

YOUNG LUNGS DANCE EXCHANGE

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



**Cover Photo:** 20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / Johanna Riley / Pablo Riquelme

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20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / Festival Artists & Team / Pablo Riquelme



# Who We Are + Where We Are

Young Lungs Dance Exchange is a not-for-profit artist-run organization committed to the development, creation, and presentation of contemporary dance and performance on Treaty 1 Territory, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Young Lungs Dance Exchange (YLDE) acknowledges that we have a responsibility in reconciliation. We give thanks to the caretakers of this territory, both recorded and unrecorded, including the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Anishininew, Dakota, Dene Peoples, and the Red River Métis. A gathering place for dance since time immemorial, we are grateful for the ability to dance and celebrate on this land and for the teachings of Indigenous Peoples, colleagues, Elders, and peers, who share and sustain traditional and contemporary Indigenous knowledge. We are committed to working together to build better relationships with each other and with the land. We believe in sharing resources so that we can collectively honour and uphold treaty responsibilities and practice on the land known as Canada today.



Workshop Series 2025 – Alejandro Ronceria / Workshop Participants / Pablo Riquelme

### **~ Our Vision ~**

Dance holds a vital and valued place in society.

### **~ Our Mission ~**

YLDE supports the evolution of dance in Manitoba through training, research, creation, and presentation initiatives for artists.

### **~ Our Guiding Principles ~**

#### **Vibrance**

YLDE strives to create experiences for participants that are designed with a positive and vibrant energy.

#### **Collaboration**

YLDE works collectively and collaboratively, valuing the sharing of leadership and decision making.

#### **Inquiry**

YLDE responds to the creator's drive to critically question as a response to the present time and to their own artistic vision. As an organization, YLDE is invested in examining our role in communities including the oppressive systems we function within and have historically benefited from.

#### **Inclusivity and Accountability**

YLDE works to build accessible and safer spaces. YLDE strives to engage across culture, experience of racialization, age, gender and ability. YLDE is committed to understanding how we have benefited from white supremacy through investing in strategies for structural transformation, and working towards accountability for the organization.

#### **Care**

YLDE values, respects and honours personal relationships. YLDE strives to ensure those who engage with us are respected.

# Message from the Board

This year, as Young Lungs Dance Exchange celebrated its 20th anniversary, we found ourselves reflecting not only on two decades of programming, but on the spirit of collaboration and curiosity that has carried this organization from its very first gathering to where it stands today. The 2024/2025 season reminded us how meaningful it is when artists support one another, and how deeply we value the community that continues to grow and shape this work.

We are incredibly proud of the publication created for our anniversary year, a beautifully crafted 175 page book that honours and archives the artists, initiatives, and ideas that have shaped YLDE. Executive Director Alex Elliott and designer David Oro brought an extraordinary level of care to this project. The voices of our founders, within its pages, remind us how much imagination and trust have fueled YLDE from its beginning.

We were also honoured to welcome award-winning teacher and movement leader Alejandro Ronceria for a week-long intensive. We extend deep thanks to our Programming Manager Gaby Ortiz for recommending Alejandro and for bringing her strength as a community builder to our organization. Alejandro's generosity, insight, and presence offered a meaningful reminder of how mentorship and shared practice strengthen our artistic ecosystem. Seeing participants connect, challenge themselves, and celebrate each other was a highlight of the season.

Our 20th Anniversary Festival embodied the heart of YLDE: artists boldly experimenting, audiences gathering together, and a dedicated team working to make space for both. We are grateful to curators Aria Evans, Luther Konadu, and Charlene van Buekenhout for shaping a festival that celebrated range, risk, and imagination, with a special thank you to former Director Zorya Arrow for selecting the twenty artists two years ago.

# Message from the Board (cont'd)

And we extend heartfelt thanks to our diligent production team, including Production Manager Tanner Manson, for bringing so many moving parts together with care and professionalism.

We were delighted to continue our work with Marketing Director Erica Urías, whose collaboration with Executive Director Alex Elliott and Programming Manager Gaby Ortiz strengthened the clarity, intent, and reach of our communications.

Across every program and event this season, we continued our commitment to accessibility, ensuring ASL interpretation was available and welcoming guests to environments with physical accessibility and gender-inclusive washrooms. We celebrate this as core to our past and future values.

Most of all, we are grateful for our artists, our audiences, our partners, our funders, and the hundreds of community members who have joined YLDE over twenty years. Our mailing list, now over 550 subscribers, reflects a growing community of people invested in dance, movement, and the shared work of supporting and uplifting artists.

As we look to the future, we do so with appreciation for the artists who came before us, pride in the people who lead and support YLDE today, and excitement for the next chapter of this organization's story.

With gratitude,

Board of Directors  
Young Lungs Dance Exchange





# Annual Report

## Introduction

Young Lungs Dance Exchange's 2024-2025 season, and 20th year of engagement, marked a pivotal moment for our organization. We were awarded Operating Funds from the Manitoba Arts Council, we received Charitable Status, as well as project funding from Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, and Program Support from the Winnipeg Arts Council. For our 20th Anniversary Season we designed a Publication, hosted a week-long workshop intensive with Alejandro Ronceria, and presented the work of 20 artists over four days. Every event had ASL Interpretation in physically accessible venues with gender inclusive washrooms.

The season began with the hiring of contracted Marketing Director Erica Urías who worked closely with graphic designer David Oro, Executive Director Alex Elliott, and Programming Manager Gaby Ortiz. We also continued working with Torrin Swanson from Collective Technologies for tech support, and Lesage Accounting for Bookkeeping and Accounting.



# Programming

## 1) 20th Anniversary Publication

Executive Director Alex Elliott worked closely with Designer David Oro to create this 175 page book that holds the first twelve years of productions followed by eight years of residencies, alongside visual and written essays. What follows is an excerpt from the book, messages from the founders, who reminded me later that yes they created and produced the first show, but the continuous contributions from hundreds of artists along the way is at the heart of Young Lungs Dance Exchange.



“STRONGER TOGETHER” - THE FOUNDERS





At the time, we were pretty fresh out of a training program and entering into a professional landscape in Winnipeg where opportunities were limited. As young artists this environment was pushing us to be pinned against each other. Putting together our first show, Not Frozen or Canned, was an active move towards shifting this competitive environment into a collaborative one.

Not Frozen or Canned proved that supporting each other, turned a daunting challenge of self-production into what felt like a party. So why not make it a shaker! Opening the door in future productions to whoever wanted to present work, also meant celebrating that diversity of voices inevitably contributes to the growth and development of art forms and supports everyone's evolution.

These first experiences also underlined how our collaborative and cooperative approach created the needed safety net to take chances and experiment with our art practices, a true communal trust in the process of learning and growing. I am so grateful for our young, rebellious, visionary selves.

**- Natasha Torres-Garner (Co-Founder)**



I co-created Young Lungs Dance Exchange with a group of young women to support each other as artists and creators. We shared a vision that through collaboration and exchange a vibrant artistic community could be created. These values of collaboration continue to influence my work as I create works that bring together creative technologists, composers, designers, community participation producers, dancers, aerialists, clowns, and all manner of creative beings. I aim to create an environment where everyone feels valued and respected, something I have kept in my heart from my time with YLDE.

**- Jennifer Essex (Co-Founder)**



Starting Young Lungs Dance Exchange represented a vital act to take control of my life as an artist, to feel a sense of agency as a dancer. We were a group of young dancers who were looking for opportunities to continue and grow our artistic practice, which can be a daunting situation for all artists to face on their own, particularly emerging artists. Young Lungs was us coming together to combine our energies and talents, and this made taking that leap into the world of artistic creation and self-production so much easier with the support of our peers. Young Lungs has been an important resource for artists working in all aspects of dance and physical performance, providing a venue for the development of skills and the forging of connections among artists for the past two decades. Through Young Lungs I was able to build my confidence and abilities in areas such as performing, teaching, choreographing, and producing which has helped me to have a vast and vibrant 20 year career in dance. I am so proud of this organization, how it has grown and where it is headed.

**- Johanna Riley (Co-Founder)**





Young Lungs has supported my growth in a number of ways throughout the development of my career. Through collectively organizing the show "Not Frozen or Canned" in 2004/05 among a few other Young Lungs one-off events that year, I learned about communication and collaboration. It was a steep learning curve for me, as it was my first year out of my BA honors in dance. Prior to this show with Young Lungs, I had done performances primarily in bars and informal venues as part of work with the band Absent Sound and performance collaborator Brian Longfield. The conventions of producing work in a theatre brought many new learning curves which I learned alongside peers involved in the "Not Frozen or Canned" Young Lungs production. At that time peer support was vital in supporting me as an emerging artist, the process validated that we could actualize projects without being an organization with ongoing funding. Subsequently, in 2016 Young Lungs supported early research of my work CPA [Consistent Partial Attention], the project was a pivot point for my work with technology and integrating additional performers / collaborators and the time for research and feedback was excellent during a vital transition point in my body of work. The landscape of dance in Winnipeg has changed over the last 20 years and independent production has been necessary to sustain the community. Young Lungs has continued to cultivate platforms for artists of all kinds that relate to movement and performance, to foster creation and production, artist talks and workshops, as well as commission written responses to work. The organization continues to bridge career development for artists across genres broadening the community of folks invested in live art. Looking forward to the next 20 years Young Lungs!

Bravo!

**- Freya Björg Olafson (Co-Founder)**



## 2) Kick Off Party

We launched our publication at a Kick Off Party at Kilter Brewery with DJ Kilusan where members from our community, across generations and decades, caught up with each other and reconnected over food and beverages. We released our Artist Reveal pamphlet which showcased the twenty artists whose work we were preparing to present in our festival.

Throughout the year, YLDE continued to correspond with our mailing list of over 550 subscribers, sending out newsletters with our upcoming activities, updates and community events, and boosting our online presence while broadening our social media audience with our original online content.





### 3) *Workshop*

We hosted award winning teacher Alejandro Ronceria, former Director of Dance Training at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, in partnership with The School of Contemporary Dancers, over Spring Break in April 2025. We had our highest participation with over 15 registered participants attending this week-long intensive titled, Workshop for Dancers, Performers and Choreographer. “This workshop allows emerging to established dancers, performers, and choreographers focused on conception and development to gain creative and performing tools and learn to use space, time, dimension, musicality, and narrative elements. The participants engage in movements and exercises to discover their relationship with space, sound and the physical environment.”



Workshop Series 2025 – Alejandro Ronceria / Alejandro Ronceria & Workshop Participants / Pablo Riquelme





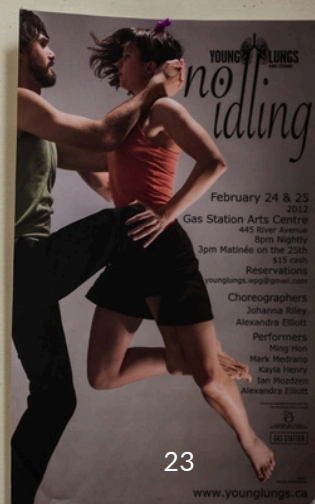
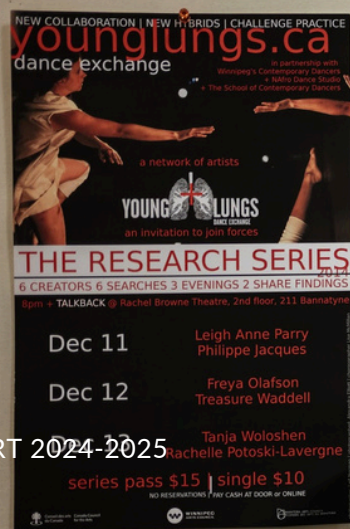


#### 4) 20th Anniversary Festival

We undertook an ambitious project and it was an absolute success. We had originally planned to have a symposium as part of our 20th Anniversary programming, which included workshops, talks, and performances, but after speaking with all 20 artists who were selected, everyone wanted a work presented. We presented original work by 20 artists, local, national, and international, and hosted 59 performers at le Centre Culturel Franco Manitobain. We flew 11 artists into Winnipeg.

Due to the multidisciplinary nature of our organization and the foundation it was built on, all four festival dates showcased a wide variety of live performance, always grounded in the body. YLDE's artists have always existed on the fringe and the entire community was in awe at the audience turnout.

Our organization has been consistently enriched by the staff and board members throughout its twenty year history. Because of this, our mission, mandate, vision, guiding principles, and five year strategic plan gave us crystal clear guidance and support throughout Festival planning.







20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / D-Anne Kuby & Zorya Arrow / Pablo Riquelme













20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / Delf Gravert and Scott Fitzpatrick / Pablo Riquelme





20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / Krystina Dejean (Mystique) / Pablo Riquelme











Over the years you will try to make sense  
of that happy sad full empty always  
shifting life you are in.  
And when the time comes to return to  
your star, it may be hard to say goodbye  
to that strangely beautiful world.  
Think well then before you go.

— Star Child by Claire A. Nivola



20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / Mia S. van Leeuwen with performers Natasha Torres-Garner, Ming Hon, Brenda McLean, Charlene van Buekenhout, Tanja Faylene Woloshen, and Ashley Roch / Pablo Riquelme





Top: 20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / Ali Robson / Pablo Riquelme

Bottom: 20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / Emma Beech & Zorya Arrow / Pablo Riquelme







20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / Deanna Peters, Sevrin "Sevi" Emnacen & Luciana D'Anunciação / Pablo Riquelme









# 2024-2025 Contributors

## Contributing Artists

Jennifer Essex

Emma Petit

Sontje Bohn

Anaïs Bossé

Odéah Roy

Treasure Waddell

Deb Patterson

Natasha Torres-Garner

Freya Björg Olafson

Johanna Riley

Ali Robson

Janelle Hacault

Stedroy Crump

PRINCESS DASHA

Mia van Leeuwen

Tanja Woloshen

Coral Maloney

Delf Gravert

Jaime Black-Morsette

Zorya Arrow and Emma Beech

Deanna Peters

Krystina Dejean

D-Anne Kuby

Oriah Weirsma

Sasha Amaya

Alejandro Ronceria

DJ Kilusan aka Maribeth Tabanera



## **Staff**

Alex Elliott, Executive Director

Gaby Ortiz, Programming Manager

Erica Urías, Marketing and Communications Director

## **Contracted Staff**

David Oro, Visual Developer and Publication Designer

Joanna Hawkins, Sign Language Promotion

Jordan Wynnychuk, ASL Interpreter

Pablo Riquelme, Photographer

Kayla Jeanson, Videographer

Landon Lake, Videographer

Ntara Curry, Volunteer Coordinator

Charlene Van Buekenhout, Festival Curator

Aria Evans, Festival Curator

Luther Konadu, Festival Curator

Philip Geller, Publication Curator

Dasha Plett, Publication Curator

Gislina Patterson, Publication Curator

Tanner Manson, Production Manager

Jaymez, Technical Director

Josh Ranville, Production Crew

Ethan Stark, Production Crew

Paige Lewis, Stage Manager

## **Technical Support**

Torrin Swanson, Collective Technologies - Digital Systems Design

## **Bookkeeping and Accounting**

Lesage Accounting

## **Board Members**

Co-Chair: Kayla Jeanson

Co-Chair: Aria Evans

Vice Chair: Nicole Shimonek

Secretary: Laura Vriend

Treasurer: Branwyn Bundon

Advisor: Yuri Karube

Members at Large: Sage Cloud, Sarah Struthers, and Ntara Curry

## **Partners and Collaborators**

School of Contemporary Dancers, aceartinc., Winnipeg Film Group, Video Pool Media Arts Centre, Théâtre Cercle Molière, Centre Culturel Franco Manitobain, Kilter Brewery, Brenda McLean, Joseph Cohen, Daves' Quickprint, Kendrick's Printing, hannah\_g, Dance Manitoba, Space to Create, Natasha Torres-Garner, and Zorya Arrow.

## **Funders**

Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, and Winnipeg Arts Council

## **Sponsors**

Assiniboine Credit Union

## **Donors**

JKS Plumbing

Susan Lingle

Thank you all for supporting Young Lungs Dance Exchange!

Young Lungs Dance Exchange  
Winnipeg, Manitoba // Treaty 1 Territory  
younglungs.wpg@gmail.com  
younglungs.ca

**Independent Financial Statements**  
(Attached below)

# Young Lungs Dance Exchange

## Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2025

	TOTAL
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
1000 ACU Bank Account	15,495.23
1010 Petty Cash	0.00
1020 Savings	87,953.18
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalent</b>	<b>\$103,448.41</b>
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
1200 Accounts Receivable	10,500.00
<b>Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>
1250 GST Receivable	0.00
1310 Prepaid Expenses	649.31
Uncategorized Asset	0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$114,597.72</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$114,597.72</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
2000 Accounts Payable	41,037.42
<b>Total Accounts Payable (A/P)</b>	<b>\$41,037.42</b>
2200 Deferred Grant Revenue	65,000.00
25500 GST/HST Payable	-529.57
GST/HST Payable	0.00
<b>Total 25500 GST/HST Payable</b>	<b>-529.57</b>
Accrued Liabilities	1,395.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$106,902.85</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$106,902.85</b>
Equity	
Retained Earnings	14,248.88
Profit for the year	-6,554.01
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$7,694.87</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$114,597.72</b>

*Bravo! Fundco*



# Young Lungs Dance Exchange

## Profit and Loss

July 2024 - June 2025

	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>	
4100 Programming Revenue	
4110 Admissions	5,770.00
<b>Total 4100 Programming Revenue</b>	<b>5,770.00</b>
4205 Interest revenue	1,671.72
4300 Private Sector Revenue	
4310 Corporate Donations & Sponsorships	1,000.00
4330 Fundraiser	1,320.09
<b>Total 4300 Private Sector Revenue</b>	<b>2,320.09</b>
4400 Public Sector Revenue	
4420 CCA Project Grants	90,000.00
4430 Department of Canadian Heritage	25,000.00
4455 MAC Operating grant	20,000.00
4520 WAC Project Grants	15,000.00
<b>Total 4400 Public Sector Revenue</b>	<b>150,000.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$159,761.81</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$159,761.81</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
5105 Artist Fees	
5107 Artist Fees - Workshops	3,811.26
5108 Artist Fees - Other	56,807.74
<b>Total 5105 Artist Fees</b>	<b>60,619.00</b>
5130 Contractor Fees	25,884.08
5140 Event & Programming Expenses	2,906.99
5141 Venue/Studio Rental	11,578.36
5143 Accessibility	1,710.00
<b>Total 5140 Event &amp; Programming Expenses</b>	<b>16,195.35</b>
5150 Travel & Accommodation	7,779.15
5165 Documentation	9,254.00
5187 Memberships	100.00
5300 Marketing Expenses	
5310 Marketing Professional Fees	6,685.00
5325 Website	343.91
<b>Total 5300 Marketing Expenses</b>	<b>7,028.91</b>
5500 Admin Expenses	
5505 Admin Salaries & Fees	34,356.04
5510 Legal & Professional	4,481.93
5520 Office & General Admin Expenses	617.36
<b>Total 5500 Admin Expenses</b>	<b>39,455.33</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$166,315.82</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<b>\$ -6,554.01</b>

*Young Lungs Dance*



20th Anniversary Festival 2025 / Tanja Faylene Woloshen & Diane Lorraine Woloshen / Pablo Riquelme

