

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

**Regional Meeting
Regina, SK at the University of Regina
February 23, 2006**

In attendance:

Leslie Bendig, U of R Dance Education student
Jennifer Dodge, teacher
Helen Zhu, Dance Education student
Mary Antonini, LeBoilclus Highschool student
Stacey Low, teacher at Craik and Davidson
Connie Moker Wernikowski, Youth Ballet Co. of Saskatchewan (Artistic Director)
Ann Kipling Brown, University of Regina
Heather Kiteulong, U of R Conservatory
Marilyn Kazakas, Public School Board
Dominique Chartrane, Youth Ballet Company
Elaine Hanson

Key points arising from meeting attendees:

- Meeting participants expressed concern that professional activity is diminishing
- New Dance Horizons does as much as possible, but perception is that its activity has diminished
- Royal Winnipeg Ballet is presented in Regina once annually
- Connexus (Centre for the Arts) subscription used to include five shows; it has since diminished
- There is concern that dance students can't access the work
- There are no local audiences to support dance
- There is no proper mid-sized theatre – (200-400 seats) – options are either very small or very large
- The University of Regina theatre belongs to the Theatre department – space is inaccessible to dance – even to faculty
- Open Stage Theatre is also now inaccessible; Performing Arts Centre is fully booked several years ahead.

- Lack of funding is prevalent; no time to seek project, operating or multi-year funds; dance receives a very low percentage of funds available to performing arts.
- Saskatchewan Arts Board has said there are not enough dance applicants; previously, if 10 out of 100 applicants came from dance – dance would only get 10% of the budget.
- Arts Board now gives up to \$5000 for projects and up to \$10,000 in annual funding; funding is decided by peer jury – only one jury for all performing arts. In a small community, there is often a lot of conflict of interest.
- Youth Ballet Company expressed difficulties in accessing funding from Canada Council because of not meeting eligibility standards.
- Participants felt that the Canada Council is not considering what exists within a region, and what it needs to move it forward
- Mentors, residencies, pre-professional training and presentation are all needed
- Those who had left to train want to come back, but can't
- The community is 'partnershiped' to death – can't find any more efficient working models.
- The community needs to be able to make art the way that it wants to – not to fit funding body criteria.

- Dance in education system is problematic, as students' dance grades are usually n/a on report cards. Curriculum is there, but not being used. Classroom teachers are not fully equipped in many cases.
- Funding could help provide trained professionals from the community to teach dance component in schools.
- Dance Certificate program is available at U of R, but not enough interest
- Support is needed for leaders who initiate programs
- Some schools have dance studios and offer dance 10, 20, and 30

- There is a strong prevalence of private dance studios – 13 in Regina
- Many untrained teachers are teaching children in private studios – particularly in rural communities

- Studios don't encourage engagement in professional work (ie- don't see RWB or other professional companies when they tour to Regina)
- Studio owners and teachers are preventing students from seeing work and engaging in community initiatives outside their studio.
- There is a need for parents to be informed when choosing a dance studio for their children.
- Sask Sport provides counselling, nutrition education, etc... to children enrolled in sporting activity, however services are not available to dancers.
- 'Respect Ed' is a program that promotes awareness about the psychological aspects of sport (run by the Ministry of Sports, Recreation and Culture). U of R is the first cultural group to access the program.

- A DFAIT representative, James Lambert, visited Saskatchewan artists and it was noted that Saskatchewan accessed \$0 of foreign export support.