



invigorating life through dance.

# IMPACT REPORT 2022

2021-2022

**THE BIG MUDDY**  
**DANCE COMPANY**

# ABOUT THE COMPANY

**Vision: A diverse community that believes in the love, joy, and transformative power of dance.**

The Big Muddy Dance Company is a repertory dance company that showcases high caliber artistic experiences. By engaging both emerging and world-renowned choreographers, collaborating across the St. Louis community through senior outreach, and training future performers through our educational programs, we constantly strive to invigorate life through dance.

**St. Louis Dance Theatre, doing business as The Big Muddy Dance Company, was incorporated in May 2010 as a 501(c)3 organization, defined by the Internal Revenue Service. All donations are tax-deductible.**



**35%**

contributed revenue growth

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**28**

employees from fourteen states

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**100 %**

salary retention in 2022

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# Dearest supporters,

After several huge transitions, challenges, triumphs, and growth, The Big Muddy Dance Company is now taking on its next chapter in full force. With new Artistic Director Kirven Douthit-Boyd at the helm, the company of 15 professional dancers and 10 trainees has grown immensely since its first season, and there have been many contributors that have made our work possible throughout our journey. We are so grateful to those who financially support our next steps in development of world-class repertoire, arts collaborations in St. Louis, building capacity of staff, and dancers' living wages.

As you continue to support our activities to improve the arts community in St. Louis and beyond, we make a promise to maintain the highest quality of technique, performance, and outreach as we move forward into our next season. Our goal to put St. Louis on the national map of dance becomes more realistic every day. If you have supported The Big Muddy Dance Company in the past, I hope you will continue to do so and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity. If you are unfamiliar with our company, I urge you to look through some of our materials online and see what kind of difference you could make, both for the St. Louis arts community and beyond.

Most Sincerely,



Erin Warner Prange,  
Executive Director



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***The Big Muddy Dance Company  
is now taking on its next  
chapter in full force.***

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# Meet our Team



## **Kirven Douthit-Boyd**

Artistic Director

Kirven Douthit-Boyd (Boston, MA) began his formal dance training at the Boston Arts Academy in 1999 and as a member of Boston Youth Moves under the artistic direction of Jeannette Neil and Jim Viera. Mr. Douthit-Boyd studied as a fellowship student at The Ailey School and on scholarship at the Boston Conservatory. He is a graduate of Hollins University where he earned an MFA in dance.

He began his professional career as a member of Ailey II from 2002–2004 and performed at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival as a member of Battleworks Dance Company in 2003. In June 2004, Mr. Douthit-Boyd joined the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performing both nationally and internationally for 11 years. During his tenure with the company, he performed leading roles in works choreographed by Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Robert Battle, Ron K. Brown, Geoffrey Holder, Jiri Kylian, David Parsons, Camille A. Brown, Ulysses Dove, Christopher Wheeldon, Hofesh Shecter, Twyla Tharp, Wayne McGregor and Ohad Naharin. He joined COCA-Center of Creative Arts in 2015 as Co-Artistic Director of Dance with his husband Antonio Douthit-Boyd. In 2016, Mr. Douthit-Boyd joined Ron K. Brown/Evidence, A Dance Company as a guest artist.

In 2010, Douthit-Boyd performed at the White House tribute to Judith Jamison hosted by then first lady Michelle Obama. He has also appeared as a guest artist in ballet and contemporary dance galas in Argentina, Mexico and Canada. He is the 2014 recipient of the "Black Theater Alliance Award" for his performance in Wayne McGregor's "Chroma," the 2015 recipient of the "Next Generation in Leadership Award" from the Freedom House in Boston, the 2016 recipient of the Boston Arts Academy's "Apollo Award" the 2021 recipient of the "Excellence in the Arts Award" from the Arts and Education Council in St. Louis, and the 2022 recipient of the Dance Teacher Magazine Award.

Douthit-Boyd has choreographed workshops for The Ailey School, The Juilliard School, Webster University, Boston Arts Academy, Boston Youth Moves and COCA. He has also choreographed works for Dallas Black Dance Theater and Ailey II. He is an ABT® Certified Teacher, who has successfully completed the ABT® Teacher Training Intensive in Pre-Primary through Level 5 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum and has completed Lester Horton Pedagogy studies under Ana Marie Forsythe in New York and St. Louis. He has also served as Distinguished Performing Artist at Washington University in St. Louis, where he taught modern dance in the collaborative MFA program between the University and COCA.



## **Erin Warner Prange**

Executive Director

Erin Prange holds her B.A. in Dance and Spanish from Colorado State University, and her Masters of Fine Arts in Arts Management and Leadership from Webster University. Between 2006 and 2018, Erin has danced for Fusionworks II in Providence, RI, aTrek Dance Collective, the Slaughter Project under artistic direction of Cecil Slaughter, and The Big Muddy Dance Company as a founding company member for 7 seasons. Erin has taught dance for 18 years for all ages- for the Boston public school district through the Topf Center for Dance Education, as aTrek Dance Collective's Education Program Coordinator, as a colorguard and dance team coach, and as the founder of the modern dance program at Dance Center of Kirkwood.

Since taking on the role of Executive Director for The Big Muddy in 2013, Erin has led the company to receive many recognitions, including two Theatre Circle Awards and a St. Louis Arts Award for collaboration. Erin was recognized on the Marquis Who's Who in America list for 2021, and currently serves on the Young Variety Board of Directors and St. Louis Forum.

*“Our financial standing is a true measure of our most valuable asset of all - our people.”*



## **Carly Vanderheyden**

### **Director of Marketing and Communications**

Originally from Green Bay, Wisconsin, Carly graduated from the University of Iowa with honors, earning a BFA in Dance, BA in Health and Human Physiology - Health Promotion, and Certificate in Arts Entrepreneurship. Carly has trained in intensive programs including Orsolina28, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, DanceWorks Chicago, the Martha Graham School, American Dance Festival, and the Kirov Academy of Ballet. Carly is an American Ballet Theatre National Training Curriculum certified ballet teacher for Pre-Primary through Level Five, as well as a 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher through the Yoga Alliance. Carly joined The Big Muddy Dance Company's Trainee Program in 2017 before becoming an apprentice then company dancer. Carly has had the honor of performing in collaborations with organizations such as the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, Jazz St. Louis, as well as the Fashion Footwear Association of New York for their 2019 Fundraising Gala. Beyond her dancing, Carly is The Big Muddy's Director of Marketing and Communications, a freelance photographer, and a dance teacher at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA) and St. Louis Academy of Dance.



## **Brandon Fink**

### **Director of Education**

Brandon Fink is from Oklahoma City, OK and began his performance training in 2003. He developed his skills in the marching arts with Sarajevo Winter Guard from Siloam Springs, AR (2004) and Insignia Winter Guard from Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX (2005-2007). Brandon also choreographed and performed for Eclectix Winter Guard (2008) from Oklahoma City, OK and Central Independent (2009) from Edmond, OK. Brandon was a member of the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps from Canton, OH (2005-2008). Recently, he has designed/instructed programs throughout the St. Louis area as well as The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from Rosemont, IL.

Brandon received his B.F.A. in Dance Performance from the University of Central Oklahoma. Brandon was a company member with MADCO (2011-2016), The Munny in Fiddler On The Roof (2016), Variety Theatre in Wizard Of Oz (2017)/The Little Mermaid (2018), Opera Theatre of St. Louis in Orfeo and Euridice (2018). He is currently a company member at The Big Muddy (2016-present) as well as an active member of AEA and AGMA.

Brandon's choreography has been presented at The Big Muddy Dance Company, University of Missouri St. Louis, University of Central Oklahoma, Florida Atlantic University, Oklahoma Contemporary Dance Festival, St. Louis Arts Alliance, American Dance Troupe, The Big Muddy Dance Company Trainee Program, and MADCO. Brandon currently serves as the Founder and Artistic Director for La Voûte Performance Ensemble and the Director of Education at The Big Muddy.



## **Molly Rapp**

### **Director of Operations**

Originally from Saint Louis, Missouri, Molly attended Webster University where she graduated summa cum laude, earning a BFA in Dance; emphasis in Ballet, and a BA in Business Management. While attending Webster University, Molly performed works by Jose Limon, Monica Newsam, Nejla Yarkin, Alicia Graf-Mack, and Michael Uthoff. She spent her summers working with Kansas City Ballet and Saint Louis Ballet, as well as working for Newsam Aerial Dance in company development. Molly joined The Big Muddy Dance Company's Convergence Trainee Program for the 2017-18 Season, where she also worked as the company's Development Intern. Molly is thrilled to be dancing in the 2022-23 Season, as well as continuing her role as Director of Operations and proud mom to her son, Rusty.



## Leonides D. Arpon

### Rehearsal Director

(Filipino-American born in Israel) started dancing in 1987 under the direction of Rose Kassel at the Bat-Dor Dance School in Israel. He later joined their company 1998 under the direction of Jeannette Ordman and worked with choreographers such as Luciano Cannitto, Igal Perry and Randy Duncan.

He holds a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Dance from Hollins University in partnership with the former Forsythe Company in Frankfurt, Germany, is a recipient of the Princess Grace Award for Modern Dance and the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarships.

Upon moving to NYC in 1999 Mr. Arpon was a principal dancer with Armitage Gone! Dance, Earl Mosley's Diversity of Dance, Kevin Wynn, Johannes Wieland, Sean Curran, Avila-Weeks and the New Generation Dance Company where he also trained in Argentine Tango.

In 2016 he continued to work in Japan for dance productions, performing art schools, coached celebrities as well as choreograph and perform in TV commercials for Panasonic, Toshiba, Mitsubishi, Gucci, Softbank, Nissan and DMM. He also studied acting at the English Language Film School Japan and Chubbuck Japan and appeared on Amazon Prime Video and NHK channels in drama series', talk shows and English instructional DVD's.

He also studies the art of creating dance for camera and shares his artistic experiences through community outreach with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Mr. Arpon has completed the Pre-Primary through Level 3 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum and the Beginner Horton Teacher Workshop with Ana Marie Forsythe.

He was assistant director for Earl Mosley's Institute of the Arts' "Hearts of Men" workshops in NYC and has taught around the world schools such as the Ailey School, Princeton University, and the Peridance Capezio Dance Center in the U.S. In Israel at the Bat-Dor Dance School, Thelma Yellin School of the Arts and Bikurey Ha'Itim. In Japan at the Tokyo and Osaka Schools of Music, Broadway Dance Center Tokyo, Yoshimoto Kogyo's Hinton Battle Dance Academy, Avec Grace Ballet and in the Philippines at Ballet Philippines, Philippine High School for the Arts and the University of the Philippines.

Mr. Arpon is thrilled to serve as Rehearsal Director and work alongside Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Erin Prange and the dancers of The Big Muddy Dance Company.



## Megan Rancour

### Studio Manager

After spending most of her life in the Chicagoland area, Megan went on to graduate from Western Michigan University in 2017 with a BFA in dance and a minor in general business. She has performed works by Kyle Abraham, Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Joshua Peugh, Joshua Manculich, Frank Chaves, Dexandro "D" Montalvo, Christian Denice, and Brian Enos, among others. Megan supplemented her dance training through the American Dance Festival, the Alonzo King LINES Ballet Summer Intensive, and the Dance-Works Chicago Dance360 Summer Programming. She spent the 2017-2018 season in The Big Muddy Dance Company Trainee Program and is now in her fourth season with the company. Megan also serves as the company's Studio Manager. Outside of dancing, Megan is a Level 1 Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers Americas and is currently pursuing her Full Certification through STOTT PILATES.

# 2022 Board of Directors

Kathie Winter, President

Dawn Gilbertson, Vice President

Bill Hornbarger, Treasurer

Timothy Wichmer, Secretary

Rhonda Carter Adams

Jan Albus

Tim Bahr

Christy Beckmann

John Brase

Lauren Brickler

Jase Carter

Shereen Fischer

Lauren Gentry

Monique Levy

Monica Black Robinson

Marilyn Sheperd

Susan Sherman

Steve Singer

Tracy Sykes-Long

Calvin Windschitl

## **Advisory Board:**

Sara Burke

Dave Toben, President Emeritus

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***“In a surprisingly short time, The Big Muddy Dance Company has become one of the most exciting ensembles in town.”***

***-Calvin Wilson, St. Louis Post Dispatch***

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# MAIN STAGE

## Season Productions & Collaborations



### **BLACK, BROWN AND BEIGE**

*World Premiere collaboration, presented by PNC Arts Alive*  
The Grandel in Grand Center, January 2022 (photo credit Gerry Love)  
and Virtual Performance, filmed by Dancing Fox Pictures

An original multi-disciplinary collaboration with Jazz St. Louis & The Black Rep. A celebration of jazz music heritage through movement and stories that features five local choreographers: Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Cecil Slaughter, Marcus Johnson, Heather Beal, and Ashley Tate. The Big Muddy's dancers performed alongside Jazz St. Louis as they played Duke Ellington's titled suite. Interspersed through the show, actors performed spoken monologues based on interviews with renowned lifetime artists Denise Thimes, Ed Smith, and Ron Himes.

### **RETROSPECTIVE**

*presented by Flooring Systems, Inc.*  
The Grandel in Grand Center, April 2022 (photo credit Gerry Love)  
and Virtual Performance, filmed by Dancing Fox Pictures

A celebration of audience favorites from The Big Muddy's journey over the past decade, and a peek into the next chapter with two world premieres! Featuring choreography by Geoff Alexander, Harrison McEldowney, Joshua Manculich, Daniel Marshalsay, and Kirven Douthit-Boyd.



### **SUMMER SERIES**

*presented in partnership with Tree 9 Films*  
Virtual Mini-Documentary Series, released July 2022

Tree 9 Films and The Big Muddy Dance Company partnered to bring a virtual series of mini-docs to exhibit behind-the-scenes making of "Lemp Legends" and "Black, Brown, and Beige". Featuring 5 short films, with rehearsals and interviews with the makers of each production.

### **IGNITE**

*with support from Anders CPA's + Advisors*  
Catherine B. Berges Theatre, October 2022  
and Virtual Performance, filmed by Dancing Fox Pictures

As new Artistic Director Kirven Douthit-Boyd's debut, this thrilling performance presented a collection of world premieres that displayed the power and versatility of The Big Muddy's dancers. Featuring choreography by Norbert De La Cruz III, Thang Dao, Kirven Douthit-Boyd, Geoff Alexander, and Brandon Fink. (photo credit Kelly Pratt)



### **A CHRISTMAS CAROL, presented by The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis**

Loretto-Hilton, Webster University, November-December 2022

Two dancers from The Big Muddy Dance Company represented the company on The Rep's stage for their tradition of "A Christmas Carol" about London's most infamous miser. Choreography by Artistic Director Kirven Douthit-Boyd, directed by Hana S. Sharif.



# PROGRAMS<sup>ad</sup>

## Education

### 2022 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- **Trainee Program-** The 33-week training and repertory program, targeted for post-college age dancers that are preparing for a professional career, grew from 5 dancers in the 2021-2022 Season to 10 dancers in the 2022-2023 Season. The program includes performances on company Main Stage productions, community performances, outreach, and an eclectic mix of repertoire to be presented at two Trainee Showcases.
- **Elevate Student Project-** The Big Muddy held its annual Elevate Student Project in spring and summer of 2022, targeted for high school students (ages 14-18). Each of the specialized 7-week programs featured these young dancers in a premiere public performance.
- **Summer Intensive Programs-** In-person attendance was back up following the pandemic! Our younger students ( ages 10 - 17) joined us for one week and our adult students (ages 18 and up) joined us for two weeks at our Grand Center studios. All three sessions presented their intensive's work in a black box showcase for friends and family.
- **The Big Muddy Dance Fest-** The September 2022 dance-filled weekend event provided many opportunities for dancers of all levels and ages. Master classes in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, contemporary, hip hop, yoga, Pilates, Afro-fusion, and more brought the dance community together in a collaborative series of programs and conversations. Other offerings on the weekend's schedule included Student and Professional showcases, a Regional University Audition, and seminars for Parents of Dancers and arts administrators.



**Hands-on Workshops-** The Big Muddy dancers continued with hands-on workshops for seniors with dementia, with specialized movement sequencing exercises and staff training sessions developed by the WashU Occupational Therapy program.

## Senior Embrace Outreach

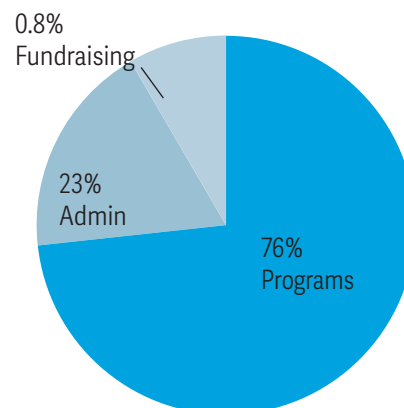
**Performances-** In spring and fall 2022, the company and trainees visited a total of 32 retirement home facilities across Missouri and Illinois with genre-specific repertoire to trigger memories for senior residents and to create shared opportunity for conversation between seniors, caregivers, and dancers.



# The Financial Picture

INCOME	06/30/22	06/30/21
Corporate Donations	22,773	24,672
Classes & Intensives	48,608	79,890
Grants	296,544	174,541
Individual Contributions	48,287	68,040
Performance Fees	5,100	2,012
Special Events	37,153	73,892
Tickets/Admission	41,392	37,256
Other	5,402	4,018
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>505,259</b>	<b>464,321</b>
EXPENSES		
Programs	411,178 (76%)	315,483 (74%)
Fundraising	4,734 (0.9%)	23,297 (5%)
Administrative	124,631 (23%)	88,441 (21%)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>540,543</b>	<b>427,221</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-35,284</b>	<b>37,100</b>

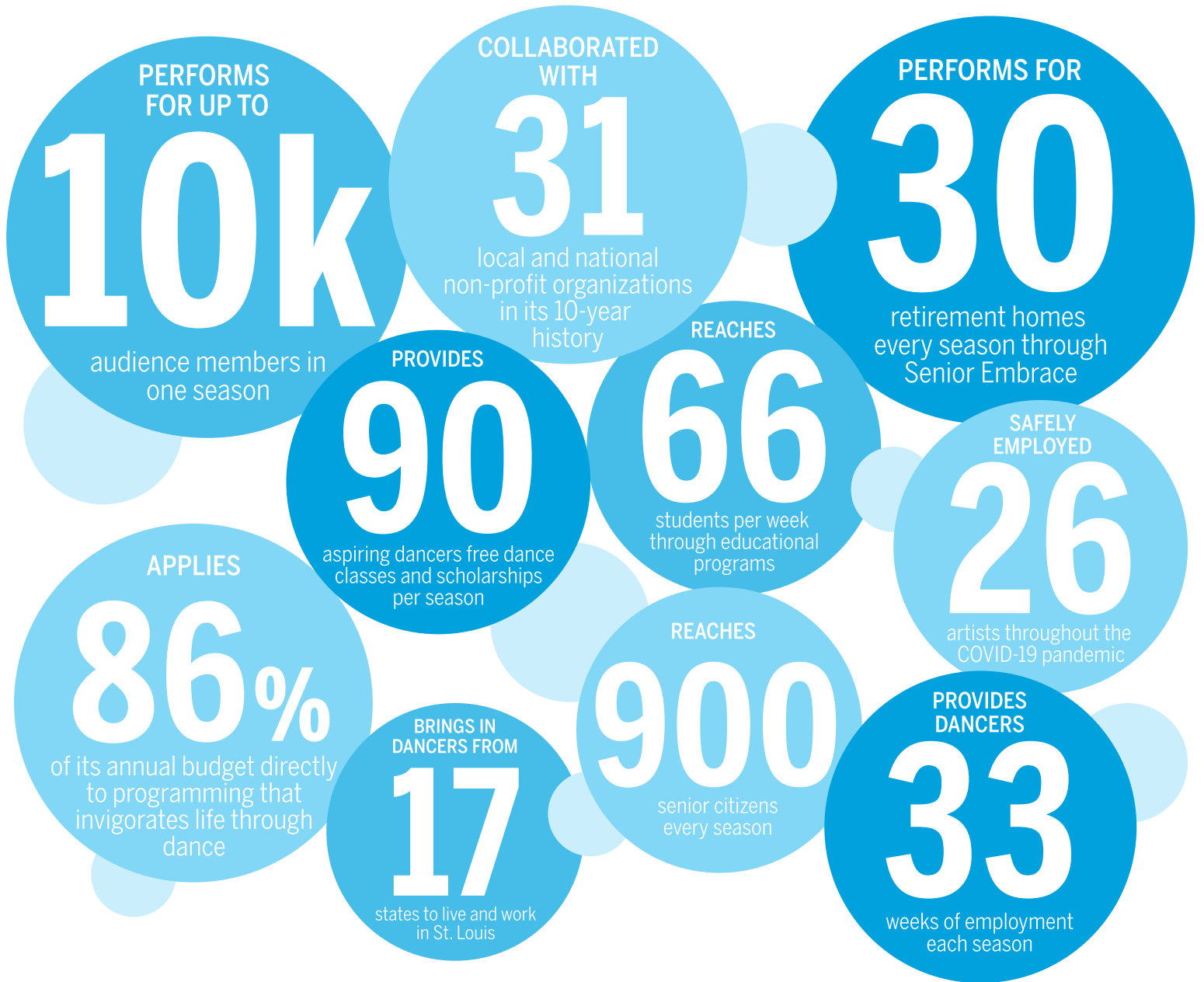
*Emerging from a challenging 2022 cash flow outlook, the company is working diligently to develop a sustainable system of revenue for future seasons.*



Total FY2022 Net Assets: \$64,612

# DID YOU KNOW?

## The Big Muddy Dance Company...



2022-2023 Corporate Sponsorships directly supports the St. Louis area by supporting The Big Muddy Dance Company's mission to invigorate life through dance.

Thank you for your consideration!



Photos by Gerry Love, Carly Vanderheyden, Kelly Pratt

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