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**DANCING
CLASSROOMS**
PHILLY

Five New Board Members join two organizations committed to providing arts access to Philadelphia-area schools and children

*“Music and dance bring people together and create happiness like few other things in life”
–Scott Fast, Board member*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHILADELPHIA (October 12, 2020)...Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly (DCP) are pleased to welcome five new members to their shared Board of Directors. Musicopia and DCP are two of the region’s most impactful providers of music and dance education, serving more than 20,000 students each year through in-school and after-school programming to students and schools in the Delaware Valley. Musicopia and DCP enjoy a dynamic partnership that provides both organizations with a more efficient infrastructure while advancing their missions and community impact.

The shared Board of Directors includes 31 members total. The five new members include:

Kelley Arredondo, Director, Human Resources at Erickson Living

Dr. Dennis W. Creedon, Retired School District Superintendent

Joshua Cruz, Musicopia Drumlines Teaching Artist

Scott Fast, General Counsel, Day & Zimmermann Maintenance and Construction

Tim Kardish, CEO, Gerard Daniel Worldwide

“The missions of Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly really resonate with me. Music and dance bring people together and create happiness like few other things in life,” said Scott Fast. “I look forward to helping Musicopia and DCP grow and thrive, and to help revitalize and expand music and arts education programs for our kids especially in those communities where it is needed most.”

Joshua Cruz, a Teaching Artist for the Musicopia Drumlines program said, “I’m so glad to be a member of the Board. The love of music and being able to spread it in places I’ve grown up in is what brings me and keeps me going with Musicopia.”

Musicopia's mission is to provide opportunities for children to experience, learn, perform, and appreciate music. DCP's mission is to foster self-esteem, social awareness and joy in children by providing the opportunity to learn and perform ballroom dance. Musicopia has served more than 350,000 students since its founding in 1974, and DCP has served more than 30,000 students since its founding in 2007.

"Now, more than ever, music and dance education provide an important group of skills critical to success in society and life," said Kelley Arredondo. "The missions of Musicopia and DCP motivate me to broaden access to arts education, so that all Philadelphia students can experience these gifts. I am humbled to serve on the board of Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly, helping to make arts education a reality for so many who otherwise might be left behind."

A full Board Member list can be found at <https://www.musicopia.net/board> or <https://dancingclassroomspilly.org/board>.

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About Musicopia

Musicopia's mission is to provide opportunities for children to experience, learn, perform, and appreciate music. Since its founding 1974, Musicopia has helped more than 350,000 children experience the benefits of first-hand exposure to the arts, and is a recognized leader in rebuilding and revitalizing school music programs. Musicopia reaches thousands of children each year in the Delaware Valley through in-school music education, a string orchestra program, a drumlines program, and its Gift of Music Instrument Donation Program. Musicopia places a priority on reaching students who are underserved and cut off from the region's rich cultural life. Through its high-quality programs, Musicopia aims to give all children, regardless of circumstances, the opportunity to have their lives transformed by music. For more information, visit www.musicopia.net.

About Dancing Classroom Philly

Dancing Classrooms Philly's mission is to foster self-esteem, social awareness and joy in children by providing the opportunity to learn and perform ballroom dance. Since its founding in 2007, DCP has reached more than 30,000 students through school residencies, a Saturday Academy program, and an Allstar group. Through our ballroom dance instruction, we help to improve the climate of school communities across the Philadelphia region by building confidence in students, breaking down social barriers, and inspiring respect for all individuals. We envision transformative arts programs in all school communities that nurture creativity, build confidence, and promote a culture of mutual respect and well-being. For more information, please visit www.dancingclassroomspilly.org.