

Dear Friends,

It's with a mix of emotions that I share some important news: Death's Door Dance Festival, our beloved annual gathering of dancers and community in Door County, will not take place in 2025.

Over the past three years, this festival has been a labor of love, fueled by my passion for dance and my commitment to bringing world-class art to the community. However, organizing an event of this scale—paying and housing 30+ artists, coordinating meals, writing grants and courting sponsors, securing permits and venues across the peninsula, and offering three days of free performances and classes—requires an immense amount of time, energy, and funding.

While I'm incredibly proud of what my fundraisers have accomplished ($20K in online donations in 2024!), they still haven't provided the level of funding needed to sustain the festival long-term. It's expensive, y'all. Moreover, promoting and running a fundraiser requires significant time and effort, adding yet another layer of work to an already demanding process. It's a lot.

While it brings me great joy to see the community come together, the reality is that the festival demands nearly year-round effort, with virtually no financial compensation. It has been my honor to dedicate myself to this work, but I can no longer sustain this level of commitment without many forms of additional support.

As I step back from organizing the festival for 2025, I'm excited to share that I'll be channeling my energy into furthering my education. I've made the decision to return to school to pursue a Master's degree in Dance. This next chapter will allow me to deepen my artistry and bring new perspectives to the work I'm so passionate about.

I want to be clear: I'm not closing the door on the festival. However, for the festival to return in the future, it will require significant changes. Specifically:

Organizational Support – A dedicated staff willing to help coordinate every aspect of the festival over the entire festival year. By 2024, I was blessed to have had more than a handful of volunteers, generous sponsors, in-kind donors, and when the festival neared, a small (but mighty) team of volunteers and staff who helped make it possible. I'm incredibly grateful; but this festival requires more hands and much better compensation.

Financial Contributions – A minimum of $60,000 in funding would be needed to ensure the festival's viability and my ability to focus on making it the extraordinary event it deserves to be.

If you've loved this festival and want to see it return, I encourage you to reflect on how you might be part of its future. This could mean joining an organizing team, connecting us with arts organizations or sponsors, or advocating for increased support from local organizations and grant-makers.

Thank you all for being part of this journey. Thank you artists, for sharing your spirit and vision. Thank you sponsors and donors, for investing in three fantastic years. And those who chose to attend, thank you for embracing the craft we love and gettin' your boogie on! Your passion for dance and community inspires me and I hope we can work together to reimagine what's possible for Death's Door Dance Festival in the years to come.

With gratitude and hope,



Kelly Anderson

Director/Founder, Death's Door Dance Festival