

## MINNESOTA DANCE ADVOCACY TASK FORCE

### MEETING Notes

Friday, April 17, 2026 – 9-10am- Virtual

#### **In attendance:**

LaTia Childers, Daniel Grove, Daniel Stark, Sam Aros-Mitchell, Kim Konikow, Ananya Matewos, Elsie Martin, Sally Rouse, and Louise Robinson

#### **Summary:**

The meeting introduced the Minnesota Dance Task Force transition team, outlining its role in advancing recommendations from the Wilder report. Attendees shared brief introductions representing Minneapolis, greater Minnesota, and rural communities. The four-member transition team highlighted expertise across Indigenous arts, arts administration, nonprofit leadership, and higher-education dance, and confirmed their first meeting for the following week. Volunteers Mathew and Ananya committed to ongoing involvement to assist in consistency.

It was established that the transition team will focus on strategic planning, while the broader community supports implementation and feedback. The group emphasized transparency through regular public updates, accessible meeting notes, and shared documents. Future plans include a press release and integral development towards partnerships with DanceMN, Springboard for the Arts, and McKnight to expand visibility.

#### **Chapters & Topics:**

##### ***Welcome and informal check-in***

*Brief greetings and informal conversation as participants gathered; collegial tone before the agenda began.*

##### ***Meeting purpose and framing***

*Mathew introduced the transition team and framed the meeting as a step from Wilder-led listening to action.*

- *Purpose: orient the community to the transition process and new team leadership.*

##### ***Community introductions***

*Attendees shared brief introductions, reflecting statewide and cross-sector representation.*

- *Broad representation across urban, rural, and professional roles.*

##### ***Transition team introductions***

*Sam Aros-Mitchell, Daniel Grove, LaTia Childers, Daniel Stark shared backgrounds in Indigenous arts, administration, education, and rural leadership.*

- *Emphasis on sustainability, equity, and community-building.*

##### ***Logistics, scope, and support***

*First transition team meeting confirmed for next week. Mathew and Ananya will remain engaged for*

continuity.

- Focus areas include audience development, resource-sharing, and statewide engagement.

### **Representation and external models**

Need for broader geographic representation noted. National models (Dance Chicago, Washington-area, New York State Dance Task Force) identified for reference.

- Kim to share external contacts.

### **Structure and open meetings**

Clarified distinction between transition team (strategy) and broader community (implementation).

- Support for periodic open forums (quarterly or similar) for feedback.

### **Vision and role of the transition team**

Defined as a volunteer strategic body guiding direction, coordinating action, and preparing larger community gatherings.

- Target: semiannual gatherings (July and January).

### **Transparency and documentation**

Commitment to shared minutes, open documents, and progress indicators.

- Transparency prioritized to build trust and engagement.

### **Document access and naming**

ARENA DANCES to provide shared document access. General support for simplifying the name to "Minnesota Dance Force."

### **Press and media outreach**

Press release distribution underway; additional outreach planned. ARENA to share press contacts.

- Targeted outreach to key media contacts encouraged.

### **Term, funding, and capacity**

Transition team term set through December 2026. Limited funding (\$2,500) noted as a constraint.

- Future expansion depends on funding or volunteer capacity.

### **Visibility, partnerships, and communications**

Plan to increase visibility through media and future developed partnerships with DanceMN, Springboard for the Arts, City ACA department and Foundations.

- Press release and ongoing communications prioritized.

### **Regional outreach**

Focus on engaging local and regional communities (e.g., Mankato, Austin, and beyond) through targeted media and arts councils.

- Reposting and adapting press materials recommended.

### **Calendars and internship support**

*Intern (Sophia Islam) to help build a statewide calendar and contact database.*

- *Strategy: leverage existing platforms rather than recreate.*

### **External resources (Catchafire)**

*Catchafire access offered for pro bono business support from Sally Rouse*

- *Follow-up planned to transfer access.*

### **Social media presence**

*Current platforms: Facebook and Instagram.*

- *Opportunity to expand reach (e.g., younger audiences) with stronger digital strategy.*

### **Partnership with DanceMN.org**

*Potential collaboration to host updates and resources, avoiding duplication.*

- *Plan for concise communications with optional detailed minutes.*

### **Guiding research and call to action**

*Wilder Research findings reaffirmed as the foundation for action.*

- *Clear shift from listening to implementation.*

### **Next steps and meeting close**

**The group confirmed Friday, May 22nd at 9am will be the next Virtual meeting.**

### **Action Items:**

- \* The transition team will meet next week to begin organizing priorities and structure for moving the Wilder report recommendations forward.
- \* Ananya Mateos will continue participating as a volunteer to support transition-team continuity.
- \* Mathew will continue participating as a volunteer to support transition-team continuity.
- \* kim konikow will provide contact information for Louise (New York State Dance Task Force) to interested participants.
- \* Transition team will define indicators for each goal to track progress and transparency
- \* Mathew will provide access to the cloud collection of documents to the transition team
- \* Mathew will share the full press/media list with the group
- \* Mathew will send a follow-up email to press contacts from the initial release
- \* Meeting participant will reach out to Rohan to ask for advice about publicity and placements

- \* Mathew will prepare and distribute a press release announcing the transition team
- \* Sophia Islam will start contacting performance groups and independent choreographers across Minnesota to build the performance calendar.
- \* Sally Rouse will transfer Catchafire access to the Minnesota Dance Force/transition team and follow up on login details.
- \*Mathew will share the press release broadly with contacts and media.

**NEXT MEETING -**

**Friday, May 22**

**9:00AM - 10:30AM (8:45am new visitors welcoming)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73185698990?pwd=STYY9v1L7kIYSGhlsdP23vpNj8n0Qz.1>

Meeting ID: 731 8569 8990

Passcode: q0x4xw