OSU Dance in the Community

**Purpose**

The Department of Dance recognizes a responsibility to build public understanding and appreciation of dance as a diverse creative, cultural, and educational expression. In pursuit of this goal, the department tours to area K-12 schools, performs in downtown theatres, takes projects to prisons, community centers, and galleries, and brings children to campus and to the theatres for their own immediate experiences with dance.

**Impact**

We provide transportation for 800 students from schools in the greater Columbus area to attend the Young People’s Concert at the Capitol Theatre, an interactive program of contemporary dance.

This year a company of OSU dance majors spent 6 months preparing a concert of diverse U.S. dance forms, touring Brazil where they performed in schools, community centers and theatres. They also performed in Columbus elementary schools and invited high school students to join us for a day of dance in the department.

The outreach projects give close to 1,500 young people annually an opportunity to experience dance, validating the kinesthetic, musical, and creative expression of human existence, so often under-represented in education.

**To get involved, contact:**

Dori Jenks  
External Relations Coordinator  
Department of Dance  
jenks.3@osu.edu  
dance.osu.edu

**Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved**

Department of Dance Karen A. Bell  
Fund for Community Outreach  
Barbara and Sheldon Pinchuk  
Arts-Community Outreach Grant  
Outreach Arts Initiative of College of Arts and Sciences

**Community Partners Involved**

Columbus City Schools  
Hilliard City Schools  
Upper Arlington City Schools  
Charter Schools  
Day Care Centers  
Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resource Center

**Participants explore movement possibilities as part of an OSU Dance class for older adults designed to link health and well-being with the creativity of dance.**

A sample of responses from the voices of a new generation of dancers, dance makers and dance enthusiasts

Immanuel Hagoes  
Kindergartner  
Starling STEM/STEAM PK-8 School

Julia Challis  
Indianola Informal K-8 School