

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

FY24 JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024



Nimbus

Nimbus Dance | Nimbus Arts Center | School of Nimbus



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DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

As Nimbus dances into our 20th Anniversary Season, I am filled with a profound sense of satisfaction and anticipation. What began as a vision in 2005 to create a community-centered dance company has evolved into the extraordinary, multi-faceted entity that Nimbus is today: world-class touring dance company, arts center incubating cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural collaboration, arts learning center for young people, and more! Who we are today is thanks to the unwavering support and dedication of people like you who know how transformative and life-giving the arts can be.

What happened over the past season?

- Nimbus performed 'Spring' at Tanglewood with the Boston Symphony to wide acclaim. Commissioned by the New Jersey Symphony, I re-interpreted Aaron Copland's famous 'Appalachian Spring', a formative piece of music for me from my time with the Martha Graham Dance Company, reflecting the idea of continuity across generations: of a family, in nature's cycles, and in the sense of hope for the future that is woven into our nation's identity.
- In March, we premiered 'Insight/Incite' by Roger C. Jeffrey in collaboration with tap dance luminaries Jason Samuels Smith and Maurice Chestnut, with music by legendary Jersey City Jazz Percussionist Winard Harper. Through the year we performed works by Pilobolus co-founder Alison Chase, Dawn Marie Bazemore, and Yoshito Sakuraba, rounded out by stalwarts from our repertory: Surface Tension, Patch of Turf, Roseification, and Pareja.

- The School of Nimbus officially launched the Advanced Track and Vocal Technique programs. Pre-Professional Students performed spectacularly to audiences across New Jersey and New York. The School of Nimbus awarded \$30K in scholarships to youth in need.
- Jersey City Nutcracker performed a sold-out run of 21 performances, energizing this holiday family tradition with creativity and relevance for thousands of audiences.
- Nimbus Arts Center welcomed new resident partner: Bridge Art Gallery. This year's exhibitions featured iconic images by revered photographers Gordon Parks and Chi Modu, as well as the breathtaking exhibition "Black Wall Street" by Ajamu Kojo.

As we look ahead to our 20th Anniversary Season, we are more committed than ever to our mission of weaving together inspired opportunities to engage with dance and the arts. Look for us not only on rarified stages like NJPAC, on tour as far afield as Arkansas, but also in schools, parks, and our own arts center right here in Jersey City. With a wealth of exciting projects and performances on the horizon, and with your continued support, Nimbus is ready to celebrate this milestone with a renewed sense of purpose and passion.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. We look forward to sharing this momentous season with you.

Sincerely,



Samuel M. Pott

Samuel Pott, Founding Artistic Director



NIMBUS DANCE

Entering its 20th season, Nimbus Dance continues to bridge the gap between world-class performances and community engagement. By presenting work that challenges, speaks to, and elevates the core beliefs of its diverse audience, Nimbus embodies the spirit of artistic innovation and inclusivity. Founded in 2005 by visionary Artistic Director Samuel Pott (former soloist with the Martha Graham Dance Company) and based in Jersey City, Nimbus stands at the forefront of excellence in the arts, civic engagement, and equitable impact.

Known for highly physical and visually engaging aesthetic, Nimbus' international company of dancers tours nationally and throughout the greater New Jersey/New York region, **impacting 16,000 people each year**. Recently, Nimbus had the honor of performing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood and received support from esteemed organizations such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the O'Donnell Green Music and Dance Foundation.



With over seventy performances nationwide, this season marked a period of exciting growth and collaboration, including the world premiere of Roger C. Jeffrey's *INSIGHT/INCITE*, commissioned with support from the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) and featuring collaborators Winard Harper, Jason Samuels Smith, and Maurice Chestnut. Overall, the season boasted 188 artistic collaborators, with the majority hailing from Jersey City. Additionally, **the New Jersey State Arts Council recognized Artistic Director Samuel Pott with his third Choreography Fellowship!**

Season Highlights Include:



'Spring': 4,500 Audience Members

Nimbus Dance performed Artistic Director Samuel Pott's "Spring" with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood in Berkshire, MA in July 2023. Xian Zhang, music director of the New Jersey Symphony, was the guest conductor and collaborator. *Left to right, Caleb Mansor, Tyler Choquette and Scott Willits of Nimbus Dance perform at Tanglewood.*

'Jersey City Nutcracker': 1,829 Audience Members

In its 14th year, Jersey City Nutcracker united professional dancers, local youth and celebrities in a month of vibrant performances. Choreographed by Samuel Pott, with stunning visuals by Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger, and a lively libretto by Alyssa Souder and Pott, this production features over 100 student performers, creating a magical, family-friendly experience.



'The New Tide': 1,300 Audience Members

In April 2024, Nimbus Dance performed Dawn Marie Bazemore's 'The New Tide' and Samuel Pott's 'Spring' at the Zoellner Arts Center at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. 'Spring' was performed with a live orchestra conducted by Lehigh professor Maestro Paul Salerni, and featured a cast of youth performers from Pennsylvania Youth Ballet.

As we move into our 20th Anniversary Season, Nimbus Dance eagerly anticipates the world premiere of Samuel Pott's 'Firebird', commissioned by the NJ Symphony and to be performed at NJPAC in March 2025, as well as three more FY25 world premieres. Artistic creativity and collaboration are the lifeblood of our organization and we can't wait to share a new wave of creations with the public.



SCHOOL OF NIMBUS



The School of Nimbus proudly offers financial aid and scholarships to ensure access to exceptional dance education for students across Jersey City and Hudson County. **In FY24, we awarded \$29,241 in scholarship funds**, allowing Hudson County youth to attend full and half-day programs at Nimbus this summer, regardless of their financial situation.

The School of Nimbus offers professional dance instruction in ballet, modern, hip hop, tap, and many other dance techniques for children, teens, and pre-professional students ages 2-18. With a focus on small class sizes and high-quality dance education, Nimbus Dance company dancers and leading industry professionals create a non-competitive, challenging, yet supportive environment.



Nimbus' **JC SummerArts program**, pictured above, offers an immersive and dynamic arts experience for young people in Jersey City, combining professional dance instruction with creative exploration. Through engaging workshops and performances, the program fosters artistic growth and community connection. This summer, we were thrilled to host 226 young performers, 19.47% of which were first-time School of Nimbus students!

The **Nimbus Arts Center Intensive** provides advanced young performers with a comprehensive training experience in a new three-week half day intensive featuring rigorous technique classes and personalized mentorship. This program equips participants with the skills and insights needed to excel in their artistic careers. Seminars include Audition Prep, Nutrition, Injury Prevention, and Dance History.

Our **Masterclass Series**, a unique opportunity for students to train and interact with top dance professionals, featured instructors from Paul Taylor Dance Company, Limón Company, Knicks City Kids, and more. In 2023-2024, School of Nimbus also added a new Vocal Technique group classes for ages 6-18 years.

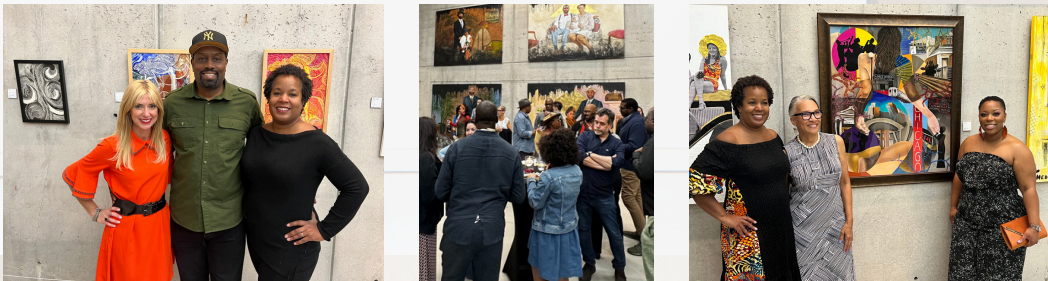


Nimbus Teaching Artists play an essential role in advancing Nimbus' community-focused mission. These artists profoundly impact young people by cultivating a multi-faceted understanding of the world around them, inspiring freedom of expression through dance, and fostering a sense of community, empathy, and self-confidence. Notable FY24 community partnerships included:

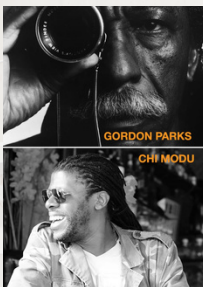
- Learning Community Charter School, Dance to Learn & Middle School Performing Arts (Jersey City)
- P.S. 37 After School (Jersey City)
- P.S. 25 Dance to Learn and Assembly Performance (Jersey City)
- French American Academy (Jersey City)
- Union City High School
- Morris County Vocational Technical High School
- Pennsylvania Youth Ballet (PA)
- The School of Albany Berkshire Ballet (MA)
- The Putney School (VT)
- Camp Beech Cliff (ME)
- ArtWaves (ME)
- Jersey City Parks Coalition: Mary McLeod Bethune Park, Riverview Fisk Park, and Ferris Triangle Park.
- Additional Elementary Schools across New Jersey



Through its three interrelated fields—company, school, and presenting—Nimbus Arts Center is committed to artistic excellence, community engagement, and progress, impacting 31,000 people each year. Opened in 2020, the Nimbus Arts Center at the Lively is a 14,900 sq. ft. multi-arts facility on the building's ground floors, with apartments above, representing **one of the most significant investments in the arts in Jersey City history**. The comprehensive arts center includes a 150-seat black box theater, studio and rehearsal space for Nimbus' Dance Company and School of Nimbus, and administrative offices. The center is fully ADA accessible to audiences and artists alike.



As we look to the future, we aim to expand our reach through new collaborations, performances, and educational programs. This includes developing innovative projects that push the boundaries of contemporary dance and engaging new audiences through diverse and inclusive programming.



"Sometimes I Wander"

This exhibition was presented in coordination with Nimbus Dance's performances of 'The New Tide' by Dawn Marie Bazemore, from March 16-24. Iconic photographs by Gordon Parks and Jersey City Legend Chi Modu were provided courtesy of the Gordon Parks Foundation and the Chi Modu Estate. The exhibition ran from March 16 to May 6 with a dynamic and historical panel discussion with Sofia Modu, Dawn Marie Bazemore, Jeffrey DeSources, and Kira Joy Williams, facilitated by Cheryl Mack at the Firmament Gallery at the Nimbus Arts Center. This program was funded in part by Hudson County History Partnership Program.



Presenting Partnerships

Jersey New Moves

In collaboration with NJPAC and Dance New Jersey, Nimbus Arts Center hosted the world premieres of new works by New Jersey based emerging choreographers Kristilee Maiella and Kiana Rosa Fischer, winners of the Jersey New Moves Fellowship Program. (Jun 2024)

Nimbus & Riverview Jazz Present

Nimbus partnered with Riverview Jazz to present Swamp blues guitarist Walter Parks and drummer Steven Williams as The Unlawful Assembly. The performance featured vocalist Ada Dyer, returning from her tour with Bruce Springsteen, (October 2023). Johnathan Blake's band Trion graced the Nimbus Stage later in the season, during Riverview Jazz's annual Jersey City Jazz Festival. Local up-and-comer Macaeden McClure opened. (May 2024)

The Curtain

The Curtain's ROMEO & JULIET at Nimbus Arts Center showcased some of Shakespeare's most breathtaking language, featuring TV star Aria Shaghasemi from the CW's Legacies as Romeo; Andrew Sellon from Fox's Gotham as Friar Laurence; and Italian actress Anita Pomario, winner of the Venice Film Festival Pasinetti Award, making her American stage debut as Juliet. (Sept. 2023)

Hudson West Folk Festival

Nimbus hosted this all-day Americana/Folk/Roots music festival featuring 10 performing groups, original stage backdrops, a curated art gallery, ethnic foods, and free music workshops led by festival artists. (Sept. 2023)

Resident Partners at Nimbus Arts Center



A Sound Start: A Sound Start offers unique music and movement classes with a developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to nurture language skills, social interactions, fine and gross motor skills, creativity, and reasoning.



The Bridge Art Gallery: Bridge Art Gallery curated two shows at the Firmament Gallery in FY24: *Black Wall Street* (Artist: Ajamu Kojo) and *Sometimes I Wander* (Artists: Gordon Parks, Chi Modu). Nimbus Arts Center welcomes The Bridge Art Gallery as they join us in FY25 as a Resident Partner to present shows at Nimbus throughout the year.



Segunda Quimbamba: Segunda Quimbamba is a Jersey City-based percussion and dance ensemble that performs authentic Bomba and Plena, the drum music of Puerto Rico. They hold weekly classes and rehearsals at the Nimbus Arts Center.

FOLKLORIC CENTER



Shehnaaz Dance Academy: Shehnaaz Dance Academy, a pioneer performing arts and cultural school, trains students in Indian Folk, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Bollywood, Bharatanatyam, and Kathak dance forms across New York and New Jersey.

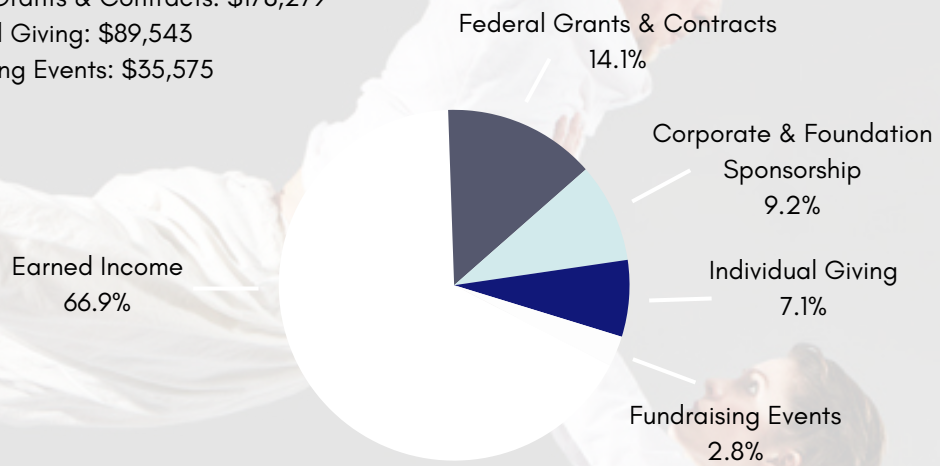


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In the past fiscal year, Nimbus has continued to secure diverse funding streams, reflecting our commitment to sustainability and growth. From earned income and federal grants to the generosity of individual donors and local support, these resources enable us to deliver impactful arts programming and outreach across the Nimbus Dance community.

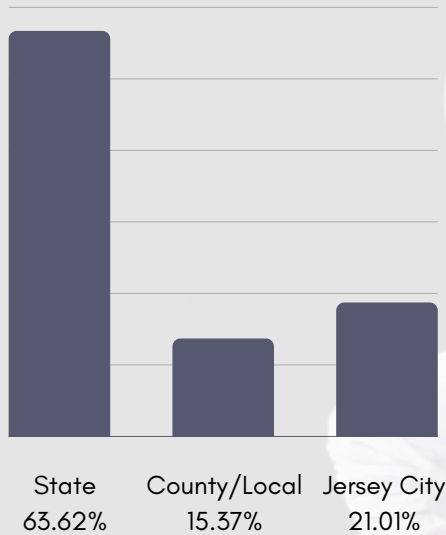
REVENUE

- Earned Income: \$848,072
- ▨ Corporate & Foundation Sponsorship: \$116,222
- Federal Grants & Contracts: \$178,279
- Individual Giving: \$89,543
- ▨ Fundraising Events: \$35,575



GRANTS

State: \$113,418
County/Local: \$27,400
Jersey City: \$37,461



CELEBRATING IMPACT

Patrons, Lauren Gage & Brendon Mernin

"When we saw Nimbus Dance's "The New Americana" in March of 2023, we were thrilled by the exuberance, energy, and technical virtuosity of the dancers and moved by the thoughtful passion of the choreography. In particular, we were in awe of the deft and fluid marriage of classical and contemporary dance vocabularies with the soulful music of Sam Cooke and the gorgeously empathetic photos of Gordon Parks. In lesser hands, this tricky combination would have succumbed to bathos, but the characteristically American optimism of the Nimbus dancers brought out the choreographer's daring and the director's singular vision. It was a performance we will not soon forget."

School of Nimbus Parent, Nicole Moulaison

"Nimbus School of Dance is a dynamic, supportive, engaging and inclusive environment for dancers of all ages and all levels. Dancing in a professional space alongside the company dancers, who are all kind and compassionate, has given my daughter freedom to express herself in new ways. Since dancing at Nimbus, she's gained enormous strength and confidence, not just as a dancer but in character."

School of Nimbus Parent, Daniella LaRocca

"We love what Nimbus has provided in dance classes and in camps. Both are structured to maximize a student's potential and inspire them to reach for more. There's always a fresh and creative way to learn and have fun here. We are so thankful for all of the arts that Nimbus has to offer."

Nimbus Board Member, Rae Dubose

"Supporting Nimbus Dance and Arts Center enhances and encourages the diversity of my community, this is a testament to my belief in the transformative power of art and inclusivity. By investing in Nimbus, I am not only supporting the growth and development of individuals, but also fostering a sense of unity and acceptance within our JC community."

Dancer, LeighAnn Curd

"I fully believe Nimbus and the people who work there are proof of what it means to have a nurturing and supportive work environment and the importance of that. Nimbus is my second home and the people are my chosen family."

Press

"Nimbus' dancers have a wonderful vitality, and in 'The New Tide' they bring the idealism of another era to life."
- Robert Johnson, NJArts.net

"Martha Graham's uplifting spirit survives and is enhanced in this 21st-century reimagining... by Samuel Pott and Nimbus Dance." - Keith Powers, The Berkshire Eagle on the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood

"A Nimbus piece can pivot from ballet to Broadway to Beyoncé in a few beats. Because their dancers have internalized and synthesized these styles, their performances never feel like pastiche. The seams of what they're stitching together are rarely visible. In their commitment to amalgamation that borders on mongrelization, they're deeply American. And as their latest show demonstrates, the more American Nimbus gets, the better they do." - Tris McCall, Jersey City Times



Nimbus Company Dancers: Talent on Stage and in the Classroom

In 2023 & 2024, Nimbus company dancers, including LeighAnn Curd, Johnny Del Jesus, Catherine Escueta, Agustin Gomes, Shayla Hutton, Caleb Mansor, Tamir Rios, Victoria Santaguida, and Kanon Sugino, brought their extraordinary talents to the stage. Many of these artists serve on the faculty at the School of Nimbus, where they inspire the next generation of dancers in Hudson County. Among them, Victoria Santaguida stands out as she enters her eighth season with Nimbus Dance, reflecting on her journey of growth and the profound impact she's had as both a performer and Teaching Artist.



Victoria Santaguida - A Journey of Growth and Inspiration

Victoria Santaguida enters her eighth season with Nimbus Dance, reflecting on a journey marked by artistic growth and meaningful connections. Starting as an admirer of principal roles, Victoria has evolved into a lead performer, a testament to the belief and opportunities provided by Artistic Director Samuel Pott. "I am forever grateful for the belief that the artistic staff at Nimbus has had in me throughout the years," she shares.

A particularly memorable moment for Victoria has been dancing with live orchestras, a collaboration that brings a special energy to each performance. "A different kind of magic happens when live music and live dance hit the stage together," she notes. These experiences, whether with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, or local ensembles, have left her "extremely emotional and grateful," providing newfound inspiration for future projects.

Beyond the stage, Victoria channels her passion into teaching, particularly through her leadership of the School of Nimbus' Junior Youth Ensemble. She hopes to impart essential life skills to her students, saying, "I hope for all of my students to learn work ethic, dedication, patience, acceptance, and positive mindsets through my teaching." Her journey with Nimbus exemplifies her commitment to both her art and the community, making her an inspiring figure in the company and beyond.



"It made a huge impact for the students to know they had the support of their community behind them,"

Madison Meredith has made a significant impact through Nimbus' off-site educational programs, particularly at Learning Community Charter School (LCCS) in Jersey City. Leading three second-grade classes through the Dance to Learn curriculum, she witnessed the LCCS community fully embrace the program by integrating the students' final performance into their annual spring concert. "It made a huge impact for the students to know they had the support of their community behind them," Madison shared, reflecting on the pride students felt in their work. This success was echoed by positive feedback from teachers who saw students stepping up as leaders and showing new sides of themselves. The impact was so profound that many students continued their artistic journey at Nimbus' JC Summer Arts program.

At Explore Middle School, Madison led the Dance & Democracy curriculum, where students applied democratic principles to address school issues, culminating in a petition and a co-created dance piece. Their confidence in voicing their ideas and sharing their work at the Nimbus Arts Center highlighted the transformative power of arts education in fostering community and social responsibility. These experiences underscore the invaluable role that Nimbus' off-site programs play in enriching students' lives and strengthening community bonds.



MISSION AND VISION

- **Mission:** We use the power of the arts to impact individuals and communities. As Jersey City's vibrant, anchor arts organization invested in equity, diversity, and excellence, Nimbus weaves together a dance company, arts center, school, and community programming.
- **Vision:** Our vision begins with the arts. Nimbus pushes the boundaries of the arts by innovating new work, collaborating with artists and arts organizations of all disciplines, and developing accessible arts education. We lift up the arts to imbue and inspire Jersey City and beyond, improving neighborhoods, promoting social well-being, and cultivating unity. We create space for people to access, participate in and benefit from the arts. We are our community: serving, inspiring, representing, reflecting, and elevating in Jersey City and in all communities where we engage.
- **Our Values:** Artistic Excellence, Creativity, Community, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility

1

World
Premiere

80+

Performances

1,024

Students
Served

25,149

Audience
Members Served





PARTNERS IN IMPACT

Nimbus is extremely grateful for the support that we receive from our sponsors and supporters. We extend an heartfelt THANK YOU to the organizations who supported us financially or partnered in fulfilling our mission in the 2023 -2024 season.

Presenting Partners

NJPAC
 New Jersey Symphony
 Riverview Jazz
 Hudson West Folk Festival
 Shakespeare@The Curtain
 Golden Door Film Festival

Resident Partners

Segunda Quimbamba
 The Bridge Art Gallery
 A Sound Start
 Shehnaaz Dance Academy

Sponsors & Funders

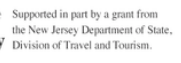




Photo of Nimbus Dancers by Kelly Fletcher

Nimbus

Nimbus Dance | Nimbus Arts Center | School of Nimbus

STAFF

Samuel Pott, Artistic Director & Founder
 Hannah Weeks, Managing Director
 Harumi Elders, School Director
 Alyce Stark, Director of Finance & Administration
 LeighAnn Curd, Rehearsal Director, Nimbus Dance
 Gwen Brownson, Associate Director of Advancement
 Mika Greene, Associate Director, Nimbus 2
 Comora Robinson, Development Manager
 Brittany Couch, Development & Communications Associate
 Delana Ramos, Facilities/Rentals Manager
 Michael Lupino, Production Manager
 Vanessa Gomez, Marketing Associate
 Ana Robelo, School Administrator
 Costume Coordinators: Catherine Escueta & Caleb Mansor
 Front Desk Associates: Krystal Andrade, Marcella Audifred,
 Jacob Blank, Sara Borden, Veronica Gagliardi, Danielle Gutt,
 Jessica Marchand, Jordan Powell, Tamir Rios, Sara Sines,
 Isabella Solomon, Kanon Sugino, Ethan Barragan Navarette,
 Annabelle Bowman, Emily Chauhan, David Ugorgi

ARTISTS

Nimbus Dance:
 LeighAnn Curd, Johnny Del Jesus, Catherine Escueta, Agustin
 Gomes, Shayla Hutton, Caleb Mansor, Victoria Santaguida ,
 Kanon Sugino, Tamir Rios

Nimbus2:
 Katherine Acosta, Jacob Blank, Audrey Lipson, Gary McCall
 Rosalia Saver, Kaysha Smith

Teaching Artists:
 Alyssa Acciavatti, Sarah Barragán, Odris Chalas, LeighAnn
 Curd, Porshia Derival, Catherine Escueta, Rosetta Fair, Jailin
 Garcia, Mika Greene, Violet Hartman, Alanna Huling, Shayla
 Hutton, Darvejon Jones, Nacia Kruger, Audrey Lipson, Caleb
 Mansor, Gary McCall, Madison Meredith, Victoria
 Santaguida, Melina Soriano, Marie Zvosec

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Hali Epstein, Secretary
 Anthony Catanio
 Rae DuBose
 Ning Holmes
 Samuel Pott
 Gennean Scott



Get Involved

Join us in shaping the next chapter of Nimbus Dance.

- **Attend Our Events!** And stay in touch by following us on social media (@nimbusdance).
- **Partner with Us:** Email Comora Robinson at comora@nimbusdanceworks.org
- **Donate:** Visit <https://bit.ly/3Muk8YA> (or scan the QR Code to the right).

