



**STL RHYTHM COLLABORATIVE**

**CONNECT. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.**



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

**APRIL 2022**

## WHO WE ARE

STL Rhythm Collaborative is a registered 501c3 nonprofit arts organization. STL Rhythm Collaborative presents dance and music education programs for all ages, free community engagement events for the whole family, and professionally produced productions, featuring the the performance ensembles of moSTLy TAP and moSTLy JAZZ.

## OUR MISSION

To provide collaborative dance and music programming opportunities that connect, educate, and inspire artists of all ages through rhythm.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to redefine the appreciation of live music and dance in the St. Louis area.

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe rhythm is within and all around us. Through our personal experiences with music, dance, and self expression, we guide others to develop their own connection to rhythm. As that connection deepens, people find their unique voice - creating an environment that ignites originality, builds relationships, and encourages collaboration.

**CONNECT.**



**EDUCATE.**



**INSPIRE.**



# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors is a diverse group of individuals committed to the education and preservation of the performing arts in the St. Louis area and surrounding communities.

**President: Kathy Fowler**

Kathy has been a dance educator for over 25 years and is the owner and founder of DanceTime, LLC. Through DanceTime, Kathy travels to local schools to present introductory ballet classes to pre-K students.

**Vice President: Shelby Graves**

Shelby Graves is a dance educator and elementary educator within the Warrenton School District. Mrs. Graves was instrumental in bringing STL Rhythm Collaborative to Rebecca Boone Elementary, in the Warrenton School District, to present introductory courses in dance to students in grades K-5 in 2021.

**Treasurer: Lisa Steinhoff**

Lisa Steinhoff is a ballet educator of over 25 years. She holds her certification for Progressing Ballet Technique (PBT) and presents PBT courses for pre-professional dance students. Lisa is the Director of Engineering at bioMerieux.

**Secretary: Tracy Dupre**

Tracy Dupre is the founder and owner of Brookestone Video Design, providing videography services to performing arts organizations throughout the area. Mrs. Dupre is also a Professor of Dance at Lindenwood University.

**Arica Foster:**

Arica Foster is the Director of Community Engagement at the Kranzberg Arts Foundation. She is also the founder of Pace Studios, an organization aimed at making performing arts accessible to the community and providing both performance and exhibition opportunities for local artists.

**Marcus Johnson:**

Marcus Johnson is a former student of Center of Creative Arts, COCA and has been a dance educator at various institutions in St. Louis for over ten years.

**Trina Sindelar:**

Trina Sindelar is a business analyst and former executive director of EKHO Entertainment, which was a registered nonprofit organization aimed at raising funds for underserved St. Louis communities through performing arts presentations.

**Indigo Sams:**

Indigo Sams is the Vice President of Operations and Programs at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater St. Louis. She is also a former program director at Center of Creative Arts, COCA. In addition to serving in these roles, she has been a mentor and educator for young artists in St. Louis for over 30 years.

**Jay Shastri:**

Jay Shastri is the Business Development Director for Government Services at Ross & Baruzzini. He has been a long-time supporter of the performing arts, having also worked in a variety of roles with MUNY St. Louis.



## OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Maria Majors has been a dance educator throughout the St. Louis area for over 25 years. She grew up training under her mentors, Deborah, Tracy, and Karen Davenport at Performing Arts Centre in St. Charles, MO, where she is currently on faculty. Maria began her professional career in New York with the touring performance ensemble, Manhattan Tap, under the direction of world renowned tap dancer and musician, Heather Cornell. Maria joined the ensemble for their European and North American tours. During that time, she had the extreme honor of touring with late tap dance great, Dr. Buster Brown, and was an original cast member in Manhattan Tap's "Excursion Fare," a full production featuring the musicians of Keith Terry and Crosspulse and premiered at the Joyce Theater in New York.

Since returning to St. Louis in 1999, Maria has been on faculty with several area dance programs and has served as a consultant for dance education programs throughout the region. Maria was on faculty at COCA (Center of Creative Arts) in St. Louis, MO for 10 years, where she worked with students and families as Tap Program Coordinator, COCA dance Company Associate Director, and Pre-Professional Program Director. She was invited to work alongside the late Professor Robert L. Reed for the production of the St. Louis Tap Festival, which she attended annually for 20 years. She is also a former member of the R. L. Reed Tap Heritage Institute Board of Directors. Maria and the members of moSTLY TAP were honored to partner with Anthony J. Russo for the inaugural Show Me Tap Fest in 2018 and work on faculty.

In 2017, Maria founded moSTLY TAP, a professional performance ensemble, following her passion to create performances that would boost enthusiasm for tap dance and encourage audiences to enjoy rhythm in new ways. In 2018, under the leadership of Phillip Russo, moSTLY JAZZ was formed. Together, the ensembles began producing live music and dance performances at community engagements and venues throughout the area. In response to a growing need for accessible performing arts education opportunities in both music and dance, Maria developed STL Rhythm Collaborative in 2019. The nonprofit organization presents growing music and dance education programs, free community engagement events for all ages, and continues to present live music & dance performances through the professional ensembles, moSTLY TAP & moSTLY JAZZ. The unending passion, support, and expertise of the moSTLY TAP & moSTLY JAZZ artists are the driving forces behind the Collaborative.

In addition to her work with STL Rhythm Collaborative, Maria is honored to be an adjunct professor of dance, teaching jazz and tap dance at Missouri Baptist University.

# WHAT WE DO

## EDUCATION

STL Rhythm Collaborative has a growing music and dance education program, with instruction by our area's most experienced educators. Our Dance and Music Education Program is our largest initiative and includes the following opportunities:

### **Pre-Professional Training:**

For the young artist aspiring to a professional career in the performing arts, the Collaborative presents an annual pre-professional training intensive. Students, accepted through an audition, work with our professional performance ensembles and special guest artists, studying technique, music theory, improvisation, and learn original choreography that they perform at the conclusion of the intensive.

### **In-School Programs:**

In 2021, STL Rhythm Collaborative developed and presented free in-school dance education programs for grades K-12. The program is designed to provide performing arts education to elementary through high school aged students who may not otherwise have access to arts programs. Program activities include interactive classes which combine music theory and a variety of dance disciplines, including: tap, ballet, and jazz. Through rhythm, students learn about the performing arts, physical health, and how to express emotions in a healthy way.

### **Dance Classes and Camps:**

STL Rhythm Collaborative hosts weekly dance and wellness classes for teens and adults, which cover beginner through advanced levels. Classes offered include Pilates, meditation, jazz dance and tap dance. Camps are presented during the summer months and are designed to suit children of all skill levels. Students participate in a variety of activities including classes in ballet, tap, and jazz dance, music theory, and music and dance history.

### **STL Rhythm Fest:**

STL Rhythm Fest is an annual, two-day event that brings internationally renowned master instructors to St. Louis to lead a comprehensive program of residency activities. The event includes more than 20 workshops, a jam session, and a panel discussion. Activities will focus on sharing the history & artistry of tap, with an emphasis on the contributions of African Americans. Workshops will pass the indigenous American art form of Rhythm Tap on to participants. The Tap Jam, where all participating in the festival will be encouraged to participate, will be conducted in the spirit of the Hooper's Club, bringing a historical perspective to the activity. The Panel Discussion with our professional, working tap masters will discuss historical & contemporary issues important to careers in the arts. In an effort to provide accessible arts education opportunities, both the panel discussion and showcase are open for all ages to attend free of charge.

## PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

STL Rhythm Collaborative produces professional dance and live music performances through our moSTLY TAP and moSTLY JAZZ ensembles. In October 2021, the ensembles presented their self-produced premiere of *IN DUE TIME: A Live Music & Tap Dance Tribute to The Dave Brubeck Quartet* to rave reviews.

Since its debut, an excerpt of the production has been commissioned to be presented in July 2022 at the internationally renowned Rhythm World Festival in Chicago, IL, presented by Chicago Human Rhythm Project. The production has also been presented by The Wildey Theatre in Edwardsville, IL and will be presented in 2023 by Missouri Baptist University.

moSTLY TAP & moSTLY JAZZ are currently the only professional ensembles in the St. Louis area presenting this type of collaboration between live music and tap dance. In September 2021, Ladue News featured our organization as one of "The St. Louis Metro Area's Leaders in Music," and St. Louis Magazine praised the production for bringing "tap and jazz together through Brubeck's complicated rhythms".

In addition to presenting their own original works, the ensembles often collaborate with local nonprofit organizations, such as CommUNITY Arts STL and The Salvation Army, to present performances at community events, fundraisers, and festivals.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Free community engagement events are made available for all ages to gather together, celebrate music and dance, meet new artists, and inspire collaboration. Activities include history and footage events. Through the presentation and discussion of historical dance and music footage, individuals learn about pivotal artists who made notable contributions to the art forms of music and dance. Monthly jam sessions encourage musicians and dancers to gather, celebrating the connection and communication of music and dance through improvisation. Jam sessions provide a comfortable, accessible atmosphere for the dance and music communities to connect while creating an opportunity to enjoy as an audience member.

## WHY WE ARE UNIQUE

An organization that celebrates the connection of music and movement and emphasizes the education of both art forms is a rare find in our area. In addition to providing education opportunities in technique and presentation, our programs are designed to educate the community about the art of communication and the diverse cultures that have inspired the art forms of dance and music throughout history. Not only does this result in a better understanding of these art forms, but more importantly, individuals gain a deeper respect for other cultures. Ultimately, celebrating music and dance together fosters an environment of collaboration and healthy expression in a supportive atmosphere.

We truly serve our community by presenting 3 different types of programs, as outlined above. Through our Education Program, students of all ages can study these art forms, whether recreationally or professionally. Through professionally produced performances, our Professional Ensembles provide the opportunity for the community to gather and celebrate these art forms in collaboration at the highest level. Through our Community Engagement Program, the public has access to free education and performance events for all ages.

## OUR CHALLENGE

Our biggest challenge is the lack of a permanent space in which to house our organization. We currently rent spaces at various locations throughout St. Louis and Illinois. This presents a number of barriers preventing us from fully serving our community.



Our ability to offer regularly scheduled programs and community events is greatly limited.



Our students face challenges in commuting to our programs, due to multiple locations.



We are limited to offering programming only once per week, which does not allow us to fully meet the needs of our community.



The spaces we utilize do not have the appropriate equipment to support our programs. For instance, spaces are not always equipped with proper dance flooring which are necessary for student safety and they are not equipped with the necessary sound equipment to support the use of live instruments.

## HOW WE WILL OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE

We will secure a permanent space, which will serve as the home of STL Rhythm Collaborative.

As we continue our work in area schools and through our satellite programs, students and families will need access to regular dance and music education in one location; a place to connect, learn, collaborate, and inspire one another. A single location where anyone can take a class, enjoy an evening of live music or a jam session with the band, and learn the history of the artists who trailblazed the path for both dancers and musicians. Our professional ensembles would have a space to rehearse and collaborate with other community organizations. Artists passing through St. Louis have a place to go for fellowship and inspiration.

This home will provide a safe, supportive atmosphere for artists of all ages learning to express themselves through rhythm. Instead of providing the community with only 1 day per week of available programs, we will have space available and equipped to provide a full week's worth of music and dance education programs for all ages, levels, and abilities.

A central location will provide the best access for students from all walks of life. Being located near accessible public transportation makes it easier for those without vehicles to attend and participate in our programs. We will bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, who can learn together not only about dance and music, but about each other's lives and experiences.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are proud of the many opportunities we've been able to present to our community while working with limited space availability. Imagine how many more opportunities we'll be able to provide with a home space! This will be a community arts center and it will take the support of our community to make it possible. We are seeking capital support to reach our goal of \$250,000. Your support will allow us to lease a permanent space, secure the necessary equipment, and buildout a 5,500 square foot space. This space will include 2 professionally equipped dance studios, a music instruction studio, reception area, staff office, and dressing/lounge area for students.

Become an STL Rhythm Collaborative Partner.  
See the attached information on the ways you can provide support.

# SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

## NAME OUR SPACE

Your support ensures that these spaces will be built out with the appropriate equipment to support all forms of dance as well as the necessary equipment for live music and public events.

Your name or that of your business will be permanently displayed on the plaques outside the entrances to the studio spaces, lounge, or reception areas.

Large Dance Studio:  
Square Footage: 2500 sf  
\$30,000

Medium Dance Studio:  
Square Footage: 920 sf  
\$20,000

Music Studio:  
Square Footage: 370 sf  
\$15,000

Reception Area:  
Square Footage: 385 sf  
\$8,000

Student Lounge:  
Square Footage: 228 sf  
\$5,000

## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Donors at these 2 levels will also receive:

 Four complimentary tickets for all professional ensemble performances presented by STL Rhythm Collaborative.

 A full page business listing in all STLRC performance playbills.

 VIP registration period on all education and community engagement programs.

 Your name or that of your business will be listed as a donor on the STL Rhythm Collaborative Website.

## DONOR WALL RECOGNITION

Your name or that of your business will be displayed permanently on our Donor Wall in honor of your minimum contribution of \$500 or more.



# SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

## EQUIPMENT OR MATERIALS DONATION

Make a donation of equipment and/or building materials.

In addition to building out our space to suit our unique needs, we also are in need of office materials and furniture, sound equipment, and classroom supplies. We have a complete list of our needs available. Please contact us if you would like to contribute.

### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS



VIP registration period on all education and community engagement programs.



Special recognition in all STLRC performance playbills.



Your name or that of your business will be listed as a donor on the STL Rhythm Collaborative Website.

## GENERAL DONATION

No amount of support is too small and EVERY dollar gets us one step closer to our goal of making the above opportunities accessible to the St. Louis area and surrounding communities.

All donations are tax deductible.

### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS



Special recognition in all STLRC performance playbills.



Your name or that of your business will be listed as a donor on the STL Rhythm Collaborative Website.



**BECOME A PARTNER OF**

**STL RHYTHM COLLABORATIVE**

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**Visit:**

[www.stlrhythmcollaborative.org/support](http://www.stlrhythmcollaborative.org/support)

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