

MINNESOTA DANCE ADVOCACY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, October 23, 2025 – 9-10AM – (virtual)

In attendance:

Mathew Janczewski, Raymond Terrill, Kim Konikow, LaTia Childers, Jim Lieberthal, Daniel Grove, Hallie Bahr, Gwen LaVine, and Ann Williams

Quick recap

The Minnesota Dance Task Force met to review the upcoming Wilder research report outline on dance infrastructure in Minnesota, which will cover project methods and recommendations for organizational development. The group discussed their successful recent meetings and alignment on key priorities including audience engagement, K-12 education, and resource sharing across the dance community. The community members concluded by suggesting possible strategies to offer improvement or aid to DanceMN's visibility and engagement, including website improvements and potential partnerships, with plans to meet again in December to review the Wilder report.

Next steps

- [ARENA: Restart floor work gatherings in January with a new name, moving around different locations for just a good community hang out](#)
- [Wilder : Provide draft by December 10th](#)
- [Task Force: Meet on Friday December 12th from 9-11am to review and discuss the draft report](#)
- [Task Force: Select 3 volunteers during the December 12th meeting](#)
- [Selected volunteers: To Provide detailed feedback to Wilder by December 16th](#)
- [Minnesota Dance Task Force: Reapply for grant funding in January for partnership with Lavender Magazine for season schedule coordination and Season Calendar publication](#)

Summary

Minnesota Dance Infrastructure Report Review

The Minnesota Dance Task Force met to discuss the upcoming Wilder research report on dance infrastructure in Minnesota. Mathew presented the Wilder report outline, which covers project overview, methods including focus groups and surveys, and recommendations for organizational development. The report will be shared with task force members and the broader community, with

feedback to be collected at the next meeting in December. Three to five volunteers will be selected to provide detailed feedback to Wilder for the final report.

Community Alignment and Wilder Partnership

The group discussed the success of recent meetings and the positive alignment among community members towards shared goals. They noted that working with Wilder has been beneficial and are excited about the detailed information Wilder will provide. Kim raised a question about the challenge of creating organizational structures without a clear goal. Mathew mentioned that all the gatherings were to identify the top three to five goals to focus intent of this unknown organization.

Priorities and Community Engagement

The group discussed three key priorities identified from initial Floorwork convenings back in June of 2024:

1. Infrastructure
 - a. Where is our core community?
 - b. Dedicated place
 - c. Welcoming new comers
2. Audience Development/Dance Education
 - a. Value of dance in community
 - b. Training for the teachers (AmeriCorps model)
 - c. Youth are our future- how all kids should get dance
3. Funding/Sustainability
 - a. Multiple pools
 - b. Emphasis of early career artists, but where to be supported after
 - c. Number of venues and rehearsal spaces, values in community, creative capacities

They noted successful participation from rural and higher education dance communities within the recent focus groups, as well as a well-attended BIPOC-focused session. Jim suggested creating a centralized arts communication platform similar to City Pages to better connect artists and audiences across Minnesota. Mathew plans to restart a community gathering initiative in January to foster further connections, resource sharing, and simply to hang out together.

Dance MN Engagement Strategies

The community members discussed suggested strategies to assist and improve DanceMN's visibility and engagement, including enhancing its website capabilities, collaborating with media outlets, and leveraging social media. They explored ideas for a centralized calendar to prevent scheduling conflicts and discussed the potential for a co-op space for the dance community. The group also addressed the need for better communication and partnerships with organizations like DanceMN and Springboard. They agreed to meet on December 12th to review a draft report from Wilder and to provide feedback to the organization by December 16th.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, December 12

8:45am (welcoming new attendees)

9:00 - 11:00am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85796563910?pwd=z2dzB0zAauxpEz9Rql45sy55UQcUHY.1>

Meeting ID: 857 9656 3910

Passcode: 538729