



For Immediate Release

BalletX's in-school program Dance eXchange community performance

Featuring over 300 Philadelphia public school students in program-culminating performances at Drexel University's Mandell Theater, Feb. 18-21, 2020

Philadelphia – February 2020 – On February 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2020, over three hundred 3rd and 4th grade students from four Philadelphia public schools will participate in the program-culminating dance performances of BalletX's annual Dance eXchange program at Drexel University's Mandell Theater. The BalletX dancers will perform as part of the event. The Feb. 18 performance will feature students from Bache-Martin School, with students from Albert M. Greenfield School performing on Feb. 19, students from Chester A. Arthur School performing on Feb. 20, and students from Stephen Girard School performing Feb. 21. All four performances take place each evening at 6:30pm-7:30pm, and are free and open to the public.

"The student Dance eXchange performances are a highlight of our season," said Christine Cox, Artistic & Executive Director of BalletX. "I am so proud of the work accomplished by our teaching artists and students. Together they learn how they can shine through dance and music."

Dance eXchange and NDI teacher training

Dance eXchange, a program developed by BalletX, offers in-classroom dance instruction to students of the School District of Philadelphia, based on the pedagogy of New York City's National Dance Institute (NDI) and inspired by the artistry of BalletX. NDI's training provides talented dance educators progressive and innovative methods to teach students the fundamentals of dance and performance by integrating a curricular theme, and concluding each program year with a final performance in a professional theater. The program runs annually October-February.

Dance eXchange emphasizes dance as a means to promote self-confidence, acquire valuable life skills, and establish personal standards for excellence. Through the program, students gain a basic dance vocabulary; a deeper understanding of dance as a performing art form to which many of them have not been previously exposed; and an opportunity to excel at something altogether new, in the presence of their peers.

"It helps students learn through movement, improves memory, and confidence. My students LOVE Dance eXchange and look forward to it each week. Movement breaks during dance definitely helped with afternoon learning time." -- Classroom Teacher

"She has gained more confidence in herself and in her ability to accomplish goals through hard work!" -- Dancer eXchange Parent

"Dance eXchange helps me feel like who I really am!" -- 3rd grade Dance eXchange student

This year's Dance eXchange curricular theme is the persistence

The curricular theme of 2018-19's Dance eXchange program and final performance is persistence. As part of the Dance eXchange curriculum, students attended a performance by the professional dancers of BalletX at The Wilma Theater in December to witness how persistence can help contend with obstacles and challenges in one's life and career. Students also practiced persistence through various classroom projects incorporating dance, music, geography, cultural studies, personal narratives and poetry. Audiences at the final student performance will be treated to the imaginative way, in which the student dancers have interwoven the theme of persistence into the choreography and their dancing.

Dance eXchange sponsors

Dance eXchange is generously funded by the William Penn Foundation, Leo Model Foundation, Zeldin Family Foundation, Richard Phillips, Howell Lockhart Seiple Trust, Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, The Hassel Foundation.

Location, Dates & Times and Schools Performing

Mandell Theater at Drexel University, 3220 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Tuesday, February 18, 6:30pm-7:30pm | **Bache-Martin School**

Wednesday, February 19, 6:30pm-7:30pm | **Albert M. Greenfield School**

Thursday, February 20, 6:30pm-7:30pm | **Chester A. Arthur School**

Friday, February 21, 6:30pm-7:30pm | **Stephen Girard Elementary School**

ABOUT BALLETX

BalletX, America's premier contemporary ballet, commissions choreographers from around the world to create new ballets that are "fresh, inclusive, and connect to what people want" (*Philadelphia Citizen*). Led by Artistic & Executive Director Christine Cox, BalletX has been recognized by *The New Yorker* as a "place of choreographic innovation" for producing 84 world premiere ballets by over 40 choreographers in its 14-year history. In addition to main-stage performances and international touring, the company offers free community pop ups, dance classes, artist Q&As, open rehearsals, and in-school dance education, designed to bring its home city of Philadelphia and the nation closer to

dance. Among its many accolades and honors, BalletX was recently featured on the cover of *Dance Magazine's* October 2019 issue. To learn more about BalletX's programming and dancers, named "among America's best" by *The New York Times*, please visit BalletX.org and follow the company on social media.

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