

January 1, 2025

Supporters of Kern Dance Alliance (KDA),

As Kern Dance Alliance (KDA) celebrates its upcoming 10th season, we **reflect on nine remarkable years** that were made possible through vibrant partnerships reflecting our Central California community. Because of your support, **KDA continues to thrive as an all-volunteer nonprofit**, empowering dance and the arts to enrich lives.

Our mission has two key facets:

1. Support and promote individual dance artists and organizations by helping them grow their capacity through financial resources and professional development.
2. Bridge the gap between artists and the greater community to provide diverse arts programs that **boost cultural vibrancy, economic development, and social cohesion.**

This year, KDA is proud to spotlight the tremendous success of the **KDA Creative Corps (KDACC)**. In 2022, KDA was selected by the California Arts Council to administer a \$4.2 million dollar re-granting program for the California Creative Corps. As one of only 14 organizations selected across the state to manage the program, the KDACC has spent the last two years **investing all funds into arts programs across 14 Central Valley communities.** The goals of the program were to create jobs while improving the quality of life for residents living in the lowest quartile of the California Healthy Places Index. We are thrilled to report we not only met but exceeded expectations. We invite you to read our final report within this brochure to see why we were **recognized as a gold standard for arts program administration.** The KDACC has solidified KDA's reputation for innovation and excellence statewide and we are proud to represent the Central Valleys.

In addition, KDA has been **deeply engaged in advancing arts education through California's Proposition 28.** Passed in 2022, Prop 28 guarantees funding for arts programs in public schools, TK–12th grade. We've developed a strategic plan to maximize this opportunity by **advocating for teaching credential programs in dance education**, while promoting awareness of Prop 28's potential, and ensuring students understand how dance can translate into rewarding careers. Our leadership in these efforts continues to shape the educational landscape in Kern County, connecting policy and practice to benefit students and the broader community.

Our programs remain at the heart of what we do. Initiatives such as ***Books in Motion*, *ADAPTdance*, and *MemoryMOVES*** exemplify our dedication to serving diverse populations through meaningful arts experiences. Each program underscores the transformative power movement has on enhancing lives and building connections across communities.

This year, we are also proud to announce that we have **launched the Central California Arts + Humanities Endowment Fund**, a new initiative aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability and growth of the arts and cultural landscape in Central California. We invite you to learn more about our new endowment within your season brochure.

Mark your calendars for September 20, 2025, as KDA proudly presents *MOVE* — an extraordinary event at the Historic Bakersfield Fox Theater. This exclusive evening promises a celebration of creativity, innovation, and artistry. KDA's first ever fundraising gala will feature dazzling performances, captivating visuals, and a chance to be a champion for the arts. Don't miss this historic moment as we launch into a new decade of growth and impact.

As we look towards the future of service, we are inspired by the opportunities ahead. **With your continued support**, we will expand our reach, enhance our creative economy, and ensure that dance and the arts remain integral to the Central Valley's vibrancy, development, and prosperity.

With gratitude,

Marcie Hronis

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President, Kern Dance Alliance

