## Values:
- **Equity:** We pursue a just distribution of opportunities and resources.
- **Racial Justice:** We work to dismantle racial inequities and oppression at the interpersonal, organizational, and systemic levels.
- **Multiculturalism:** We value and engage the perspectives and experiences of diverse communities.
- **Integrity:** We hold ourselves accountable, claiming and learning from both successes and failures.
- **Learning & Innovation:** We learn by doing, experimenting with new strategies, reconsidering our assumptions, and adapting.
- **Collaboration:** We stand shoulder to shoulder with our students, parents, staff, partners, and funders.
- **Artists Matter:** We treat artists as professionals and create space for staff to pursue their own artmaking.
- **Relationships:** We take the time to build meaningful relationships and create a sense of family with those we work with and serve.
- **Place:** We invest deeply in the neighborhood we live in.
- **Abundance:** We share our resources and know that sharing increases what's available for everyone.
- **Joy:** We value joy as a goal in and of itself and take time to celebrate!

## Stances:
- **People of all ages, backgrounds, sizes, and abilities can dance.**
- **Dance can be a uniquely powerful vehicle for individual and collective transformation.**
- **We reject the elevation of Western European dance techniques over other forms.**
- **Dance can improve physical and emotional health.**
- **The voices of youth and their families should be authentically represented in educational programming.**
- **The development and support of dance educators is essential to creating a high-quality classroom experience.**
- **The growth of the New Orleans dance field is connected to our own success.**

## Strategies:
- We create a warm, safe, and welcoming environment in our dance classes.
- We actively and intentionally recruit teachers, students, and artists through a lens of equity, inclusion, and social justice.
- We offer programs that are culturally relevant for people in New Orleans and cut across a variety of cultural dance techniques.
- We promote dance as a tool for healthy living.
- We lift up voices of youth and their families in program planning and execution.
- We set high expectations, using a mix of rigor and nurture to push and support our students.
- We vigorously invest in our dance teachers with resources, care, feedback, and advocacy.
- We partner with local presenters and advocacy organizations to support the dance field.

## Impact:
- More New Orleanians experience the benefits of dance.
- Youth participants view themselves as artists, leaders, and change agents.
- People of all ages are communicating and building stronger relationships across barriers of race and culture.
- Students and their families are healthier, both physically and emotionally.

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**Social Justice:** The dismantling of systems, structures, and practices that perpetuate oppression. The deep and true valuing of marginalized communities.