

*Nous tenons à vous faire remarquer que pour l'instant, les rapports des réunions ne sont disponibles qu'en anglais.*

**Regional Meeting  
Calgary, AB at Decidedly Jazz Danceworks  
February 17, 2006**

In attendance:

Michael Green, One Yellow Rabbit  
Kathleen Ryan, Corps Bara  
Helen Husak, independent dance artist  
Harry Paterson, Alberta Ballet  
Kim Cooper, Decidedly Jazz Danceworks (DJD)  
Sarisa Figueroa, DJD  
Deanne Walsh, DJD  
Laura Laycock, DJD  
Malika Srivastava, DJD  
Kathi Sundstrom, DJD

**Other Consultations:**

Bobbi Todd, Dancers' Studio West

**Key points arising from meeting attendees:**

- Artists want to stay in Calgary, but feel they may have to leave to build a career
- An On the Move-like initiative would be useful in Calgary – artists don't know how to survive after training
- As per last year's meeting, Blue Collar Dance was aiming to establish a Resource Centre in their new facility. A survey was sent to the community to assess needs. Blue Collar is working with the Alberta Dance Alliance (ADA) to ensure no unnecessary duplication of services.
- It was expressed by meeting attendees that ADA's services are not easily available to Calgary artists. ADA is perceived to be primarily serving the Edmonton community where it is based. Participants felt that services offered are difficult to access remotely.
  
- Ballet and Jazz thrive through Alberta Ballet and through DJD, the two anchor organizations in the Calgary community. However, there is lack of what attendees referred to as a '3<sup>rd</sup> pillar' being contemporary dance.
- There is a low public literacy rate for contemporary dance in Calgary (and AB in general)
- As the only local contemporary dance presenter, Dancers' Studio West has been the supporting infrastructure for smaller companies, collectives and independent artists to develop and perform their work.
- There have been many sensitive issues that have arisen after a recent transition of leadership within Dancers' Studio West (DSW), causing division and discomfort within the dance community.
- Meeting participants felt the role of DSW was unclear to them.
- While we did not spend time discussing details of the events surrounding changes at DSW, the participants of the meeting felt that the resulting conflict that occurred within the community is preventing it from moving forward at this point in time. Much of the dialogue has stopped following a well-attended community meeting held by incoming DSW Artistic Director Bobbi Todd.
- Issues surrounding DSW have weakened the community's contemporary dance presentation mechanism, which has left many (particularly independent) artists uncertain of how their work can or will be supported.
- Meeting participants stressed the need to come together as a community and the need to take individual responsibility for improving their collective working environment.