



ARTS IN SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE/DANCING CLASSROOMS PHILLY
DANCING CLASSROOMS PHILLY IS AN AFFILIATE PROGRAM OF MUSICOPIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dancing Classrooms Philly Receives \$15,000 Grant from The Philadelphia Foundation

January 4, 2019...Dancing Classrooms Philly (DCP) has received a \$15,000 grant from an Anonymous Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation in support of The Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Dance for the Future Program. Announcement of the grant was made by Pedro A. Ramos, President and CEO of The Philadelphia Foundation.

In September, DCP announced the creation of The Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Dance for the Future Program, made possible by a grant from The Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Family Foundation. The Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Family Foundation pledged to support the work of Dancing Classrooms Philly in schools within the School District of Philadelphia's "Acceleration Network" over three years via a generous multi-year gift including matching fund challenges for each year of the program. The grant from The Philadelphia Foundation will be applied towards matching funds for Year 2, helping to ensure the program's sustainability.

The Acceleration Network was established by Superintendent Hite in 2016, and is comprised of schools that have been unable to reach academic targets, have a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students, and are lacking arts education resources critical to meet state Arts standards. The Acceleration Network identifies and supports great school leaders, implements routines and evaluations to improve teaching and learning, and provides additional resources, including a dedicated Assistant Superintendent, technology to support students in personalized learning, and positive behavior support systems, such as Dancing Classrooms Philly programming. In partnership with the School District of Philadelphia's Office of Arts and Academic Enrichment, the goal of the Dance for the Future program is to harness the increased focus and resources in the Acceleration Network schools and create real and lasting change in the lives of underserved students through the learning and performing of social dance.

DCP ballroom dance residencies will begin with the entire fifth grades of four Acceleration Network schools in Spring 2019. Additional classrooms will receive the program in the following two years, ultimately giving 1,500 students from some of the city's most impoverished neighborhoods the opportunity to receive the social and emotional benefits of a Dancing Classrooms Philly residency.

"As a founder of Dancing Classrooms Philly, I have had the opportunity to see the wonderful impact this program has on the children, their families and the school," said Harvey Kimmel. "This program is not about dancing, but about civility. It is an agent that effects change in so many parts of a student's life. This new/old program that we are about to embark on is a next step in creating positive impact in the school and family community. Will it be a challenge? Of course. Will it create positive change? Yes. We are so proud of everyone at Dancing Classrooms Philly and their willingness to take on this next step in their impact."

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About Dancing Classrooms Philly

Dancing Classrooms Philly is a not for profit organization, whose mission is to foster self-esteem, social awareness and joy in children by providing the opportunity to learn and perform ballroom dance, which in turn promotes a culture of mutual respect and well-being. Since its founding in 2007, DCP has served more than 25,000 fifth and eighth grade students in public, charter and parochial schools, focusing on students in some of the most underserved and distressed neighborhoods in the region. A DCP in-school residency takes place over 10 weeks with 45-minute classes taking place twice weekly. All fifth or eighth grade students are required to participate, and professional teaching artists provide instruction in a variety of ballroom dances, including competition social dances (rumba, swing, tango, waltz, and merengue), and non-competitive dances (heel-toe polka, the stomp, and the electric slide). Each residency also includes a video lesson, a guest artist “buddy” visit, and curriculum connection assignments. The residency concludes with a culminating public event where all students demonstrate the dances they learned.

About The Philadelphia Foundation

Founded in 1918, The Philadelphia Foundation (TPF) strengthens the economic, social and civic vitality of Greater Philadelphia. TPF grows effective philanthropic investment, connects individuals and institutions across sectors and geography, and advances civic initiatives through partnerships and collaboration. A publicly supported foundation, TPF manages more than 900 charitable funds established by its donors and makes over 1,000 grants and scholarship awards each year. To learn more, visit www.philafound.org.

For more information on Dancing Classrooms Philly, please visit www.dancingclassroomspilly.org or visit our social media channels: www.facebook.com/DancingClassroomsPhilly | @dancingdcp on Instagram and Twitter