



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Guelph Dance Festival Calls for Community Support After Funding Cut

Guelph, ON (May 9, 2024) Guelph Dance, a vibrant cultural institution in the city, is facing a critical funding challenge. After more than 20 years of support from the City of Guelph, Guelph Dance has been informed that its operational funding has not been granted. This decision threatens the continuation of the annual Guelph Dance Festival, which has been a highlight of the city's arts calendar for over two decades.

This came as devastating news just four weeks before the 26th annual Guelph Dance Festival, when the festival lineup has already been announced, all artists and contractors have been hired and the part-time permanent staff of three people have worked tirelessly to bring this much loved event to the community.

"With a newly launched Culture Plan in the fall of 2023, it is disappointing to see cuts made to major arts organizations like ours, while arts and culture seemingly take a forefront in City planning," says Leslie Fisher, Director of Programming and Community Engagement at Guelph Dance.

Guelph Dance has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the City of Guelph through facility rentals for its programming and had budgeted for similar expenditures in the coming year. With the recent funding cuts, Guelph Dance will be unable to cover its planned rental costs at City facilities for upcoming programming.

In light of this unexpected financial shortfall, Guelph Dance is urgently appealing the broader Guelph community to offer financial support as it prepares to host the 26th edition of this [amazing festival](#) from May 31st to June 2nd and Summer Camps from July 8th to 26th, which will both go on as announced. Financial support is needed now more than ever to raise \$12,000 over the course of the spring and summer to ensure that programming runs smoothly.

Individuals can support through donations via [Canada Helps](#), over regular mail and at upcoming events; by purchasing tickets to the various festival events through the [River Centre's Box Office](#) and by volunteering time during the festival weekend. For more information on how to get involved, please visit www.guelphdance.ca.

If you are a business owner, Guelph Dance can offer sponsorship opportunities starting at \$250 where your business will have visibility at both the event and throughout online platforms. Donations of small goods and gift cards can also be included in the hospitality packages that are

distributed to all artists who visit Guelph to share their work from across Canada. Please contact info@guelphdance.ca if you are interested in becoming a sponsor.

Without the support from ongoing partners, the annual Guelph Dance Festival would not be possible. In 2024 more than before, Guelph Dance is asking the community to come together and help close the funding gap.

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About Guelph Dance Established in 1998, Guelph Dance is a nationally recognized leader in contemporary dance, offering a platform for professional, new-generation, and youth dance artists to share their vision, push creative boundaries, and engage community audiences. Guelph Dance gratefully acknowledges the support of its funders: the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, City of Guelph and the Musagetes Fund at the Guelph Community Foundation.

For more information, please contact:

Teagan Ariss

Communications and Development Coordinator, Guelph Dance

42 Carden Street,

Guelph ON, N1H 3A2

519-780-2220 or communications@guelphdance.ca

www.guelphdance.ca