Imagine More



"MFA is a major part of children's lives in Maywood"



"... an amazing program with staff who genuinely care about the kids and their families"

"This is a great place with fun and affordable classes - a true community!"





### **Dear Friends of Maywood Fine Arts...**

2021 and 2022 were years of significant transition, not just for Maywood Fine Arts, but for the world at large. We were able to revisit and redefine what we could do in a post-COVID world. This ushered in a period of joyous opportunity, allowing us to begin the process of merging new and old ways of providing our students with training in dance, tumbling, karate, music, drama, and visual arts. A true high note was that we were finally free to get back to live performances - a vital element of our arts programming. All of which allowed our kids to imagine so much more!

Indeed, Maywood Fine Arts has emerged from this transitional period stronger than ever. None of what we imagined could ever have taken place without the incredible ongoing generosity of the many individuals, companies and foundations which continued to offer us their support. Our students, teachers, staff and board of directors are unanimous when it comes to appreciating all that your support does for our students. Without you, our mission to bring affordable and high quality arts instruction to the youth of Maywood and nearby communities would simply not exist.

So here's to the past two years, a transitional period which allowed us to redefine the 'new normal' for Maywood Fine Arts. We are delighted to have you with us as our journey continues! Thank you!

# **Lois Baumann**Executive Director



## Laura Thompson President, Board of Directors



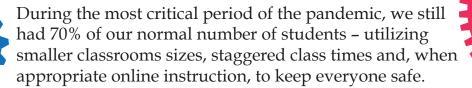


## **2021-2022 - See How We Thrive!**

During the past few years, people everywhere have been forced to define the 'new normal'. From the fall of 2020 to the summer of 2022, Maywood Fine Arts, too, went through this transitional period, but we are happy to report that we have emerged better than ever. In fact, we're thriving!



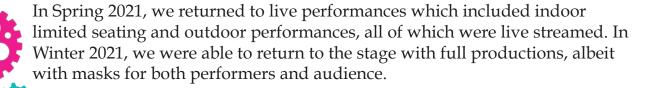
Here are just some of the highlights:





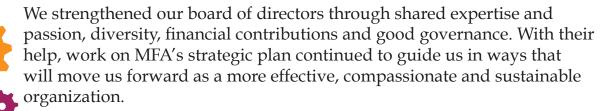
We kept tuition affordable, which was critical since 61% of our families have a low-moderate income and were hit especially hard by the economic toll of the pandemic and subsequent inflation.

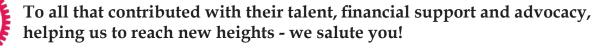
Early on in the pandemic, we became adept videographers and filmmakers, creating cinematic showcases which featured performances of every student at MFA.





With our GOTS Youth Leadership program, we provided 24 middlethrough high-school students with stipends to serve as classroom assistants, participate in career exposure opportunities and conduct outreach.





## **A Duet with School District 89**

One of the outreach programs MFA is most proud of is our *Classical Ballet for New Audiences* (CBNA), a concise version of the ballet that is child friendly yet includes the original music and choreography, which fully exhibits this exquisite art form. Professional dancers perform the principal roles and our ballet students form the corps de ballet in both public and school performances.

Of equal pride to MFA is our relationship with our local elementary school district. Since MFA first began presenting daytime school performances in 2017 with CBNA's *Sleeping Beauty*, the entire 3rd and 4th graders from School District 89 have attended each year. CBNA not only introduces this beautiful art form to the students, but it also underscores the importance of equity in representation as children see professional and student dancers who look like them performing onstage.

In both 2021 and 2022, reaching this important audience was significantly challenged by the pandemic, but MFA was willing to imagine more!

With live performances being impossible in 2021, MFA's solution was to film the pirate ballet, *Le Corsaire*, in the dance studio and then present the film at local movie theaters and share it with schools online. But the artistic team felt that the CBNA experience could be more meaningful for local School District 89.

To accomplish this, MFA produced a virtual workshop for all the 3rd and 4th grades in the district. Each of the 46 classes zoomed with the leads of the ballet, Olivia Renteria and Emanuel Ramirez, who introduced the students to the story and characters of *Le Corsiare*. They even got the children on their feet to learn a pirate dance!

2022 heralded a return to live performance with CBNA's *Cinderella*. But once again District 89 was unable to attend as they were not yet permitted to do off-site field trips. This sparked the team to create the *11-Minute Cinderella* workshop for 3rd and 4th grade classes at their schools. Ballet warm-ups were done with the students, followed by a shortened version of the ballet featuring original choreography and culminating in the students participation in a hip hop version of a *Cinderella* dance. Best of all was the finale in which every student was presented with a ballet slipper à la Prince Charming. Imagine all those slippers flying as the kids excitedly tried them on!

## Thank you for Imaging More!

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#### \*Denotes donors who gave both fiscal years

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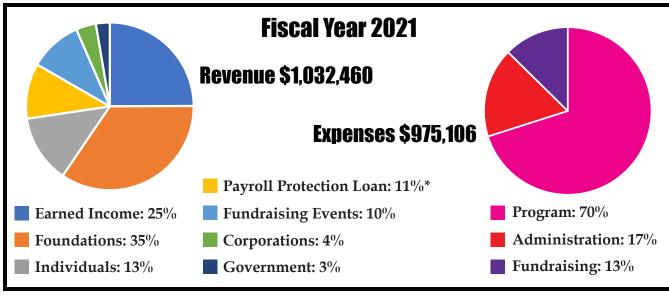
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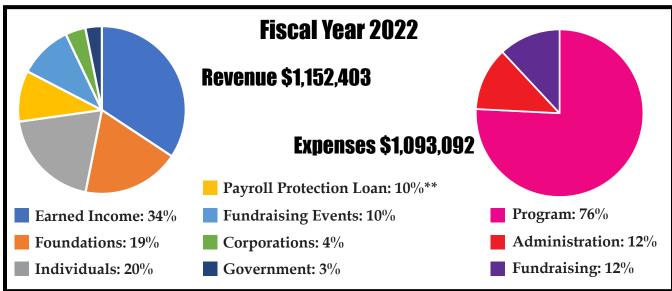
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