

School Partnerships

The Cowles Center School Partnership programs are offered free or at little cost to K-12 schools in Minnesota, removing financial barriers to quality arts education. Schools are selected based on demonstrated need through an open application process.

Dance Without Barriers

Arts-Integrated

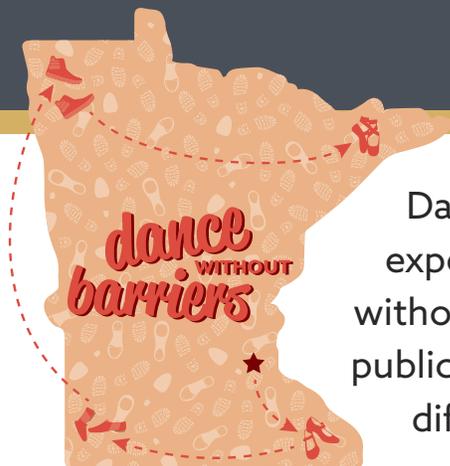
Exploratory

Creations

First Moves Residency



Dance Without Barriers



Dance without Barriers brings high quality dance learning experiences to students across Minnesota. In 18/19, Dance without Barriers will provide 250 free sessions to 20+ Minnesota public schools, engaging more than 1,900 students from 75 different elementary, middle, and high school classrooms.

Residencies aim to

- Spark student curiosity about dance
- Increase body and spatial awareness
- Create a meaningful and ongoing impact on student learning and teacher practices

Types of Residencies

- **Exploratory:** Emphasis on learning a dance style and the cultural/historical significance of the dance form
- **Arts Integration:** Makes connections between dance styles and core curriculum
- **Creations:** 10-class residency focusing on student composition and a final performance (high school dance programs only)

[Watch the 2018 Creations Showcase Video](#)

The Cowles Center has been providing free dance residencies to schools throughout MN through its Dance Without Barriers program for the last 14 years. Over the years, we have grown to work with over 60 communities and over 17,000+ students.

For more information or questions about
Dance Without Barriers, contact:

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Director of Education & Community Engagement

First Moves



First Moves brings quality arts education to all first graders in Minneapolis Public Schools, enhances current Minnesota Physical Education standards, and empowers PE teachers to incorporate

dance vocabulary and concepts into their PE curriculum. Honed over the last three years of successful programming, the residency is built on a four-day structure that allows the Teaching Artist freedom to tailor the experience to the school's needs.

For young children, first grade is a crucial transitional year; they establish the learning and studying habits they will rely on throughout their education and working life. Dance and creative movement are essential to a first grader's development because it's one of the few activities that connect motor skill development with critical thinking, social interaction, and creativity.

Minnesota Dance and Physical Education Standards covered in First Moves:

- Demonstrating competency in motor skills and movement patterns
- Understanding movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics
- Improvising a series of movements that have a beginning, middle, and end

[Watch the First Moves Video](#)

Generous support from Aroha Philanthropies allows The Cowles Center to continue to partner with Minneapolis Public Schools' (MPS) Cultural Experiences Partnerships (CEP) program to offer *First Moves*, a four-day dance residency during PE class time for Minneapolis first graders at every district elementary school.

For more information or questions about First Moves, contact:

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