THE HARTFORD DANCE COLLECTIVE curates performances for female dancers and choreographers and provides open class, rehearsal/event space in Hartford, CT.

The Hartford Dance Collective is a 501(c)3 non profit organization, founded in July of 2017. We aim to empower women to have a voice and an equal opportunity in dance by providing choreographic and leadership opportunities. By sharing professional contemporary dance with new audiences and providing performances in diverse locations, we work to bridge the gap between the arts and our community.

Since the conception of our 2,300 square foot studio space located in the heart of Parkville, dance has grown and flourished in Hartford. This space has been able to give many artists in the area a home to create. We offer open dance classes for adults, and hold the belief that everyone can dance and everyone should. Movement allows us to escape, which drives our commitment to curating experiences that allow for discovery and connection.
The Hartford Dance Collective has shifted the world of Contemporary dance by bringing the art form to new, unique spaces. This has allowed the community to be exposed to more professional dance, and in turn, the audience for dance has grown and flourished. By bringing our art to non-traditional places, we can ensure that audiences can enjoy and learn about dance while being in a comfortable and familiar atmosphere. Aside from traditional theatre settings, The Collective has performed at museums and art galleries, breweries, music venues, cafes, outdoors, and more.
The Collective has produced performance events at multiple breweries and taprooms including Hog River Brewing Company, CT Valley Brewing Company, and more. While viewers comfortably stand by, dancers surround the brewery; highlighting works of various female choreographers and dancers.

Ten to fifteen-minute dance works are separated by short breaks in between, allowing viewers to ruminate on their thoughts and takeaway from the performance; as well as an opportunity to grab more drinks, food, or chat with the surrounding community. This provides a more connective experience between the performers and their audience.
Presenting our work at Museums and Art Galleries is one of our favorite collaborative atmospheres. Working off of the exquisite paintings, sculptures, and pieces of art that decorate the space provide The Collective with inspiration and create a driving motive and story behind the production. Noteworthy associations we have worked with include The Wadsworth Atheneum, Real Art Ways, and more. Viewers respond well to this type of event and are able to enjoy both the harmony and contrast of what the dancers create in pair with the artwork. In addition to dance and visual art, adding a third musical layer to the performance enhances the picture of what is happening throughout the scene.
Bringing our productions to coffee shop settings creates an intimate performance experience for both The Collective dancers and audience members, culminating in a comfortable and personable show for all. With relaxed seating options, coffee and tea to enjoy, and little distance between audience and performers, viewers get a sense of familiarity and connection with the dancers.
While one of the goals of The Hartford Dance Collective is to bring dance to nontraditional spaces, we often take the stage as a part of outside productions. The Collective has had numerous opportunities as guest artists for various performances hosted by fellow dance companies, charity events, promotional events, and more. Some of these companies and organizations include Vivid Ballet, The Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Ballet Theatre Company, Proctor’s Theater, and TheaterWorks Hartford.
The Collective brings moves from the studio to the street for a number of free dance performance events; making an effort to bring this art form to the community throughout their everyday lives. From the Greater Hartford Arts Council’s “Art in the Streets” to Riverfront Recapture’s National Dance Day, our dancers share professional quality movement with those who may not have the availability to watch what we do otherwise.
Our 2,300 square foot studio space, located in the arts district of Hartford, has lent itself to hosting performances and events for the arts community and beyond. From charity based events, themed dance shows, or everyone’s favorite - The Hartford Holiday Spectacular - this space transforms to create unique events unlike any other. With this performance space being the home of The Collective, each curation brings an energy of ease, comfort, and enjoyment to the dancers and surrounding audience members.
MEET THE COLLECTIVE
RESIDENT ARTISTS

JILLIAN FOLEY
JANE KRANTZ
ROSANNA KARABETSOS
KATIE SCHENKER
ROXIE LEBENZON
KATIE BITTNER
CASSIE LASKOWSKI
CAMI WHITNEY
TAYLOR ZAPPONE

COLLECTIVE PERFORMERS

JASMINE MCPHERSON
ALEXIS ROBBINS
AUDRA BROWN
MARY SKAPEK

COLLECTIVE CHOREOGRAPHERS

SARAH NULSEN
JASMINE STACK

https://www.thedancecollective.org/resident-artists
“What differentiates The Dance Collective from other dance troupes is Jillian’s commitment to make it entirely female. Her goal was to level the playing field for women in professional dance.” - Innovation Destination: Hartford

“I thoroughly enjoy collaborating with The Collective and have come to know them as individuals committed to building community and promoting accessibility to dance for all. They are community focused, true professionals, and talented artists in multiple ways.“ - Amanda Roy, Director of Community Impact, Greater Hartford Arts Council

“Amazing group of dancers and choreographers. And so creative! Fully engaged with the audience!”
THE HARTFORD DANCE COLLECTIVE

BOARD MEMBERS

JILLIAN FOLEY - PRESIDENT
JANE KRANTZ - VICE PRESIDENT
MARJORIE GROSS - SECRETARY
FRANCES FULLER - TREASURER

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