

Portland Blues and Jazz Dance Society Press Release
June 24, 2008

Tuesday Blues began the process of reorganizing its leadership structure in February. A board of directors formed to offer a wide base of organizational energy and inspiration. Its chief objective: create a model and environment to organically grow a vibrant dance community.

Forming a non-profit entity allows this goal to be achieved. Non-profit status protects the directors from liability, formalizes the guiding principles and mission, and facilitates the transfer of leadership to new generations of organizers. Non-profit status offers permanence to the Portland blues dance community and acts as a public declaration of dedication to cultivate the dance scene.

The non-profit is intended to encompass all Blues and Jazz dance activities in Portland. It serves to help individual organizers and communities work as a cohesive whole and build the dance scene. Under its purview, venues such as Tuesday Blues exist to serve the blues dance community.

Our Name:

The name, Portland Blues and Jazz Dance Society (PB&J Dance Society), incorporates multiple goals of the Portland blues dance scene. First, it broadly includes the activities in which the organization will be involved. Second, it invokes the spirit of the community, including humor and accessibility, through the acronym "PB&J". Third, it encourages the exploration of different dance styles and music. The name suits the non-profit for its broad definition and clear intention.

Our Mission Statement:

The Portland Blues and Jazz Dance Society (PB&J Dance Society) exists to create a safe, sustainable, and vibrant Blues and Jazz dance community through the free exchange of ideas, utilization of community knowledge, and promotion by example. PB&J Dance Society seeks to reignite public interest in partnered dancing and grow Blues as a dance form through the exploration of various styles of movement and promotion of both solo and partnered social dancing.

PB&J Dance Society is designed to balance the organizational load among multiple leaders as well as give the community a wide range of people to work with. A lateral and consensus-driven organizational structure encourages participation from the community by making organizers accessible, integrated, and individually empowered to affect change.

Your participation and involvement is requisite to the existence of a society. We recognize this fact and eagerly look to you for input, feedback, and involvement. Our website, pdxblues.com, offers information on how to get involved. You make the Portland Blues and Jazz dance scene vibrant. Consider the Board as more than a group of leaders working off its own initiative; regard the Board as your advocates for change, empowering you to make a difference. We aim to serve the community and need you to represent it.

Signed,

The PB&J Dance Society Board of Directors

*Ben Long, Executive Director
Andrew Smith, Managerial Director
Ivy Grey, Strategic Director
Drew Robinson, Operational Director
Karen Maria Capo, Promotional Director*