



## Application Summary

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<b>Organization</b>		
<b>Name:</b> Wild Space Dance Company	<b>EIN:</b> 39-1602186	<b>NTEE Code:</b> A62
<b>Address:</b> 820 E. Knapp St. / P.O. Box 511665, Milwaukee, WI 53203		<b>Annual Revenue:</b> 98,334.00

<b>Organization Contact</b>		
<b>Name:</b> Jenni Reinke	<b>Title:</b> Managing Director	<b>Email:</b> jenni@wildspacedance.org
<b>Phone Number:</b> 414-271-0307		

<b>Application Description</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>What is your organization's mission?</b>
	<p>"For 35 years...Wild Space [has] brought people to some of the most resonant and essential places in Milwaukee...[It has] made Milwaukee's world more vivid, rich, and beautiful." - Paul Kosidowski, Milwaukee Magazine Wild Space Dance Company, founded by Artistic Director Debra Loewen in 1986, celebrates more than three decades in Milwaukee. Its mission is to expand the audience for contemporary dance through performance and educational programs reaching diverse communities in the Milwaukee area and southeastern Wisconsin. The company's goals are to produce original work that engages diverse audiences and to create culturally responsive outreach programs for underserved youth, enhancing self-confidence, self-discipline and creative thinking. Wild Space's (WS) programming considers the context of people served through community partnerships, cultural representation in hiring, and program structures prioritizing participant voice, choice and leadership. For example, through a 14-year partnership with Community Learning Center (CLC) at Lincoln Center Middle School of the Arts, WS offers an inter-arts summer camp to MPS middle schoolers. As with its school-year residencies, teacher hiring (2 African American, 1 White) reflects participant demographics. Through the youth-led creation of an original performance, program structure empowers student voice, choice, and expression. Student surveys determine future programming.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>What focus area will Kohl's funding support?</b>
	Arts & Culture
<b>3.</b>	<b>What issue will your program address?</b>
	In 2018, 73% of professional dancers in the US were white ( <a href="https://datausa.io/">https://datausa.io/</a> ). Wild Space's new initiative, InSite: Choreographic Apprenticeship, addresses racial disparities in dance by supporting choreographers of color and creating access to dance through workshops in underserved communities.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Describe how Kohl's funding will support your organization's program and address this community issue.</b>
	Funds will produce 4 workshop-performances in 4 underserved communities, showcasing work by 2 minority choreographers and reaching 800 diverse participants. Funds will subsidize: 7 diverse dancers (\$6000), 2 minority choreographers (\$2000), project management (\$2000), production expenses (\$2000).
<b>5.</b>	<b>How is your organization and/or programming addressing disparities in diversity and inclusion both within your organization and the populations you serve?</b>
	Wild Space (WS) addresses disparities through community partnerships, representation in hiring, and participant-led projects. In partnership with MPS, WS empowers underserved youth through dance education. In 20-21, WS featured African American (3), Asian American (2), and transgender (1) dancers.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Identify the target geographical and demographic reach of your program.</b>
	Through partnerships with Milwaukee Public Schools, Wild Space education/outreach programs reach students who are 52% Black, 27% Hispanic, 11% White, 7% Asian, 3% Other, and 86% economically disadvantaged. Site-specific productions bring audiences to diverse neighborhoods in the City of Milwaukee.
<b>7.</b>	<b>What is the total quantifiable reach for this program?</b>

	4 free workshop-performances in 4 underserved communities will impact 800 students/audiences. The events will be led by 2 minority Choreographic Apprentices (1 African American, 1 Asian American) and 7 diverse dancers (2 African American, 2 Asian American, 3 White/Other). All artists will be paid.
<b>8.</b>	<b>What is the anticipated impact of funding?</b>
	The project addresses racial disparities in dance by: 1. Providing knowledge, skills, and financial support to 2 choreographers of color to produce new work employing 7 dancers; 2. Creating access through 4 free workshop-performances in 4 underserved communities, reaching 800 students/audiences.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Describe how you will be able to quantify and report on the outcomes/successes achieved through the grant.</b>
	Number and diversity of program participants will be assessed through head counts and random sampling. Acquisition of knowledge and skills by two minority Choreographic Apprentices will be quantified through observation of artistic project management and pre/post program interviews.

<b>Budget</b>		
<b>Grant Amount:</b> 12,000.00		
<b>Funds Breakout</b>		
1.	1/3 of wages for 7 diverse dancers	6,000.00
2.	1/2 of wages for 2 minority choreographic apprentices	2,000.00
3.	1/2 of wages for project manager	2,000.00
4.	1/3 of production expenses (costumes, sound, lights, technician, etc.)	2,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>
<b>Co-Funders</b>		
1.	Herzfeld Foundation	7,500.00
2.	Milwaukee County CAMPAC	2,000.00
3.	City of Milwaukee Arts Board	1,500.00
4.	Wisconsin Arts Board	1,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>

<b>Additional Information</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Does your organization support any of the following diverse communities and/or areas?</b>
	Asian American Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic/ Latinx, Indigenous/ Native American, White, LGTBQ
<b>2.</b>	<b>Provide any additional comments that you feel would be beneficial for Kohl's to know regarding your organization's support of diverse communities and/or areas.</b>
	Through partnerships with MPS, Wild Space education/outreach programs reach students who are 52% Black, 27% Hispanic, 11% White, 7% Asian, 3% Other, and 86% economically disadvantaged. Site-specific productions bring diverse dancers and audiences to Milwaukee's diverse neighborhoods.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Provide any tactics that will be used to recognize Kohl's support to your organization.</b>
	Wild Space will recognize Kohl's on its website (www.wildspacedance.org), email newsletter (1634 subscribers), Instagram (270 followers), Facebook (1,103 followers),and in its programs for shows.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Has your organization applied through the Kohl's Hometown Giving Program in the past? If so, what year/s have you applied and did you receive a grant?</b>
	No
<b>5.</b>	<b>Does your organization currently receive support through the <a href="#">Kohl's Volunteer Program</a>?</b>
	no

6.	<b>How did you hear about Kohl's Hometown Giving program?</b>
	Benevity Communication

## **Kohl's Hometown Giving Grant**

### *Impact Report*

1. What did you set out to accomplish with the Kohl's Hometown Giving Grant, and did you accomplish this? If yes, how did the Kohl's grant help you accomplish your goal? If no, what barriers did you face that prevented you from accomplishing your goal?

In 2018, 73.3% of professional dancers/choreographers in the United States were white, 62% of which were of non-Hispanic origin (<https://datausa.io/>). The Kohl's Hometown Giving Grant enabled Wild Space Dance Company to address racial disparities in dance through its newest initiative, InSite: Choreography Apprenticeship, which supports choreographers of color and creates access to dance in underserved communities. Funds subsidized fees for 2 minority choreographers (Tisiphani Mayfield, African American and Alisha Jihn, Asian), 7 diverse dancers (2 African American, 2 Asian, 1 Hispanic, 4 Caucasian), production expenses and project management.

While we had planned for 4 workshop-performances in 4 underserved communities, the grant supported 2 performances plus 10 open rehearsals in Milwaukee's Washington Park neighborhood. Reducing the number of neighborhoods and performances allowed the choreographers to focus on creating a full-length (60 minute) performance, built for one specific site that they got to know intimately. The demographics of this ZIP code, 53208, according to [censusreporter.org](https://censusreporter.org/): 41% African American, 33% Caucasian, 13% Asian, 5% Two or more races, and 8% Hispanic, with 10% foreign born. The median household income is \$36,436 (42% less than that for the state), with a median value of owner occupied housing at \$149,300 (21% lower than that for the state). A total of 160 people attended 2 free public performances, and an additional 400 people viewed 10 open rehearsals. In addition, local photographer and blogger Eddee Daniels brought visibility to the neighborhood through his documentation of the event on his website, [awealthofnature.org/wild-space-at-washington-park/](http://awealthofnature.org/wild-space-at-washington-park/).

Challenges included finding alternative rehearsal space during inclement weather, and communication between all of the program participants. Securing indoor rehearsal space resulted in additional expenses. This is the first time Wild Space's Founding Director Debra Loewen has managed a project choreographed entirely by guest choreographers, rather than by herself. Improving communication between the leadership team will be an area of focus next time.

On the whole, however, the pilot of InSite in 21-22 was a success, and Wild Space plans to continue growing this program in the 22-23 season and beyond. In June 2023, InSite will take place at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee's diverse Lincoln Village neighborhood. The show, "Everyone is Welcome," will celebrate diversity and inclusivity by working with 5 diverse choreographers at this historical site, which has always been a public place open to all. Wild Space is currently fundraising to ensure the program can support an increased number of choreographers of color needed to work in this large space, and that performances can be offered for free to the public.

2. Provide the total impact of your program, including the following:
  - Geographical and demographical reach of your program

- Quantifiable reach (*Example: 5 schools workshops impacted 200 students*)

Funds subsidized artist fees for 2 minority choreographers (Tisiphani Mayfield, African American and Alisha Jihn, Asian), 7 diverse dancers (2 African American, 2 Asian, 1 Hispanic, 4 Caucasian), and enabled Wild Space to produce 2 free public performances, engaging a total of 560 people. “InSite: Dances for Washington Park” took place May 22nd, 2022 at 3pm and 7:30pm at Washington Park (4599 W Lloyd St, Milwaukee, WI 53208) in partnership with 2 new partners, the Urban Ecology Center Washington Park Branch (<https://urbanecologycenter.org/>) and Milwaukee County Parks. Neighborhood demographics, according to censusreporter.org, are: 41% African American, 33% Caucasian, 13% Asian, 5% Two or more races, and 8% Hispanic, with 10% foreign born. The median household income is \$36,436 (42% less than that for the state), with a median value of owner occupied housing at \$149,300 (21% lower than that for the state). A total of 160 people attended 2 free public performances, and an additional 400 people viewed 10 open rehearsals. In addition, local photographer and blogger Eddee Daniels brought visibility to the neighborhood through his documentation of the event on his website, [awealthofnature.org/wild-space-at-washington-park/](http://awealthofnature.org/wild-space-at-washington-park/).

Here is the program description:

In-Site Dances for Washington Park is an adventurous site-based dance event created for Washington Park’s landscaped beauty and historical significance. Starting at the bandshell parking lot, audiences will be guided to viewing areas to see dances at the following sites: the back of the band shell, at the lagoon steps, from the path watching dance through the trees and over rolling mounds, over and on bridges, culminating with a dance at the Urban Ecology Center. In celebration of Frederick Olmsted 200th Anniversary, Wild Space Dance Company guest choreographers, Alisha Jihn and Tisiphani Mayfield, have created dances in conversation with Olmsted’s design following the paths, plantings, lagoon, and bridges at Washington Park.

3. How did the grant you received from Kohl’s help your organization address disparities in diversity and inclusion both within your organization and the populations you serve?

In 2018, 73.3% of professional dancers/choreographers in the United States were white, 62% of which were of non-Hispanic origin (<https://datausa.io/>). The Kohl’s Hometown Giving Grant enabled Wild Space Dance Company to address racial disparities in dance by piloting its newest initiative, InSite: Choreography Apprenticeship, which supports choreographers of color and creates access to dance in underserved communities. Funds subsidized artist fees for 2 minority choreographers (Tisiphani Mayfield, African American and Alisha Jihn, Asian), 7 diverse dancers (2 African American, 2 Asian, 1 Hispanic, 4 Caucasian), production expenses and project management. One of the featured choreographers, Alisha Jihn, explained how her identity shaped her work. In a post-program evaluation, she wrote, “One of the most important goals for myself was to create work that was informed by my identity and experience as an Asian-American woman. I think that each section of the show developed beautifully to recognize past traumas, joys, and look towards offering hope in the future.”

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A total of 160 people attended 2 free public performances, and an additional 400 people viewed 10 open rehearsals. In addition, local photographer and blogger Eddee Daniels brought visibility to the neighborhood through his documentation of the event on his website, [awealthofnature.org/wild-space-at-washington-park/](http://awealthofnature.org/wild-space-at-washington-park/). The event brought people together who might not otherwise convene in a segregated city. Some audience members came directly from the neighborhood, and some had never been to the neighborhood before. One audience member commented that although she had visited Washington Park in the past, she “experienced it anew” through the Wild Space performance.

The pilot of InSite in 21-22 was a success, and Wild Space plans to continue growing this program in the 22-23 season and beyond. In June 2023, InSite will take place at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee’s diverse Lincoln Village neighborhood. The show, “Everyone is Welcome,” will celebrate diversity and inclusivity by working with diverse choreographers at this historical site, which has always been a public place open to all. Wild Space is currently fundraising to ensure the program can support an increased number of choreographers of color needed to work in this large space, and that performances can be offered for free to the public.

\*If possible, please provide images of your program in action.

This information can be sent to [carolyn.guenther@kohls.com](mailto:carolyn.guenther@kohls.com).



Dancers: Elisabeth Roskopf, Desmond Cotton, Brea Graber, Cuauhtli Ramirez Castro  
Photo by Christal Wagner



Dancers: Alisha Jihn, Cuauhtli Ramirez Castro, Desmond Cotton, Elisabeth Roskopf, Brea Graber  
Photo by Christal Wagner