

Celebrating our 15th Year Serving Western New York



danceability

Summer 2021

Danceability is an individualized dance, fitness and movement program serving the special needs community. Our studio is led by qualified staff and dedicated volunteers who create a nurturing environment that empowers our students to flourish and grow while promoting a healthy lifestyle...*and we have a little fun along the way.*

Danceability on the Big Screen



Due to the pandemic, we had to get creative with this year's annual performances. So, we decided to create dance music videos! We hired a professional videographer to pre-record our dances music video style! These dances were filmed in the studio as well as on location at Canalside, Kavinoky Theatre and St. Mary's High School in Lancaster. The videos were aired as one "movie" at the Transit Drive-In on June 9 & 10. We also had a streaming option for our loved ones out-of-town!

While it certainly wasn't the performance we are used to, we are very grateful that we could present this opportunity for our dancers and volunteers — it was incredible to see our dancers on the big screen and to see their smiling faces again!

We can't say thank you enough to our dancers, caring volunteers, dedicated teachers and staff, Board of Directors, sponsors, committee members, and the newest member of our *danceability* family, editor Matthew Salzler, for ensuring this week happened. We are truly grateful for all the support we received for the show!



While our movie premiere was a lot of fun, we look forward to getting back on the stage for our 15th Annual Performances in 2022! It's always the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend so save the date now. More details will be out in early 2022 as we celebrate another milestone anniversary!

2020-2021 At A Glance

September 2020: Studio is prepped to re-open

New signage, hand sanitizer stations, taped off dance areas on the floors, temperature check station and more! We did what we could to make sure our dancers and volunteers were comfortable with the COVID regulations!



October 2020: Studio Reopens to in-person & virtual dancers

After months of no in-person classes, we welcomed our dancers and volunteers back to the studio to get dancing. We were so proud of how our dancers responded to the changes.



December 2020: Studio returns to virtual classes

With the rise of COVID cases, we made the decision to return to virtual classes.



February 2021: Studio reopens & “The Show Must Go On” idea is announced to dancers & volunteers!

May & June 2021: Dancers film their dance music videos in May and our big premiere at The Transit Drive-In was on June 9th & 10th!



2020 Holiday Themed Events

A Spooktacular Halloween Party

Our amazing volunteers and board members decorated their cars for a spook-tacular, socially distanced, Trunk or Treat event in the studio parking lot! DJ Tony from Moving Music Event Entertainment played some classic hits like the Monster Mash, The Purple People Eater and the Bills Shout song (hey, it was a game day!) while our dancers showed off their creative costumes. We had so much fun filling our dancers' bags with goodies and dancing outside with our friends!



Virtual Holiday Dance Party

Defensive tackle Harrison Phillips of the Buffalo Bills joined us for our virtual holiday dance party! Dancers, volunteers and staff put on their festive holiday gear and danced along on Zoom to fun holiday songs, showing off their awesome dance moves to Harrison Phillips. Harrison answered our dancers' questions and taught us that "you win or you learn" and we're feeling SO inspired by all he had to say. We'll be cheering on the Bills this season!



We (Finally) Have a Sign... Two Signs!

Since moving to our forever home, there has been one major piece missing... a *danceability* sign! Until February 2021, the sign in front of our building represented Elaine's Flower Shoppe. After years of complications, we finally have a new sign—actually two signs—with our name! We are so thankful to ASI Signage - Buffalo & Cleveland, Genesee Bulk Transport, LLC, Performing Arts Dance & Supplies, LLC, an anonymous donor and all of our capital campaign donors for making this possible. Because of you, everyone passing our studio will know our name!



Community Support

Grant Support

We are so incredibly grateful to the following organizations for their support to help with operating expenses, COVID relief, our Annual Performance and more over the past year:

- ◇ **NYSCA Decentralization (DEC):** \$2,500
- ◇ **Erie County Cultural Funding:** \$5,500
- ◇ **Give For Greatness:** \$1,000
- ◇ **Tower Foundation Covid-19 Response:** \$30,000
- ◇ **Ralph J. Wilson Youth Sports & Recreation Covid-19 Fund:** \$4,000
- ◇ **Arts Services Initiative WNY Arts Emergency Relief Fund:** \$3,500
- ◇ **Robin & Sharon Tomasula Foundation:** \$1,500
- ◇ **Irma Brand Bequest via Community Foundation** \$3,354



Chicken Dinner Fundraisers

To support our fundraising efforts in a socially distant way, we held three Chiavetta's chicken dinner fundraisers over the past year and they were a huge success! In total we raised over **\$11,000** to support our studio.

Thanks to all who stopped by to pick one up!



Nursing Students to the Rescue



Due to COVID-19, we established a Safety team and increased our safety and sanitizing measures in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Nursing students from across Buffalo volunteered as health screeners to ensure the safest operation possible, checking temperatures and asking screening questions of everyone who entered our studios and ensuring the waiting area was frequently sanitized.

Thanks to these students for helping us stay safe throughout the pandemic!

Updates from the Board of Directors



The Board of Directors is happy to welcome **Michelle Bulan** to the Board of Directors. Michelle has been serving on the Marketing Committee for several years and is noted for her enthusiasm, innovative thinking, problem solving, and being there at our events with smiles and helpfulness. Michelle is currently the Corporate Events Manager for EWI and has an MBA. The Board is very excited that she will be joining in July.

The Board sadly has said good-bye to two of our members. **Tania Simmons** was both Board Member and dance Mom and recently moved out of town.

In addition to her Board contributions, Tania has been an extraordinary ambassador for the organization and she was always generous with her time and talents - including helping to recognize our teachers by lovingly packaging gift baskets at the end of the season.

Stephanie Juliano has completed her second service on the Board, and this time she led the Marketing Committee - the busiest Committee of the Board. She did so while pregnant and in fact gave birth to her baby daughter just days before our annual performance! During an incredibly challenging year, she guided her Committee to adjust, reframe, try new things, and ultimately connect *danceability* to new sponsors, donors, and interested community members (with the help of Katie, our Community Engagement Specialist).

We thank both Stephanie and Tania and welcome Michelle! If anyone has an interest in learning more about the Board or one of the Board Committees, please reach out to Mary Beth Debus at mbdebus@gmail.com.



Join Us At the 6th Annual Golf Tournament



WHEN: Monday, August 30, 2021

WHERE: Chestnut Hill Country Club, Darien, NY

TIME: Registration 8:30am, Shotgun start 10:00am (Scramble)

COST: Earlybird until August 15th - \$115 per golfer
After August 15th - \$125 per golfer

Registration includes a round of golf, lunch (hot dogs/hamburgers, beverage), dinner (12 oz. NY strip steak), one hour open bar, coffee/tea, basket raffle, silent auction and great prizes.

Visit our website to register www.danceabilityinc.org.

Questions about the event? Contact John Slisz at 716-200-8110.

Dance Teacher Farewell

Miss Lisa & Miss Kayleigh,

We are so grateful for your dedication over the past several years. As you each have grown from volunteer to teacher, you have touched the hearts of so many. Thank you for inspiring and empowering through movement; your hearts are big and your smiles contagious.

You will forever be a part of the *danceability* family.

While we are sad that we will no longer see these teachers every week, we will treasure the memories made with them and celebrate all they have and will accomplish.

We wish them the best as they begin new chapters of their lives and know that it's not a "goodbye", it's a "see you later."



Miss Lisa



Miss Kayleigh

Help Spread The Joy Of Movement!

Each year, some very lucky *danceability* students are able to attend dance class free of charge because of scholarships donated by generous individuals and foundations.

Because so many grant funds have been diverted to COVID relief, our scholarship fund has been greatly depleted. We are seeking scholarships for our 2021-2022 season.

\$1,500 covers all associated costs of a scholarship, \$665 covers a dancer's portion of tuition. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to bring the joy of dance to a deserving student, please contact us at danceabilitywny@gmail.com.

We're Hiring!

We're looking for a few energetic, creative instructors to add to the *danceability* family.

Instructors would teach between 4-8 dance classes per week using a variety of styles and creative movement. Qualified candidates must have weekday evening availability and be able to start training this summer.

To read the full job description, check out our website. Resume and cover letter should be emailed to danceabilitywny@gmail.com.



Mark Your Calendars

NEW Dancer Open House & Registration

August 25 & 26th

4 - 7pm at the studio (2365 George Urban Blvd., Depew)

Classes run September - May

45 minutes a week, once a week between 4pm - 8pm (Mon - Thurs)

- ⇒ Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Creative Movement & More!
- ⇒ All ages and abilities welcome!
- ⇒ **NEW dancers must attend in-person for proper placement**
- ⇒ Parent class sessions available
- ⇒ Limited Virtual Class offerings: Fitness, Child & Adult classes



Full Dance Season: \$710 Annual registration fee of \$45 included

Scholarships are available based on financial need - don't hesitate to ask for an application!

NEW Volunteer Open House & Registration

September 1 & 2

4 - 7pm at the studio

- ⇒ No dance experience required
- ⇒ Must be 16+ to volunteer
- ⇒ 1 hour per week from September - May



Earn valuable work experience while making new friends!

RETURNING Dancer & Volunteer Registration

Online registration begins on August 24th for *returning dancers & volunteers*. Registration form will be on our website & social media channels. Placement will be determined after registration and will be shared with dancers & volunteers in early September.

NOTE: Limited virtual options will be available on a case-by-case basis.

Virtual Fitness Frenzy Is Back!

Due to the popularity of Fitness Frenzy, *danceability* wants to be able to offer our super fun fitness class to as many people as possible. For our dancers, it's a great way to keep moving on days you aren't dancing and for those of you who just want to take a fitness class, you can do that too!

We are holding two ten week sessions:

Session #1: October 4 - December 6th
(Monday evenings virtually with Miss Christine)

Session #2: January 24 - April 4, 2022
(Monday evenings virtually with Miss Christine)

Cost: \$110 per session

*To learn more and register visit our website
www.danceabilityinc.org*



****We are looking for TWO virtual volunteers!****

STAY CONNECTED! Find us on:



Depew, NY 14043

2365 George Urban Boulevard

