

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

**Regional Meeting
Winnipeg, MB at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet studios
February 24, 2006**

In attendance:

Jolene Bailie, Cuppa Jo
Liz Markwart, Liz M Dance
Gerard Roxburgh, Royal Winnipeg Ballet
Korinne Hewitt, Rising Star Dance Academy
Margaret Piasecki, RWB Alumni Assoc.
Brenda Gorlick, DTRC MB Rep.
Nicole Langevin Owens, dance Manitoba Rep
Natasha Torres-Garner, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers and Young Lungs Dance Exchange
Jennifer Essex, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers

Other Consultations:

Stephanie Ballard, Odette Heyn-Penner, and Faye Thomson, School of Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers

Key points arising from meeting attendees:

- Activating the local community around advocacy is challenging – personal connection is essential
- Meeting attendees expressed difficulty in taking in all of what's happening at CDA.
- Individuals are generally overloaded and tend to protect their own interests; participants noted that there is room for partnerships to share time and expense of new initiatives; there has been difficulty in soliciting participation from the community in really excellent initiatives.

- There is a diversity of dance forms in the city; classical, folk, contemporary and commercial; public engagement is challenging; audiences are spread thin and tend to go see what they know.
- Previously, there was a contemporary dance festival, though now not.
- Dance competitions for youth have become more prevalent than a festival environment
- Separation between private studios and professional community is fairly unhealthy; studios protect their students from engagement in the professional community.
- New generation of teachers seem to be talking to one another more often
- There are now 5 performing arts high schools; dance has become a teachable this year
- There are artists in schools programs, initiated by the Manitoba Arts Council

- Participants were concerned about the gap after pre-professional training (available through RWB and the School of Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers).
- Still no University degree for dance or dance education available locally
- Professionals offer workshops, though attendance is low
- Ruth Cansfield offers free classes, but they are not advertised; RWB company classes are closed; no general professional level drop-in classes available.
- RWB offered to provide free space for professional classes, should the community want to coordinate its efforts.

- Winnipeg Fringe Festival is now curated and presents across disciplines
- There are currently no dance presenters in MB, but a lot of self-presentation or co-production with Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers
- Manitoba Arts Council provides production grants, but not enough to cover even solo presentation

- Participants feel that the community downplays its achievements