

# 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT EISENHOWER DANCE DETROIT

## ARTISTIC PERSONNEL

Artistic Director: Stephanie Pizzo  
Assistant Artistic Director: Molly McMullen  
Dancers: Lindsay Chirio-Humenay, Andrew Cribbett, Alex Hlavaty, Brooke Mainland, Molly McMullen, Cheyenne Phillips, Matthew Schmitz, Michael Teasley III  
Apprentices: Emily Bezbatchenko, Lillie Hamilton, Kelsey Lewinski, Brian Wirgau  
Lighting Design and Technical Direction: David Goodman-Edberg, Kerro Knox 3  
Resident Costumer: Tina Tomicic  
Costume Manager: Michael Teasley III  
Company Class Master Instructor: Andrew Cribbett  
Company Class Instructors: Mary Devitt & Brandon Koepsell  
Photography: Lois Greenfield and Mitch Carter  
Graphic Design: Bianca Iacopelli  
Videographer: Scott Zuchlewski  
Physical Therapy: Orthopedic Spine and Sports Therapy

## ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Executive Director: Stephanie Pizzo  
Director of Operations and Development: Anne Bak Marine  
Director of Institutional Giving: Anne Ruffley  
Development Associate: Jaime Kannan  
Marketing Director: Roger Jankowski  
Publicity: Brandon Coulter  
Controller: Triet Huynh  
Finance Assistant: Dean Beier  
Company Manager: Lindsay Chirio-Humenay  
Social Media Manager: Molly McMullen  
Administrative Assistant: Brooke Mainland  
Donor Acknowledgement Associate: Brooke Hoplamazian

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gerald Salerno, Chair  
Beth Cafaro, Vice Chair  
Christopher Gerback, Treasurer  
Mary Devitt, Secretary

Maggie Allesee  
Jenna Barba  
Jocelyn Chen  
Deborah Hecht  
Nancy Schild Kott  
Dr. Arthur Manoli  
Nannette Mazich  
Gregory Patterson  
Frankie Piccirilli  
Stephanie Pizzo  
Debra Bernstein-Siegel  
Margaret Simcoe  
Guy Simons  
Danielle Susser  
Martin E. Testaseccas  
Martha Tremain



## EXECUTIVE LETTER

The 2018-2019 season marked a significant organizational and artistic turning point for Eisenhower Dance Detroit as evidenced by the company's new tagline: Innovate, Cultivate, Inspire. Using these three words as focal points, administrative and artistic leadership worked to align the company's activities with them. The result has been a host of new and highly successful endeavors. The foundation has been set for EDD's goals of honoring the legacy of founder, Laurie Eisenhower, and setting the stage for Artistic Director, Stephanie Pizzo, to create new artistic experiences for and with audiences.

Fueled in November by a workshop led by Alan Brown of WolfBrown Consulting, the board of directors and EDD staff embarked on a year-long project of interviewing over 20 different stakeholder groups impacted by the company's work. The key questions: what does EDD do well and what can the company do better moving forward? Through each 60-minute interview, the board and staff gained valuable insights into where there were gaps in service to constituents and where the organization was right on track. Many ideas brought forth from these conversations were implemented.

During the season, EDD premiered works by Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship Award winners, Darrell Grand Moultrie and Joshua Manculich, as well as showcased work by Eisenhower and Pizzo. Of particular note, the company was invited to perform at the iconic InsideOut Festival at Jacob's Pillow in Beckett, MA where the dancers' performance of Pizzo's, *Surge*, garnered a standing ovation. The company also traveled to Missouri to perform at the prestigious Spring to Dance Festival produced by Dance St. Louis, to Santa Barbara for a collaboration with State Street Ballet, and to Texas A&M University for a residency program.

EDD continues to provide outstanding local educational outreach at each of its three locations (Rochester, Birmingham, and a satellite program at Detroit Country Day School) as well as summer intensives at the Detroit Opera House and Oakland University. This season, EDD Assistant Artistic Director, Molly McMullen, choreographed and produced a student show of *The Giving Tree*, inspired by Shel Silverstein's book, utilizing over 45 dancers from the EDD Schools and performed to three sold-out concerts.

Honored at this year's Gala held at Detroit's Garden Theatre were Maggie Allesee, EDD's Inaugural Life Supporter, and Kyle Abbott of the Abram's Foundation. Their generous contributions to the company make EDD's work possible. Your support also continues to be of critical importance. Whether as a Dancer Sponsor, DanceMover, or Giving Tuesday contributor, EDD seeks to be a careful and thoughtful steward of your support. Together, we look forward to cultivating more innovation and inspiration during the 2019-2020 season.

Sincerely,  
Gerald Salerno, Chair

## METRO SERIES PERFORMANCES

### On The Move - October 20 and 21

*Oakland University's Varner Recital Hall*

As a company in residence at Oakland University, EDD's Varner Recital Hall concert drew an enthusiastic response from students. The program featured work by a variety of choreographers including the premiere of Joshua Manculich's *Well Spent*, the premieres of Stephanie Pizzo's *Scatter* and *Somedays*, and pieces by Joshua Peugh, Laurie Eisenhower, and Molly McMullen as well as pre-show performances by EDD Rochester and Birmingham School student companies.

Presented by Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance and generously sponsored by Oakland University Credit Union.

### December Dances - December 7

*Seligman Performing Arts Center*

December Dances featured a premiere by Darrell Grand Moultrie, recipient of a Princess Grace Choreography Fellowship Award, titled *Fragments*. Also on the program were works by Edgar Zendejas, Laurie Eisenhower, Stephanie Pizzo, and Molly McMullen. The EDD School companies from Rochester and Birmingham performed a pre-show concert. The evening also included an afterglow fundraiser at the home of Guy Simons and Carolyn Demps.

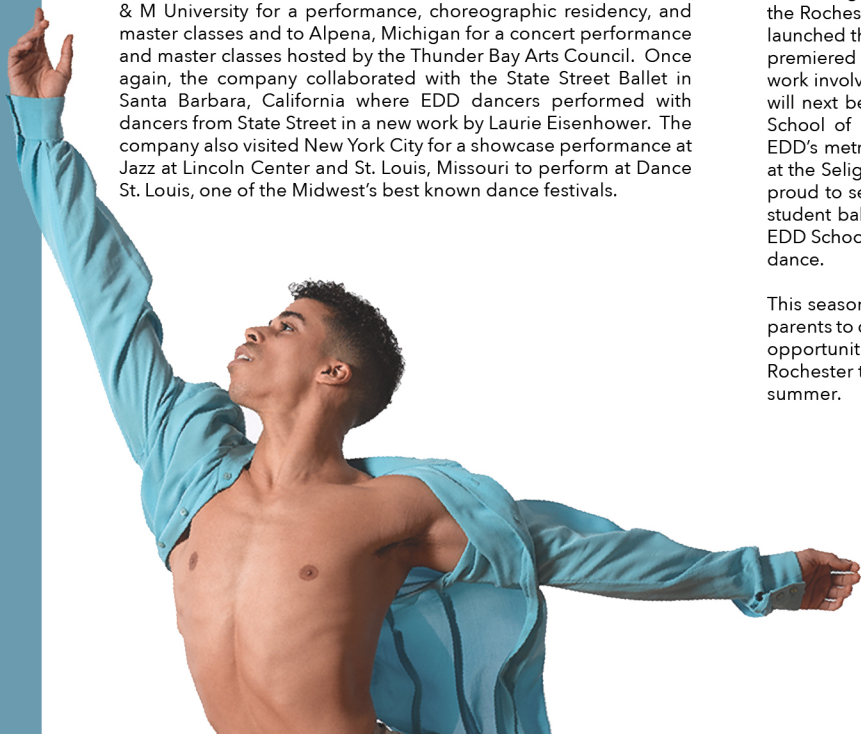
### FEEL - March 23

*Berman Center for the Performing Arts*

The premiere of Laurie Eisenhower's *Kites and Tethers* opened this concert which also presented the works of Darrell Grand Moultrie, EDD apprentice Lillie Hamilton, Stephanie Pizzo, and Ron de Jesus on the program. Ms. Hamilton's piece set on the Eisenhower Dance Detroit Youth Ensemble was later awarded the Monticello Emerging Choreographer award from Regional Dance America.

## TOURING

In July, Eisenhower Dance Detroit performed to a standing ovation at the iconic Inside/Out Festival at Jacob's Pillow in Beckett, Massachusetts! Renowned as THE place to see the best of the best in dance, EDD had been invited to perform *Surge*, a riveting and dynamic piece choreographed by artistic director, Stephanie Pizzo. Regarded as a significant honor to be invited to Jacob's Pillow, this event sets EDD apart as a truly outstanding national company. In addition, EDD's touring schedule took the company to Texas A & M University for a performance, choreographic residency, and master classes and to Alpena, Michigan for a concert performance and master classes hosted by the Thunder Bay Arts Council. Once again, the company collaborated with the State Street Ballet in Santa Barbara, California where EDD dancers performed with dancers from State Street in a new work by Laurie Eisenhower. The company also visited New York City for a showcase performance at Jazz at Lincoln Center and St. Louis, Missouri to perform at Dance St. Louis, one of the Midwest's best known dance festivals.



## CHOREOGRAPHIC RESIDENCIES

EDD dancers taught classes and set works on dance students at Illinois State University (new work by Molly McMullen), Oakland University (new work by Stephanie Pizzo), Detroit Country Day School (new work by Andrew Cribbett), and Texas A&M University (new work by Stephanie Pizzo).

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Educational Outreach remains an important part of EDD's mission. To that end, the company visited two school districts in Michigan, Three Rivers and Owosso, to present Mini-Motown, facilitated a Healthy Kids Residency at Barnard Elementary in Troy, and hosted two training intensives: NewDanceFest in Rochester, MI and the EDD Intensive at the Detroit Opera House. Eisenhower Dance Detroit has also been named a Detroit School of the Arts Pathways Partner. A select group of arts organizations throughout metro Detroit received this designation and invitation to provide educational outreach to DSA and its feeder schools in the Detroit school system. And once again, the generosity of the Abrams Foundation has provided scholarships and financial aid to students throughout metro Detroit to participate in EDD's educational outreach programs. EDD also continued its longstanding relationship with Oakland University's School of Music, Theatre, and Dance as a company in residence.

### NewDANCEfest

EDD conducted the NewDanceFest summer dance training intensive at Oakland University and the EDD School in Rochester July 8-22, 2019. Seventy dance students worked with two guest choreographers, seven guest teachers, seven EDD dancers, three EDD School staff teachers, and EDD artistic director, Stephanie Pizzo. In terms of student choreography, four pieces were created by Emerging Choreographers. In total, seven works were accepted into the Choreography Showcase presented at EDD's Laboratory Theatre during four performances attended by 144 audience members. A Gala concert took place at Oakland University's Varner Recital Hall where 228 tickets were sold.

### Detroit Opera House Intensive

With support from Michigan Opera Theatre, EDD hosted a dance intensive for students age 14yrs and older at the Detroit Opera House during the week of August 5-10, 2019. EDD company dancers taught classes and conducted lectures on Eisenhower Dance Detroit technique, partnering, and repertory. Approximately 40 dancers participated in this week of rigorous training.

### EDD Schools

With three locations (Rochester, Birmingham, and a satellite program at Detroit Country Day School) serving over 500 students, the School of Eisenhower Dance Detroit celebrated several major achievements this year. In only its third year of existence and led by EDD Assistant Artistic Director, Molly McMullen, the EDD Schools' pre-professional company, Eisenhower Dance Detroit Youth Ensemble (EDDYE) gave several outstanding performances including being invited to present two works at Regional Dance America (RDA). At RDA, Ms. McMullen received the National Choreography Recognition Award and Lillie Hamilton, EDD apprentice, received the Monticello Emerging Choreographer award for their work with EDDYE. Many of the dancers also received early acceptance into college dance programs. Sixteen dancers ranging in ages from 12-18yrs old from the Rochester and Birmingham Schools were accepted into EDDYE. Ms. McMullen also launched the *Giving Tree* project this season. Based on the book by Shel Silverstein and premiered to three sold-out shows in the EDD Lab Theatre in Rochester, this full-length work involved over 45 EDD School students ranging in age from 7-18yrs old. The work will next be performed by the students at the Boll Theatre in Detroit. In addition, the School of EDD's student companies performed in concert preludes before each of EDD's metro series concerts and in their own concert titled, *Dance Mosaics*, presented at the Seligman Performing Arts Center. And once again, School of EDD teachers were proud to send 20 select students to the Youth American Grand Prix, the world's largest student ballet scholarship competition. With funding from the Abrams Foundation, the EDD Schools foster child program allowed many foster children the opportunity to study dance.

This season, EDD also created task forces comprised of both staff and School of EDD parents to develop ways to improve the Rochester location and also to actively seek out opportunities for a new location in Downtown Detroit. Because of the work done by the Rochester task force, the studio space saw significant cosmetic improvements over the summer.

## BOARD UPDATE

EDD welcomed three new board members in 2018-2019. Mary Bischoff Devitt brings a unique voice to the board as a former EDD dancer as well as ballet instructor for company class. Chris Gerback joins the board as Treasurer and brings his experience in non-profit financial management and accounting to EDD. Jenna Barba comes to the board with a professional background in television, film and theatre, owns and teaches a music and movement program for young children, and has two children of her own who have attended the School of EDD in Rochester for the past 10 years.

Two board members, Deborah Hecht and Nannett Mazich, resigned their positions on the board this season. EDD thanks them for all of the contributions they've made to the company over the many years they both served the organization.

## DANCER UPDATE

All EDD dancers returned this season, and the company welcomed four apprentices. Emily Bezbachenko, from Buffalo, New York graduated with a BFA in Dance from Point Park University. Kelsey Lewinski, originally from California, came to EDD with a BFA in Dance from Wayne State University. From Kalamazoo, Michigan, Lillie Hamilton, received her BFA in Dance from Oakland University. Likewise, Brian Wirgau, came to EDD through the BFA program at Oakland University.

## STAFF UPDATE

For the first time in Eisenhower Dance Detroit's 28 year history, the company is completely staffed artistically and administratively by current and former dancers! To have everyone in the organization "speaking the same language," has allowed the company to work in a uniquely collaborative way. Joining the staff this year were Anne Bak Marine and Christina Tasco. Ms. Bak Marine danced with EDD from 1993-2002 and served in a number of administrative capacities until 2008 including as founding director for the EDE Center for Dance, Company Manager, and Director of Operations. She has returned to EDD as Director of Operations and Development. Likewise, Christina Tasco danced with EDD from 1997-2004. She previously served as Director of EDD's Rochester School, teacher, and student company director. Ms. Tasco is also a Special Lecturer in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at Oakland University where she has been on faculty since 2002. Molly McMullen, Assistant Artistic Director, has taken on additional responsibilities this season as Marketing Director. Lindsay Chirio, current EDD dancer, has been promoted to Company Manager, and EDD dancer, Brooke Mainland, has been hired as Administrative Assistant. EDD also continues to utilize grant-writing, donor acknowledgement, and accounting services with ArtOps.

### Partnership with Jodi Kaplan & Associates

This season, EDD entered into a contract partnership with New York-based booking agent, Jodi Kaplan. Kaplan represented EDD at booking conferences around the country including the Midwest Arts Conference, Performing Arts Exchange by South Arts, and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters where the company danced a showcase performance at Jazz at Lincoln Center and co-hosted an afterglow for dance presenters. Kaplan now handles most of EDD's national and international bookings.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### 2019 Annual Gala

This season's Gala honored Maggie Allesee as EDD's inaugural Life Supporter for her outstanding support of the company spanning three decades. Ms. Allesee began serving on the EDD board in the mid-90's and has generously given of her time, talent, and expertise, as well as significant financial support. The company owes a debt of gratitude to her for her assistance in steering the organization into nearly 30 years of operation. As a tribute to Ms. Allesee, EDD has named its inaugural Life Supporter Award after her. She is truly a gem! Special recognition was also given to Kyle Abbott from the Abrams Foundation for financial support of EDD's educational programs. Jenni Knight served as Honorary Chair for the Gala with Beth Cafaro and Jocelyn Chen co-chairing the event. Gala sponsors included Advomas, Kolar Arms, Amber Foundation, Hour Media, and Ann Arbor Distilling Company. EDD dancer, Molly McMullen, spoke at the event. 155 guests attended. The event raised \$38,095.86 for the company.

### Fundraiser for the Carol Halsted Legacy Fund for New Choreography

EDD partnered with Wendy Halsted Beard, Carol Halsted's daughter, to host a fundraiser for Carol's Legacy Fund at the Halsted Gallery in Birmingham on January 26, 2019. Forty-two guests attended the intimate evening and were treated to an EDD performance and exhibition of dance photography. The event raised \$2,925 for the commissioning of new choreography.

### Photo Shoot with Lois Greenfield

The EDD dancers spent a day with legendary dance photographer, Lois Greenfield, in her New York studio in January. The photography that resulted was truly stunning and many of the photos have been used for a variety of marketing and publicity materials including a company photo book, calendar, and artwork auctioned at the Gala.

### Other Fundraising Events

Additional fundraising for this season included a Giving Tuesday campaign, with a live Facebook feed of an open company class, opportunities to become a Dancer Sponsor or DanceMover, Year-end Giving Campaign, and End of Fiscal Year Giving Campaign.

### Other Events

In addition, EDD hosted its annual Season Launch party at Dick O'Dows in Birmingham, a Dessert with the Dancers afterglow following the ON THE MOVE concert, pre-concert chats with the Artistic Director preceding the ON THE MOVE and DECEMBER DANCES performances, a Casino Night fundraiser for the EDD Schools held in the EDD Lab Theatre in Rochester, a Meet the Dancers event at both the Rochester and Birmingham studio locations, and a Pre-Glow dinner at Ciao Italian Bistro before the FEEL concert. The company also co-hosted a "friendraising" event with the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts at the 3Fifty Terrace, the theatre's rooftop venue on July 30, 2019. The 90 people in attendance enjoyed the views of downtown Detroit's theatre district, an "informance" by EDD apprentices, cocktails, appetizers, and dancing. Fox 2 Detroit featured the company by broadcasting live in-studio performances prior to the rooftop event.

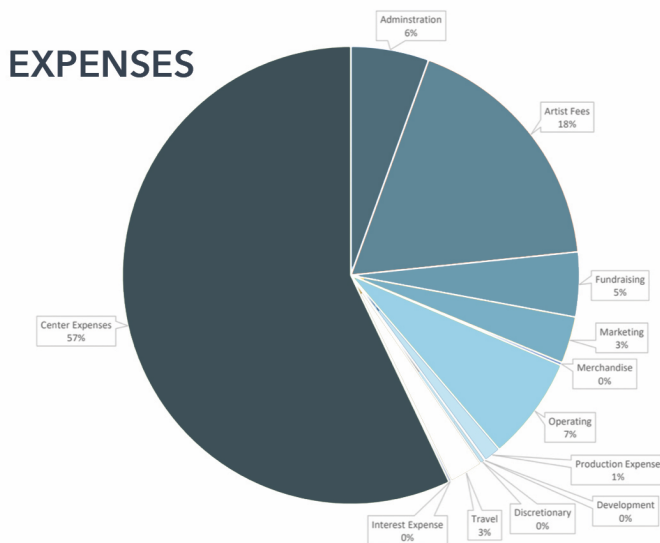
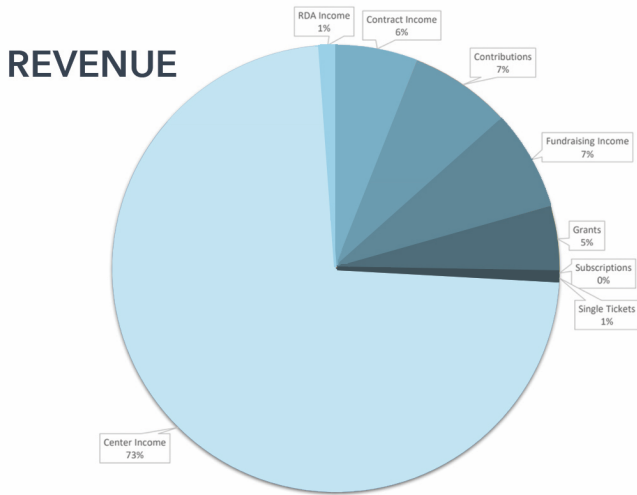
### Special Projects

Alan Brown of WolfBrown Consulting generously donated his time to lead the EDD board and staff in a workshop during a board retreat on November 11, 2018. Stakeholder interviews with EDD constituents will inform the board's strategic planning moving forward. EDD also continued its internship program with Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance by engaging 5 interns during the season. The company also launched its Beyond the Stage Initiative focusing on providing the EDD dancers with opportunities to develop skills and interests off the stage. To that end, Molly McMullen attended a Content Marketing conference in Boston to expand her skills in marketing and social media; Andrew Cribbett was tasked with EDD School curriculum development, an area of particular interest for him; Alex Hlavaty began using his skills in creative writing to draft EDD press releases, Kelsey Lewinski engaged her interest in sales to take on soliciting ads for the EDD souvenir program, and Brooke Mainland was hired as Administrative Assistant.



# FINANCE

Eisenhower Dance Detroit turned in a solid fiscal performance in 2018-2019, posting a Net Income of \$65,111. Much of this improvement was due to an increase in tour income which involved performances in states such as Missouri and Texas. In addition, the company was able to take in a significant amount of revenue through new programs including the Giving Tree Project and partnership with Regional Dance America as well as through various fundraisers throughout the year. The Halsted Gallery event to honor and raise funds for the Carol Halsted Legacy Fund for New Choreography was one such example as was the Giving Tuesday campaign in November.



# SUPPORT

The following individuals supported EDD through DanceMover or Dancer Sponsorship

- Maggie Allesee & Bob Allison
- Jenna & Rand Barba
- Debra Bernstein-Siegel & Rick Gellar
- Beth & John Cafaro
- Craig Chamberlain
- Mary Devitt
- Christopher Gerback
- Jenni Knight
- Brian & Nancy Kott
- Dr. Arthur Manoli
- Joanne & Shawn McMullen
- Gregory Patterson
- Stephanie Pizzo
- Gerald Salerno
- Margaret & Michael Simcoe
- Marty & Lory Testasecca
- Martha Tremain



# AWARDS

EDD received a number of grants in 2018-19 to support the company's programmatic and educational activities including a professional development grant awarded through the Anton Arts Center and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) for Molly McMullen to attend a Content Marketing Conference in Boston in April, an Arts in Education Residency grant from MCACA for immersive work with Barnard Elementary School in Troy, an Operating Support grant from the MCACA and the National Endowment for the Arts, a \$25,000 grant from the Abrams Foundation to support EDD's educational outreach for underserved youth, and support of EDD's annual gala from the Amber Foundation, Advomas, and Kolar Arms.

