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PRESS RELEASE

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**Dancewave Uses Movement to Promote Racial Equity
Among Elementary Youth**

(BROOKLYN, NY) After successfully launching its Race and Dance program, the socially-conscious Brooklyn nonprofit **Dancewave is expanding its innovative racial equity program to elementary youth.** By integrating racially-explicit discussions with dance, the program supports students as they confront racism and engage in antiracist advocacy for upcoming generations. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, the Race and Dance pilot engaged 135 NYC middle schoolers in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx. Dancewave is excited to partner with PS 287K to bring the innovative program to a younger audience of Brooklyn students in 3K to second grade.

"The lesson plans and overall curriculum were carefully thought-out," shared a school administrator from the pilot program. **"I was impressed with the ability of Teaching Artists to jump into nuanced courageous conversations with a group of students they had only known for a few minutes.** They were clearly well prepared for facilitating the conversations."

With past support from the Laureus Foundation, Dancewave engaged data partners Hello Insight and Listen4Good to capture key metrics measuring growth in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Positive Youth Development outcomes. **The program proved highly effective with 96% of students demonstrating growth in at least one of the five SEL outcomes** and over 54% of students showing growth in four out of five outcomes.

"The nature of a subjective art form such as dance often yields a more qualitative approach when it comes to tracking, describing, and measuring impact, growth, and success. Having the ability to convert from a qualitative to a quantitative approach has informed the way **we analyze data and create tangible curricular and programmatic changes** to the Race & Dance program, thus **ensuring student-centered and impactful practices and outcomes.**" - Cindy Folgar, Director of Programs and Partnerships.

The Race and Dance Program is just one of the many transformative and empowering programs that Dancewave has brought to youth audiences through NYC public schools. Having served tens of thousands of New Yorkers since its 1995 founding by Diane Jacobowitz, Dancewave has its sights set on expanding to new stakeholders each year.

"Dancewave is an essential resource for New Yorkers," states Dancewave's Executive Director, Nicole Touzien. "I am heartened and excited to see the data illustrate the immensely positive impact that Dancewave's programs has on our community, and we are eager to work with new partners and collaborators to bring Dancewave's unique and effective approach to whole person development to a broader audience."

The Race & Dance Program is part of the Community Programs initiative providing public schools, organizations, and community centers customizable residencies tailored to their specific needs. Tying in the Department of Education STEAM and social-emotional learning standards, Dancewave's Community Residencies are a perfect way to inform and engage with students of all ages.

To learn more about bringing one of Dancewave's programs to your community, please email community@dancewave.org.

To learn more about how Dancewave is addressing racial equity internally and externally, please email press@dancewave.org.

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