

MINNESOTA DANCE ADVOCACY TASK FORCE
MEETING Talking Points

Friday, February 20, 2026
8:45am (welcoming new attendees)
9:00 - 11:00am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84329713372?pwd=1tklrYlL68eSCOsU6xyyQun9UJleAO.1>

Meeting ID: 843 2971
3372
Passcode: 326264

MN Dance Advocacy

Facilitator Agenda: Transition from Report to Action

Purpose of Meeting

To acknowledge the completion of the MN Dance Advocacy Task Force and the Wilder Report, and to collectively identify a clear, time-bound path forward that moves the field from listening to action while maintaining broad community engagement.

1. Welcome & Framing (Mathew – 5 minutes)

- Welcome participants and acknowledge the collective labor that brought us here.
- Frame this meeting as a **pivot point**:
 - The MN Dance Advocacy Task Force was never intended to be permanent.
 - It achieved the goals it set out to accomplish.
 - The Wilder Report marks the **closure** of the listening and assessment phase.
- Note **that** this conversation follows the **February 3 phone conversation with Kim Konikow** (not recorded); what follows is a *summary and one possible path forward*, not

a finalized plan.

- Today's focus:
 - Transition to an **action phase**
 - Build **continued engagement** without forming a new organization
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2. From Transparency to Action (Kim – 5 minutes)

- With the Wilder Foundation report complete:
 - How do we responsibly share the findings?
 - How do we activate what we've learned?
 - This possible scenario is not about:
 - creating a new organization; fiscal sponsorship may be necessary
 - Guiding intentions:
 - Work within a **defined timeline**
 - Establish **initial, achievable goals**
 - Potentially seek **additional funds** for specific tasks
 - **Engage** the widest possible dance community—artists, audiences, funders, partners
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3. Community-Identified Priority Areas (10 minutes)

Brief review of the **five most prominent needs** expressed across the MN dance community:

1. Audience development (inside and beyond the dance field, including Greater MN and funders)
2. Shared spaces to experiment, create, and collaborate
3. Increased understanding and respect, particularly for marginalized and invisibilized groups
4. Opportunities for community-wide connection and affinity group gatherings
5. Cultural shift in how dance and the dance ecosystem are understood and valued

Facilitator note: These priorities anchor all proposed action steps for this proposed scenario.

4. Proposed Action Pathways (Discussion – 25 minutes)

A. Collaborating with Existing Organizations

- DanceMN identified as a strong potential partner, with others possible
 - Springboard for the Arts
 - Regional Arts Councils
 - Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
 - Discussion prompts:
 - Are there other ideas for collaborations?
 - Who is willing to initiate these conversations?
 - Might there be room to **expand existing structures** without altering their missions?
 - What financial support might make a collaboration possible?
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B. A Structure That Serves All

- The task force surfaced many affinity groups; full consensus is unlikely.

- Proposed stance:
 - Shared resources can support diverse goals.
 - Groups can use what is built—or adapt it for their needs.
 - Ideally, affinity groups help shape the system rather than work outside it.
 - Key question:
 - What is “good enough” to move forward while remaining responsive?
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C. Establishing a Transition Team (Through 2026)

- Proposal:
 - 5-person transition team, possibly with an LOA indicating work and commitment, with a fee, utilizing most of the remaining Task Force funds
 - Monthly online meetings
 - Regular/monthly reporting back to the field
- Representation goals:
 - Age, geography (metro & Greater MN), education, gender, BIPOC identity, dance styles, etc
- Name possible candidates:
 - Ananya Matewos (initial Wilder report consultant)
 - Mathew Janczewski
 - Rebecca Katz Harwood
 - Nieya Amezquita
- Note:

- Suggested structure needs some work – but feel the group can “govern” themselves.
 - Someone must ask people to serve
 - Keep suggestions coming
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5. Communication & Infrastructure Actions (15 minutes)

D. Fund Development

- Follow up with McKnight Foundation
- Request additional funds tied to defined tasks
- Example: ~\$2,500 remaining for web enhancements

E. Field Narrative & Visibility

- Hire 2–3 writers to:
 - Draft a press release sharing report findings
 - Write an article on the history and development of dance in MN
 - Write an article on current shifts, diversity, and the evolving value of dance
- Seek regional and national placement

F. Statewide Resource Platform

- Create or build upon an existing database to include:
 - Funding opportunities
 - Touring opportunities
 - Spaces, classes, gatherings

- Key questions:
 - Platform choice
 - How people find and use it
 - How engagement is measured
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6. Audience Expansion & Greater MN (5 minutes)

- Build partnerships with:
 - Regional Arts Councils
 - Minnesota Citizens for the Arts
 - Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
 - Regional artists, organizations, and schools
 - Information flows back to shared platform
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7. Biannual Town Halls (5 minutes)

- Every six months:
 - Funder-driven, invitation-based
 - Virtual and recorded
 - Report on activities and system usage
 - Open forum for feedback and course correction
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8. Budget Snapshot (Reference)

How will funds be distributed?

- Web enhancements/build: \$2,500
 - Writers & placement: \$3,000
 - Transition team stipends (through 2026): \$5,000
 - Greater MN outreach/site visits: \$750
 - June & December gatherings: \$1,250
 - Hire evaluator to collect data and measure growth and success: \$5,000
 - *Initial phase estimate: ~\$15,000*
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9. Timeline Overview (Reference)

- **By March**
 - Transition team identified and vetted
 - Initial partner conversations
- **April**
 - Transition team Monthly meetings begin
 - McKnight conversation and ask
 - Writers for press/marketing identified
- **April/May**
 - Database/website platform determined
- **June**
 - First Town Hall (hosted by Foundation or ACA)

10. Closing (Matthew – 5 minutes)

- This is not the only path forward—but it is a path.
- The community has the opportunity to shape and strengthen it.
- Invite continued feedback, participation, and shared ownership.

Other Resources:

Creative Capital Artist Opportunities

<https://creative-capital.org/artist-resources/artist-opportunities/>

MN Presenter's Network

<https://www.mnpresenters.org/>