

national dance institute

Jacques d'Amboise
Founder

Kathy Landau
Executive Director

Ellen Weinstein
Artistic Director

Tracy Straus
Associate Artistic Director



2011 annual report



mission



As we begin our 35th year of serving the children of New York City with meaningful arts education experiences, National Dance Institute's (NDI) mission is as relevant today as it was at our founding in 1976:

National Dance Institute introduces and fosters the arts into the experience, participation and knowledge of children using dance as a catalyst; promotes the belief that the arts are primary and vital in our society and should be a major part of the education of every child; and trains teachers already highly qualified in the professional arts, dance and music in particular, in techniques of working with children of all abilities and backgrounds in educational institutions and communities.

2010-11 program highlights

In-School Program

NDI's In-School Program is exuberant and intellectually engaging – and unlike any other program of its kind. It consists of two models: a year-long program as well as shorter, intensive residencies. A Master Teacher/Choreographer, Musician/Composer, and an Assistant Teacher lead an entire grade level in classes that take place during the school day, deeply rooting the arts in a school's culture and curriculum. In the process, our teachers foster in students a love of the arts and a curiosity about the world. The In-School Program teaches skills vital to a child's education – critical thinking and collaboration, habits of healthy living, global perspective, cultural literacy, the ability to communicate ideas through an art form, an essential confidence in his or her ability to learn, and a hunger for continued achievement. At the core of NDI's success is its unique pedagogy, developed over decades, that addresses the needs of children across a spectrum of abilities. NDI serves all children including those with physical and cognitive challenges, blind and deaf children, and English language learners – all free of charge.

Each year, NDI weaves a curricular theme through all classes and performances, introducing children to new cultures, big ideas, and iconic individuals, and engendering an abiding curiosity about the world and their place in it. Themes have included the art, music, culture and history of Africa, Mexico, China and India as well as the lives and legacies of John Lennon, Albert Einstein, and William Shakespeare. This year's theme was *Science & the Arts Play Together*.



I saw kids, best known for their disruptive behavior, become focused and determined. And students, once so painfully introverted, proudly holding their heads high as they swirled around their friends.

- Diane Crawford, Parent of an NDI dancer

2010-11 program highlights

Advanced Programs

NDI's Advanced Programs provide young dancers with a multi-year continuum of intensive training and performance. Following his or her participation in the In-School Program, a dancer's experience is enriched with three to five hours of instruction each Saturday during the school year. Through their participation in these programs, children from NDI partner school communities who demonstrate the desire for a greater challenge join a new community that further reflects New York City's diversity:

- The **SWAT Team** (Scholarships for the Willing, Achieving, and Talented) draws new members from each partner school every year, as early as 4th grade.
- Children progress to the **NDI Celebration Team**, our most advanced performance troupe, where they train and perform year-round through 8th grade.
- Approximately 100 children hone their dance and music skills in the month-long **Irene Diamond Summer Institute** each July. They receive advanced training in jazz, tap, ballet, ethnic and modern dance, music and theater, and attend choreography workshops

2011 Event of the Year

A Sense of Wonder: Science & the Arts Play Together

Each year, NDI's Advanced Scholarship Program culminates with a professionally-produced Event of the Year. Performed at LaGuardia Concert Hall, *A Sense of Wonder: Science & the Arts Play Together* was conceived by NDI Founder Jacques d'Amboise and directed by NDI Master Teacher/Choreographer Kay Gayner and Artistic Director Ellen Weinstein. More than 200 children participated in joy-filled performances exploring everything from DNA to artificial intelligence. The Event reached audiences of more than 6,000 people, with two free performances reserved for In-School Program dancers and their classroom teachers. Inspired by Carl Sagan's words, "We are star stuff," the event celebrated scientific concepts interpreted through dance, music, and the visual arts.

NDI's core arts and learning programs are provided to all children free of charge.

This year...

- Each Advanced Program dancer received nearly 200 hours of accelerated dance, music and choreography training.
- Performance highlights included the first White House Dance Series Honoring Judith Jamison, The Fred and Adele Astaire Awards at Skirball Center, NDI's Annual Gala at Best Buy Theater Times Square, an appearance on ABC's "The View," and Harlem Week at Grant's Tomb.
- Three dancers from NDI Associates Kids Excel in El Paso, TX and NDI-New Mexico joined us for the Irene Diamond Summer Institute.



2010-11 program highlights

Teaching Artist Training

NDI's Teaching Artist Training program allows us to ensure the consistent, high-quality training of our teaching staff, while extending NDI's pedagogy to dance teachers and educators throughout the United States and around the world. All NDI Master Teachers/Choreographers and Assistant Teachers have completed the training. This immersive and rigorous two-week program, led by Associate Artistic Director Tracy Straus, combined a morning schedule of guided practice and peer observation with afternoons of reflection. Guest speakers included renowned educator and former Community Superintendent Shelley Harwayne and Dr. Nancy Gropper of Bank Street Graduate School of Education.

NDI also piloted a one-day workshop in Teaching Special Populations. Developed and led by NDI Master Teacher and clinical psychologist Dr. Jenny Seham, the workshop was held at Lighthouse International, where NDI serves blind and visually impaired students age 7 to adult. The workshop introduced participants to NDI's uniquely successful methods for teaching dance to students with physical, cognitive, and social-emotional challenges.

Alumni

SWAT and Celebration Team dancers who have graduated from NDI's programs comprise the Alumni Association of National Dance Institute. Alumni gather during a Saturday SWAT and Celebration Team rehearsal for the annual NDI Alumni Homecoming, where they reconnect with friends, take classes with the Celebration Team and perform pieces from NDI's repertoire.

Each year, alums continue their participation with NDI in a variety of ways:

- As sighted guides/partners for visually impaired dancers with the NDI program at Lighthouse International.
- Working backstage and front-of-house at the Event of the Year.
- Through summer internships, helping at the NDI office or with the Irene Diamond Summer Institute.
- On Saturdays, supporting Advanced Program dancers.



we're growing!



New School Partnerships

National Dance Institute was thrilled to launch new partnerships with three public schools in Harlem, bringing the organization's award-winning arts and learning programs to even more children in New York City. Funded by a generous grant from Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group, In-School Program residencies took place in September of 2011 at the following schools:

- P.S. 123 on 140th Street and Frederick Douglass Boulevard.
- P.S. 161 on 133rd Street between Amsterdam Avenue and Convent Avenue.
- P.S. 175 on 134th Street on 134th Street between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. and Malcolm X Boulevards.

China Cultural Exchange

NDI continued to nurture an enormously successful cultural exchange program with the China Welfare Institute Shanghai Children's Palace. During our most recent visit, in August 2011, NDI Music Director Jerry Korman and Master Teachers Kay Gayner and Dufftin Garcia piloted a Chinese model of the NDI pedagogy. NDI will return to Shanghai in January 2012 to train dozens of additional Chinese dance and music educators in our award-winning methodology.

national dance institute center for learning & the arts



At Home in Harlem

After thirty-five years, NDI is proud to finally have a home of its own: the National Dance Institute Center for Learning & the Arts in Manhattan's historic Harlem neighborhood. From this permanent site, NDI will be poised to provide even more children with meaningful arts education experiences.

Opening in the fall of 2011, the 18,000 square foot facility will house a performance space, three dance and music studios, two gallery spaces, and our administrative offices. NDI successfully purchased the space and completed the build-out without carrying any debt for the project.

financial overview

2011 Fiscal Year: Oct 1, 2010 - Sep 30, 2011

Revenue, Gains and Support

Contributions		
Foundations	\$	1,445,981
Corporations		108,591
Individuals		537,363
Government		56,928
Benefit Income		1,330,647
Less Direct benefit expense		(193,691)
School Tuition		368,500
Contracted Services		50,998
Concession Sales		5,445
Program Ticket Sales		49,861
Investment Income		77,258
Teacher Training		11,941
Extension Classes		22,705
Miscellaneous Income		23,805
	\$	3,896,332

Net assets released from restrictions

Satisfaction of time and program restrictions

Foundations	\$	6,243,003
Corporations		2,075,000
Individuals		1,000,000
Government		145,084
Total Unrestricted Revenue, Gains and Support	\$	13,359,419

Program Services

In-School Classes	\$	1,732,847
SWAT/Celebration		444,402
Event of the Year		133,205
Summer Institute		207,903
Training/Professional Development		168,994
Special Projects		37,245
Total Program Services	\$	2,724,596

Supporting Services

Management & General	\$	282,677
Benefit		108,573
Fundraising		361,200
Center		212,344
Total Supporting Services	\$	964,794

Total Expenses	\$	3,689,390
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	9,500,892
Total Assets	\$	13,309,067
Total Liabilities	\$	264,689
Net Asset Balance	\$	13,044,378



board of directors

Dufftin Garcia

My life with NDI has officially come full circle.

At the age of nine, I took an entrance exam for a magnet school specializing in math and science. Early in the year at my new school, Mott Hall, an enthusiastic young lady introduced us to a dance program. This young lady, Ellen Weinstein, selected me in an audition for NDI. The movements were energetic, the teaching engaging and the excitement amongst students contagious. The year before, when I danced with the Eliot Feld Ballet, I was told I was good. However, my classmates and friends laughed at me, so I quit. At NDI, it was 'cool' to be dancing and I was popular because of it.

At the end of the first year with NDI, I was chosen for NDI's SWAT Team. As I concentrated on math and science in school, I was promoted to the Celebration Team where I performed until high school. I studied computer science and engineering, while dancing after school at Alvin Ailey American Dance Center. With a growing desire to encourage more boys to dance, I began teaching an all male ballet class in the Bronx.

In 1997, Jacques learned of my interest and invited me to assist on NDI's first international residency in Israel. I realized that teaching dance was my calling. While I earned a degree in Computer Science, I was already teaching with NDI. I was honored in 2006 with an invitation to join NDI's Board of Directors.

I now teach at Mott Hall, motivating young minds the same way I was first motivated 25 years ago. Ellen is NDI's Artistic Director, and I have great ambition to follow in her footsteps. In my Mott Hall yearbook, my classmates wrote that I'd be running NDI in the year 2000. Hopefully, they just had the year wrong?

My journey with NDI continues where it all started. Each day I see another child's amazing journey begin in an NDI class. One day, I hope, one of them will be after my job.

With an endearing smile,



Dufftin A. Garcia
NDI Master Teacher, Choreographer, Alumnus and Board Member

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