

The Dance Complex Community Meetings, Sept – Nov 2018 Key Points

MEETING #1

Attended by some staff members, board members, and a teaching artist

- Explored the strategic framework and research results presented by TDC (consulting group) in 2016.
- Determined areas of focus for growth as follows:

Strategic Framework:

- Safety, security, code of conduct
- Community of Teaching Artists
- Building
- Opportunities
- Beyond Study

Next Deep Steps:

- Investment in Teaching Artists
- Community Card → **longer-term goal**
- External Partnerships
- Internal Investments
 - Communications
 - Capital Building

MEETING #2

Attended by some staff members, board members, work-study volunteers, and teaching artists

- Guiding question: What binds us together as a community? Because we recognize the broad spectrum of dance, the question becomes what is our binding principle that unites us.
- Some of the questions and issues that arose:
 - Strengthening and defining the relationship between the DC and teaching artists
 - **Frequent communication with TAs; surveys to learn if there are desired changes around specific aspects of relationship**
 - Communication strategies to our own community and to the public: what works? How has this evolved?
 - How to support the educational, creative, and performative activities that happen here?
 - How to invest in the relationships between all those who interact here?
 - **Continued engagement of staff, board members, and work-studies**
 - How to continue to make our space not only accessible to all, but also welcoming to all?
 - **Ongoing conversation with Building Committee (for physical space) and with community, staff, and board (for emotional/social space)**

MEETING #3

Attended by some staff members, board members, and a teaching artist; facilitated by board member Jim Stiles

- Guiding question: What will it take to create physical and emotional spaces in this building that allow each member of our diverse community to be free to exercise their own gifts, and deepen the conversations and joy in movement?
- The attendees answered this question in a written conversation on poster paper.
- Why do people come here/why are WE here? How to help people feel they belong?
- Many answers: teaching-artist-driven initiatives, introducing yourself in class, work-studies becoming “dance concierges,” a Dance Complex 101 “course,” and much more
- Gathering data would help us better know our community (with TAs’ help?)
- Physical building changes could also support this work
 - **Physical plant issues are tracked regularly with new reporting system at front desk, and by staff; these concerns are also brought to the Building Committee.**