	11/28/2023	Canada Helps
Lesley Burke O'Flynn	\$200.00	12/21/2023	Canada Helps
Janet Joy	\$200.00	12/27/2023	Canada Helps
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,335.00</b>		