

For Immediate Release
Center for the Arts in Crested Butte
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Center for the Arts Crested Butte Finds a Dance Partner

The Center for the Arts Crested Butte and the Crested Butte Dance Collective have joined together in a new partnership that promises the community a continuing world of exposure and opportunity in this expressive body art form.

The newly formed Crested Butte Dance Collective (CBDC) seeks to inspire self-discovery, create interpersonal connections and build community through movement and dance through education, performance, community partnerships and professional development. The 100% volunteer fueled organization was founded by K.T. Folz, Adge Marziano and Joan Grant and is supported with over 70 volunteers.

“When we have access to dance and can share in that dance with our community, it allows us to be connected to ourselves and to each other through a universal language and culture,” explains co-founder KT Folz of her passion to provide dance opportunities to the community.

The CBDC's commitment to make dance available to everyone, regardless of social or economic status, age, gender, or artistic or cultural background, fits perfectly into the Center for the Art's own values and mission. For 26 years the Center has worked to make art available to all in order to educate, inspire, enrich and expand an individual's experience. Throughout its history the Center has featured programming in live music, theatre, comedy and visual arts. Dance has always been an important part of these diverse offerings as well.

Education, community outreach and inclusiveness are at the core of both organizations. For the Center, partnering with the CBDC fulfills a goal of helping a community program to grow. As the Center looks to its upcoming facility expansion, being able to provide improved rehearsal space for an organization such as the CBDC has always been a driving force for the plan.

“The Center's board and staff are pleased to join forces with such an outstanding group like the Dance Collective. We are excited to assist them in growing their programs and performances that inspire artistic expression for so many people in our community,” says Jenny Birnie, Executive Director for the Center.

In the partnership, the Center is the fiscal sponsor of the CBDC. As such, the Center is responsible for community outreach, fundraising, marketing, grant writing, sponsorship building, ticket sales and budget maintenance. The CBDC is responsible for providing the community with new dance modalities with corresponding instructors; and creating choreography, conducting rehearsals, and managing technical requirements for productions. Both entities will collaborate on dance program development. While the Center is in charge of managing the funds of the CBDC, these accounts will be kept separately so that those wishing to donate to the CBDC may do so through the Center.

The community will be most familiar with the CBDC's Move the Butte performance which has sold out multiple showings for two years in a row. In addition to this annual performance, the CBDC

in their partnership with the Center, plans to provide continuous and increased education opportunities for creativity, self-expression and community involvement through dance classes, production experience, musical accompaniment, and overall participation in performance arts. With this outreach, the two organizations foresee an enhanced image and projection of Crested Butte as a performing artistic community as well as serving as an additional economic stimulus for the Gunnison Valley. Currently the styles of dance found through the CBDC include modern / contemporary, tap, jazz, aerial dance arts, African dance, hip hop, NIA, dance fusion, and Latin partner dance.

“Jenny and the Center for the Arts board are giving the Dance Collective an opportunity of a lifetime,” says KT, “Their support will allow us to grow much faster and gives us an opportunity to focus on the creative aspects of dance. We are grateful for this chance they are giving us and plan to make them proud.”