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PRESS RELEASE

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Dancewave champions equitable pre-professional training for young NYC artists with free-tuition access initiative

(BROOKLYN, NY) Dancewave celebrates a significant milestone announcing the launch of an equitable pre-professional dance training program model this fall. **The 2021-2022 season will provide 25 talented young artists from underserved NYC public schools with tuition-free access to the Dancewave Company Program.** Advancing NYC artists ages 7-18, the award-winning program boasts a remarkable 90% growth rate in Social and Emotional Learning outcomes among all participants.

Founded in 1995 by Diane Jacobowitz, **Dancewave's Company Program is the first pre-professional training program in NYC to center positive youth development, Social and Emotional Learning, individual mentorship and career development.** Notable program alumni include Bessie-nominated artists, state legislators, international entrepreneurs, esteemed educators and an array of successful professionals working across diverse sectors.

"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." -*Tiffany Mellard, Board Member and Chair of Dancewave's Artistic Advisory Council*

Dancewave's equitable program model is made possible through the generous support of 200 community members who raised over \$50,000 in direct support of the program; the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation; The Arnhold Foundation; Con Edison; WABC; and Apple Bank.

Students demonstrating financial need can apply to receive reduced or tuition-free access to Dancewave Company Program's pre-professional dance training, mentorship and career and college support via Dancewave's website. For more information, please visit: <https://dancewave.org/youth-company/>.

To nominate a promising young artist for the 2021-2022 Dancewave Company Program, please email Sindy Folgar-Llumipanta, Director of Programs & Partnerships, at sindy@dancewave.org. To amplify the sustainability of this equitable program model and to help us reach even more NYC youth, consider making a donation at <https://dancewave.org/donate>.

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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