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PRESS RELEASE

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Dancewave bolsters movement for tuition-free access to dance education in NYC

BROOKLYN, NY nonprofit Dancewave radically refocuses its funding model with the activation of its new **Stand With Dancewave** campaign, designed to create year-round **tuition-free access to its pre-professional Company program** for youth ages 7-18.

Seeking to eliminate stigmas that are often associated with need-based scholarship, Dancewave's new fundraising initiative stays true to its commitment to empower youth through quality dance education.

[Stand With Dancewave](https://dancewave.org/stand-with-dancewave) hosts virtual events for the public in April and May including masterclasses, a historical documentary film premiere, an auction, behind-the-scenes student showings, and more. Tickets range from \$5-100 and are available for purchase at dancewave.org/stand-with-dancewave.

Nicole Touzien, Dancewave Executive Director said:

"True to Dancewave's commitment of providing equitable access to arts experiences for all, our *Stand with Dancewave* campaign provides youth with tuition-free access to pre-professional dance training, mentorship and career and college support. As arts and cultural organizations reopen and rebuild from the unprecedented losses associated with the global COVID-19 pandemic, Dancewave recognizes the urgent need for coalition building and community support. **Stand with Dancewave** by joining us at one of our exciting events and be part of a growing coalition of arts advocates who prioritize talent and drive over financial ability. All *Stand with Dancewave* proceeds directly support talented NYC youth by providing access to high quality dance education."

Nicole Touzien, Dancewave Executive Director said:

"We are aligning with foundations, local businesses, sponsors, educators and our families so that Dancewave Company's lifelong artistic and academic benefits can be available to all NYC students **completely tuition-free**.

Even amid the COVID and financial crisis that the arts have faced this year, Dancewave is digging deeper into its purpose and equity commitment. **Stand With Dancewave** opens several exciting events

and opportunities for supporters to benefit NYC youth this Spring. I hope that our initiative will spark further important conversations about equity and access in dance.”

Known for and engaging students at a young age with social justice, advancing emotional intelligence, and launching college careers, Dancewaves Company has a rich 26-year history in Brooklyn.

Tiffany Mellard, dancer with *Broadway's Hamilton: An American Musical*, and Dancewave Board Member and Artistic Advisory Council Chair said:

"Our initiative furthers an industry shift to redirect funding back into the arts community through holistic youth development. What makes Dancewave's approach unique is its ability to provide individualized attention to students' needs and interests through 1:1 mentorship, community-building and activism."

Dancewave invites members of the press and the community to join a virtual benefit event on Wednesday, May 19 from 6:30-7:30pm EST. Press tickets available. For more information about our free-tuition access mission and benefit tickets please visit: Dancewave.org/stand-with-dancewave.

If you are interested in advocating for youth dance education and covering any Stand With Dancewave events, please email Aliya Perry at events@dancewave.org

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About Dancewave

Dancewave provides access to supportive and empowering dance experiences that center social, emotional and cognitive development through movement. Developing programs to meet community needs, we use dance as a vehicle for transformation, expression, active citizenship and self reflection. Dancewave fosters a culture where dance is celebrated as a healing and inclusive art form. For more information, visit dancewave.org.

