



Holman Family Amphitheatre

# Impact Report

September 2019–August 2021





# Dear Friends

2020 was a year like no other. For COCA, we had planned for a year of celebratory culminations and bright new beginnings. It would be the year we completed the *Create Our Future Campaign*, finished construction and opened the doors on our 52,000-square-foot expansion, and launched new programs, partnerships, and community engagements. We were prepared, ready to grow and serve the community in profound new ways.

And then, it became a year marked by unprecedented new challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic became a global health crisis, taking millions of lives; sectors of our economy came crashing behind it with forced shutdowns and job losses; schools and businesses were turned upside down and found new ways of working remotely; and the Black Lives Matter movement was once again propelled to the forefront as more Black lives were taken at the hands of police. It was truly unfathomable.

While the pandemic brought so much loss that we won't soon forget, I'm also holding space to reflect on all we gained and have to be grateful for in our COCA community and beyond.

We completed construction and our capital campaign

We leaned on COCA's resilient, creative, adaptive nature and found new ways of working, learning, and connecting with each other

We dug deep in support of COCA's mission. Supporters stepped up to provide critical funding to get us through, and our staff and faculty found new ways to serve our students and audiences

We reaffirmed our conviction and intentions to advance COCA's racial equity work

We found new ways to create art and tell stories

As a mission-driven organization, we have been reflecting on what this moment calls us to do. Let's use this as a time to grow together—to celebrate our differences and our shared humanity, and to confront hard truths.

On behalf of our Board and Staff, I want to offer my sincere gratitude to our entire COCA family—our students, audiences, teaching artists, donors, community partners, cheerleaders, and advocates. Thank you for inspiring us and standing with us. We hope you'll all join us as co-creators of the path forward for COCA and St. Louis.

Sincerely,

*Kelly Pollock*

Kelly Pollock, Executive Director

# We value...

The creative potential of everyone and the transformative power of the arts to change lives | Both the artistic process and the artistic product | Diversity and serving as a bridge to connect people | Inclusiveness and removing barriers to make the arts accessible | Collaboration | Innovation and delivering thought-provoking, relevant programs and experiences to the communities we serve | The people who work and volunteer to support our mission | Our unique St. Louis home and the community that is created when people learn together through the arts

Cover: COCA's Ballet and Contemporary Dance Intensive was able to take full advantage of the Ferring East Wing's spaces for the 2021 session. Twenty-one students took part in the dance department's summer staple from June 6–17, 2021. Guest artists included Ashley Boudier, Principal Dancer, New York City Ballet; Matthew Dibble, Dancer, Twyla Tharp Dance; Stephen Rooks, Chair of Dance and Resident Choreographer, Vassar College; Tommie-Waheed Evans, Founder and Dancer, waheedworks.

Inside Cover: The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges across the world, but COCA committed to ensuring students and campers continued to have access to quality arts programming. Using services such as Zoom, classes and camps continued virtually and further proved that creativity can't be quarantined.

## 2019–2021 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

**President (FY20)**  
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**President (FY21)**  
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Rhonda Adams  
Hunter Brown  
Bill Carson\*  
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Shereen Fischer  
Carolyn Gold

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Cheryl Holman  
Cynthia Kohlbray  
Kory Mathews\*\*  
Karey Witty

Board members served both FY20 & FY21 terms unless otherwise noted.  
\*FY20 term  
\*\*FY21 term



# COCApresents

COCApresents, COCA's signature performance season, brings thought-provoking programming for multigenerational audiences to the St. Louis community with a selection of traditional audience favorites and new work from local, national, and student artists. COCA's performances transform the way we think about the world around us.

## 2019–2020 Productions

### **Four Little Girls: Birmingham 1963**

October 16–27, 2019

### **Joyful**

December 4–5, 2019

### **Winter Rep: A Movement in Color**

December 12–15, 2019

### **COCAwrites: Plays on Zoom**

## 2020–2021 Productions

### **Suffer the Children**

Virtual Production, October 29, 2020

### **Joyful**

Virtual Production, November 19, 2020

### **Manual Cinema: Christmas Carol**

Virtual Production, December 4–6, 2020

### **Winter Improv Troupe Performance**

Virtual Production, December 11, 2020

### **Dance Season Preview**

Streamed Performance, February 7, 2021

### **COCAwrites Festival**

Virtual Performance, March 27–28, 2021

### **Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, A Dance Company**

A Dance Company, In-person and Streamed Performances, April 16–18, 2021

### **TRLumphant**

In-person and Streamed Performances, May 6–9, 2021

### **Harmonious**

In-person and Streamed Performances, May 13–14, 2021

### **Spring Improv Troupe Performance**

In-person and Streamed Performances, May 16, 2021

### **Billy Elliot**

In-person Performance, July 30–August 1, 2021

In Spring 2021, COCA's three dance companies showcased works created by world-class artists, including Ronald K. Brown, Nicholas Rose, and Anthony "Redd" Williams. *TRLumphant* performances highlighted 18 dance pieces across three different programs, including *Minus 16*, a special piece created by renowned Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin.



*Suffer the Children*, a play by Mariah Richardson and directed by Jacqueline Thompson with Associate Director Gaby Rodriguez, was the headliner for the inaugural COCAwrites Festival, a showcase of new work created by a multigenerational team of St. Louis theatre professionals and COCA students for multigenerational audiences. The play looked at issues of race, white supremacy, gun violence, and immigration, highlighting the real fears that children, and adults, face today. The play asked St. Louis audiences to listen to the words and seek restoration through the ideas of our young people.

# SPONSORS

## 2019–2020

Aetna  
Churchill School  
Community School  
Confluence Academy  
Cor Jesu Academy  
Crossroads College Preparatory School  
John Burroughs School  
Lee Bohm  
Lion's Choice  
Mary Institute & Country Day School  
Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan  
Charitable Foundation

Mary Strauss  
Miriam School  
Missouri Arts Council  
Nerinx Hall High School  
The Siteman Family Charitable Fund  
The Gatesworth  
Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill  
Wells Fargo Advisors  
Whitfield School

## 2020–2021

Berges Family Foundation  
Jewish Federation of St. Louis  
Lee Bohm  
Mary Ranken Jordan and Ettie A. Jordan  
Charitable Foundation  
Mary Strauss

McCormack Baron Salazar  
Missouri Arts Council  
Missouri Humanities Council  
Staenberg Family Foundation  
The Hearst Foundation, Inc.





# Pre-Professional Division

Students of all backgrounds look to COCA's Pre-Professional Division (PPD) for the training and inspiration they need to pursue their passion for the arts. COCA's Dance Program and Theatre Artist Program prepare young artists to discover and achieve more than they've ever imagined.

From training with professional guest artists and unforgettable performance opportunities to individualized career guidance, we offer a nurturing path for every student based on their own aspirations, ideas, and perspectives.

## Artistic Directors

Antonio Douthit-Boyd  
Ballet Eclectica

Kirven Douthit-Boyd  
COCA Dance

Colin Healy  
COCA Vocal Company

Ed Reggi  
Improv Troupe

Anthony "Redd" Williams  
COCA Hip-Hop Crew

Jennifer Wintzer  
Theatre

## Sponsors

**2019–2020**  
Arts and Education Council  
Bayer  
E. Reuben & Gladys Flora  
Grant Charitable Trust  
ESCO Technologies  
Foundation  
John Allan Love Foundation  
Margot McMahon Monser  
& Ed Monser  
Nordstrom Cares  
Regions Bank  
The Saigh Foundation  
The Strive Fund  
Twinkle Toes Foundation

**2020–2021**  
Bayer  
Emerson  
ESCO Technologies  
Foundation  
John Allan Love Foundation  
The Hearst Foundation, Inc.  
The Strive Fund  
Twinkle Toes Foundation

Pre-Professional Division students performed for live audiences for the first time in more than a year for *TRLumphant*, *Harmonious*, and *Spring Improv Troupe* in Spring 2021. COCA's dance and theatre artist seniors were celebrated during these productions.

In October 2019, COCA and The Black Rep collaborated for a youth production of *Four Little Girls: Birmingham 1963* by Christina Ham. Through story and song, the play shined a light on four young girls' dreams, their times with family and friends, and the trials and tribulations they faced as children living in a divided and segregationist city. The production featured 20 student artists plus three design-tech apprentices for eight sold-out performances.





# Dance Program

The Dance Program is designed for students, who have aspirations for a professional career in dance as well as for students who want an intensive style of conservatory training. Training is offered within three areas of study: Classical & Contemporary Ballet, Modern & Contemporary Dance, and Hip-Hop & Commercial Dance.

**Ballet Eclectica** pulls from the best of classical and contemporary ballet to build a repertoire fit for our most talented ballet students.

**COCAdance** is an advanced student dance company comprised of COCA's most versatile young artists.

**COCA Hip-Hop Crew** consists of students as well as select adult hip-hop performers from the St. Louis region who work in a wide variety of hip-hop styles.

Pre-Professional Division students participated in a March 2020 residency with internationally renowned choreographer, and Dance St. Louis Artistic Director, Michael Uthoff.

Ten seniors graduated from COCA's Dance Program in 2020. Students went on to attend Boston Conservatory, University of the Arts, and New York University to name a few. In 2021, eight seniors (pictured below) graduated and have gone on to attend The Juilliard School, The Ailey School/Fordham University, and Point Park University, among others.



In 2020, two seniors graduated from COCA's Theatre Artist Program and went on to attend Columbia College Chicago and Washington University in St. Louis. Four seniors (pictured here) graduated in 2021 and continued their studies at University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, Southeast Missouri State, and Chicago College of Performing Arts.



COCA student performers, local apprentice actors, and regional professional performers came together under the direction of Nancy Bell for COCA's 2021 Summer Musical, *Billy Elliot*. This uplifting and energetic theatre experience was the first large-scale production in the new Catherine B. Berges Theatre.

# Theatre Artist Program

Launched in Fall 2020, the Theatre Artist Program is designed for students who want rigorous training to prepare them for a professional career in theatre as well as for students who want an intensive style of conservatory training. COCA offers three tracks of study taught by leading theatre artists: Musical Theatre, Design-Tech, and Stage & Screen.

**Improv Troupe** students practice long-form and short-form improvisation, sketch comedy, and activities that involve audience participation.

**Vocal Company** is designed for students to expand their vocal technique and repertoire, and dive deeply into acting for musical theatre.

**COCAwrites** students workshop new plays and musicals written by professional composers and playwrights.



# Classes & Camps



"The camps were WONDERFUL. The teachers kept the kids engaged the whole time, the projects were outstanding, and the kids felt a real sense of community."

St. Louisans of all ages and skill levels discover their creative potential in COCA classes and camps. We emphasize the student-teacher relationship, and our educational approach is rooted in the Studio Habits of Mind framework. Our goal is to inspire students to develop not only skills in the arts, but also gain access to the artistic process and new ways of thinking.

In Spring 2020, COCA quickly shifted all classes to a virtual platform and utilized Zoom to provide quality arts experiences for our students. COCA launched COCAcamps@HOME in Summer 2020 to bring our popular Summer Arts Camps to our campers' homes via Zoom.

After being closed for 17 weeks, COCA reopened the doors for an abbreviated summer class session with limited capacity classes.

**ACCPAS** ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY & PRECOLLEGIATE ARTS SCHOOLS

COCA is one of 18 organizations to be nationally accredited through the Accrediting Commission for Community and Pre-Collegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS).

COCA's classes for the 2020–2021 year were designed as a hybrid model to be able to pivot between in-person and virtual experiences, as needed based on COVID-19 conditions.

August 7–8, 2021 brought the first Youth Musical in COCA's Catherine B. Berges Theatre. Hairspray, JR. featured campers, ages 12–16 for an adaptation of the Tony Award-winning musical. With a fun, recognizable score, a relevant message, and energetic production numbers, students put together a fully produced show in three weeks.

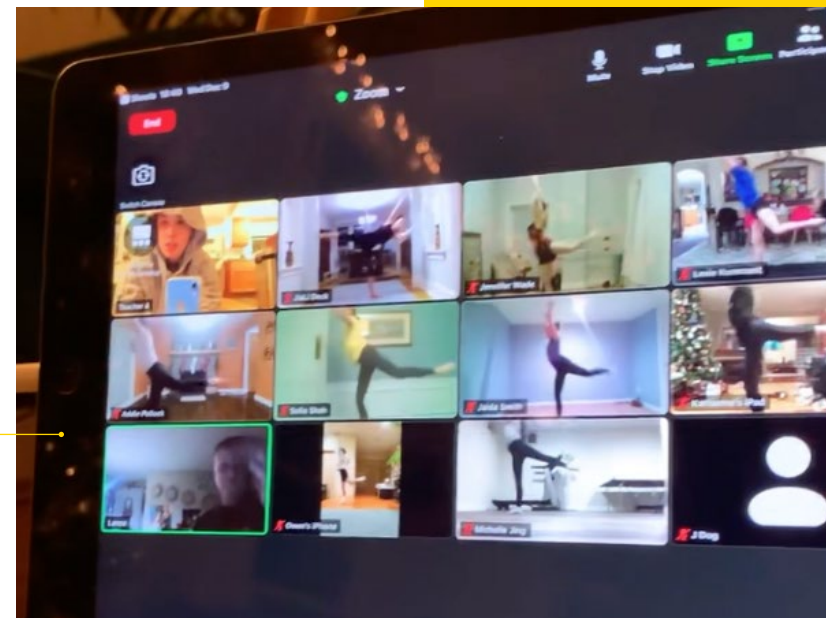
## SPONSORS

### 2019–2020

Blueprint 4 Summer  
Dierbergs Markets, Inc.  
Lion's Choice  
Mercy  
Neiman Marcus

### 2020–2021

Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust  
Blueprint 4 Summer  
Delta Dental  
Dierbergs Markets, Inc.  
Lion's Choice  
Mercy



COCA welcomed in-person campers for 2021 Summer Arts Camps, for more than 4,100 camp enrollments over 12 weeks. A very special camper joined COCA's Summer Arts Camps through a partnership with Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas. This camper's wish was to learn and create art. We were honored to be a part of granting this wish!





# Millstone Gallery

COCA's Millstone Gallery presents timely, relevant exhibitions from emerging and established artists. Exhibitions welcome the community to share and experience contemporary art, gain a greater understanding of the artistic process, and engage in meaningful dialogue. The Millstone Gallery is free and open to the public.

## 2019–2020 Exhibitions

*Adornment*  
Curated by Yvonne Osei  
September 20–December 15, 2019

## 2019–2020 Featured Artists

Seth Aryee  
Basil Kincaid  
Yowshein Kuo  
Yolanda Newson  
Yvonne Osei

## 2020–2021 Exhibitions

*Common Ground*  
October 1–November 15, 2020

## PLACES

Curated by Nancy Newman Rice  
February 9–April 12, 2021

## 2020–2021 Featured Artists

Olaniyi Akindiya  
Azhad Bogosian  
Sandra Marchewa

Mark Oakely  
Roxanne Phillips  
Libby Reuter  
Luanne Rimel  
Josh Rowan  
Ann Shuck  
Patrick Shuck  
Jeffrey Vaughn  
Mark Weber  
Matt Weber  
Ken Worley  
Yingxue Zuo



Members of the community were invited to engage with *Common Ground*, a participatory installation designed and created by international artist Olaniyi R. Akindiya. *Common Ground* captured the themes of community, gratitude, the connectivity of the arts, and the importance of inclusive and welcoming shared spaces.



*Adornment* explored the artist, the creative process, and the art with a focus on the human form—its presence, stature, functionality, capabilities, expression, and dynamism. Five multidisciplinary artists were exhibited and the opening featured a collaboration with Total Image Barbershop in University City to create a participatory piece titled “The Gallery as Barbershop” by artist and curator Yvonne Osei.

## SPONSORS

### 2019–2021

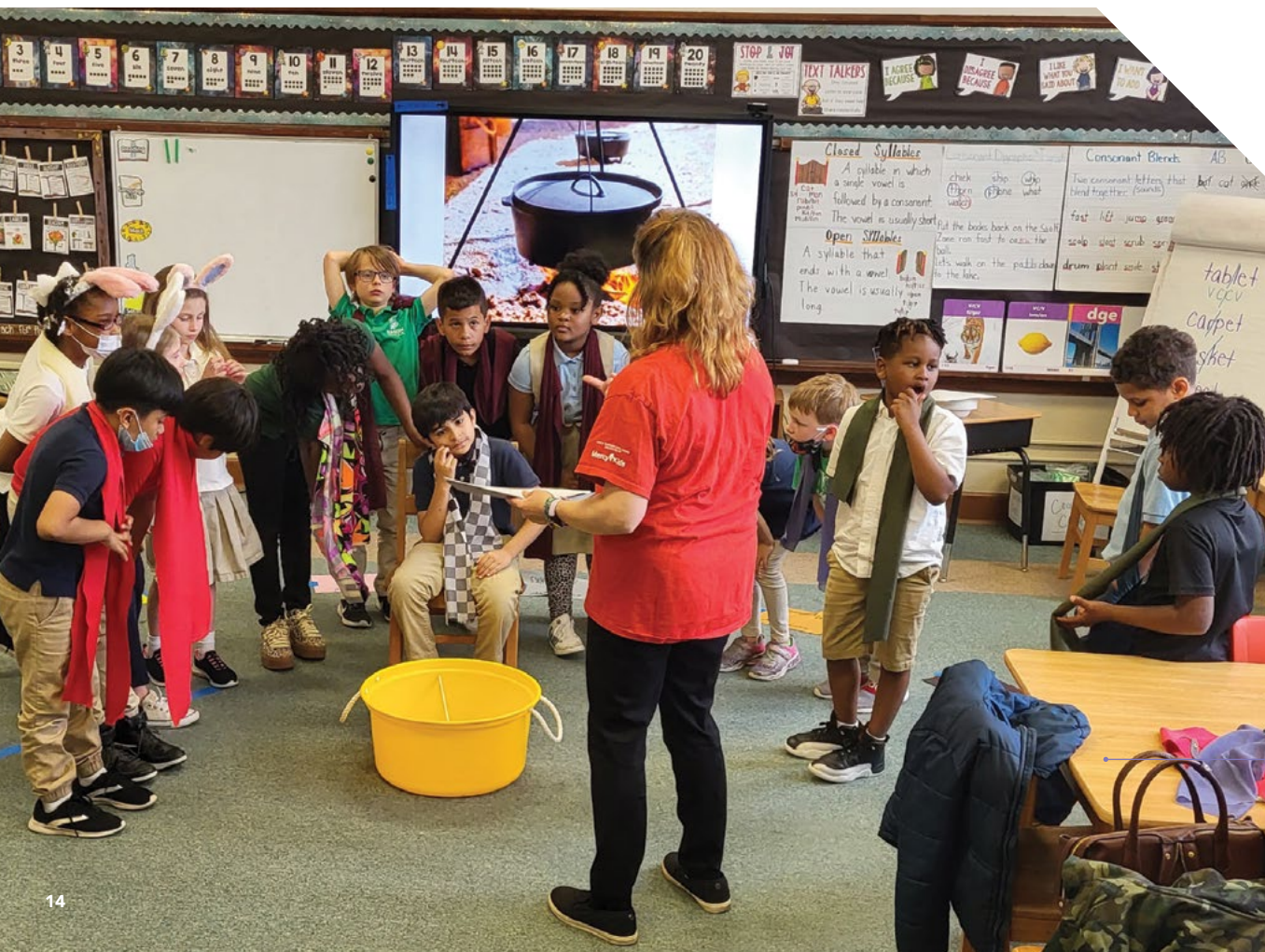
The Arthur and Helen Baer Charitable Foundation  
The Millstone Foundation  
Missouri Arts Council



# COCAedu

Since 1992, COCAedu has been a nationally recognized model of excellence for arts education, providing arts programming to thousands of students and dedicated educators.

Nearly 80 percent of COCAedu's planned residencies, classes, and professional development for FY 2019–2020 were executed prior to the start of the pandemic. COCAedu's remaining school-facing work moved to virtual platforms in Spring 2020.



## Arts Integration

COCAedu participated in the inaugural STEMSTL Community of Practice, whose purpose is to bring together STEAM programs to explore the intersection of quality and anti-racism with the goal of improving this programming for youth in the St. Louis region.

COCA Teaching Artist Susan Kopp and second grade students from Mason Elementary acted out the story of *Quill Soup*, a folktale from South Africa. This collaboration was part of an annual schoolwide Project-Based Learning unit.



Fourth grade students at Flynn Park Elementary participated in a design challenge to create a topographical map. This Design-Thinking residency was part of COCA's Partners in Education collaboration with the School District of University City through the Kennedy Center.

## Professional Development

The annual Summer Institute for Arts Integration was shifted to brief, responsive, and differentiated virtual workshops in Summer 2020 to prepare educators for teaching K–12 virtually. In November 2020, COCAedu hosted a virtual Autumn Institute for Arts Integration, complete with curbside Create Crates for participants.

COCAedu earned second place in the Saul Zaentz Innovation Challenge for Early Childhood Education through Harvard's Graduate School of Education and launched their pilot idea for Gradual Release Model in Professional Development with Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Center in University City.



Third grade students at The Soulard School rehearsed a performance piece that was filmed and presented at The Sheldon during Stars and Clovers, an annual event for the school. The residency was a collaboration between The Soulard School's third grade teaching team and COCA Teaching Artist Roxane McWilliams with the goal of engaging students in the design and performance of a multidisciplinary interpretation/ expression of the classroom code.

## Arts Learning

School partnerships were maintained through a mixture of virtual programming, classroom teacher coaching, and communication/needs assessments during a hibernation period for in-person, school-based work. This included pivoting residency work at Mason Elementary to virtually support classroom teachers during their spring Project-Based Learning units.

In collaboration with The Sheldon, COCAedu livestreamed *Sounds of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* as a virtual field trip for 3rd graders in the School District of University City.

## SPONSORS

### 2019–2020

Blues for Kids  
Boeing  
Centene Charitable Foundation  
Cigna  
Emerson  
Eveland Family Foundation  
Harvard University  
Missouri Arts Council  
Nora Roberts Foundation  
Norman J. Stupp Foundation  
Regions Bank  
U.S. Bank Foundation

### 2020–2021

Blues for Kids  
Boeing  
Centene Charitable Foundation  
Emerson  
Employees Community Fund of  
Boeing St. Louis  
Missouri Arts Council  
Nora Roberts Foundation



# COCAbiz

COCAbiz, the business training division of COCA, provides immersive arts-based training, programming, and consulting for professionals. The COCAbiz mission is to build a more creative, engaged, and effective workforce by delivering innovative workshops and events that employ authentic arts teaching and achieve business results.

COCAbiz launched virtual experiential workshops, expanding our reach across the country—and the world, with international participants! COCA saw an increase in participation in arts-based training by nonprofits, community organizations, and education partners.

COCAbiz received a Buckingham Pillar Grant from Buckingham Strategic Wealth to research and develop *Acting with Empathy*, a new workshop and sequel to COCA's popular *Acting with Awareness*, in 2019.

COCAbiz was invited to deliver *Acting with Empathy* at the National Guild for Community Arts Education's 2021 *Groundwork: Healing Within Community Arts Education* gathering.



In Spring 2021, COCAbiz's first Leading Ladies: Women in Leadership Workshop was presented by COCAbiz Teaching Artist Lee Anne Mathews. Designed to empower women to be confident leaders, Leading Ladies Workshops bring activities from the world of theatre to teach women how to use their voice, body language, and intentions to help shape people's perceptions of them.

## bizSESSION

From Courtroom to Couture: Designing an Unexpected Career  
**Walé Oyéjidé**  
 Designer, Filmmaker, Photographer, Writer, & Speaker  
 October 3, 2019

## bizLAB

Communicating Your Concept: Curating Creative Meaning Through Design  
**Yvonne Osei**  
 COCA Curator-in-Residence  
 October 3, 2019

## Virtual Panel

Corporate Partner Creative Confluence: Moving St. Louis Forward  
**Bill Bradley**  
 Chief Marketing & Communications Officer at Schnucks Markets  
**Lee Broughton**  
 STLMade  
**Dennis Moore**  
 Chief Revenue Officer at St. Louis City SC  
**Kelly Pollock**  
 Executive Director at COCA  
**Will Bonfiglio**  
 Director of COCAbiz  
 November 18, 2020

## Leading Ladies Series

Women in Leadership Workshop  
 April 6, 2021

## FY20 & FY21 Partners

TEDxStLouis  
 FOCUS St. Louis  
 U.S. Bancorp  
 St. Louis Community Foundation  
 Girls In The Know  
 Community School  
 Starkloff Disability Institute  
 Edward Jones  
 SixThirty  
 Capes Sokol  
 Ameren  
 BJC HealthCare  
 University City High School

Barnes-Jewish Hospital  
 Centene  
 Rung for Women  
 Bayer  
 Saint Louis University  
 Chaifetz School of Business  
 Commerce Bank  
 Ranken Jordan Pediatric  
 Bridge Hospital  
 Washington University  
 in St. Louis  
 AIM Clinics  
 The SoulFisher Ministries

Susan Sherman, Co-Founder of The Saint Louis Fashion Fund; Yvonne Osei, COCA Curator-in-Residence; and Will Bonfiglio, Director of COCAbiz, joined bizSESSION speaker Walé Oyéjidé for a panel discussion following his presentation, *From Courtroom to Couture: Designing an Unexpected Career*. Panelists discussed curating creative meaning through design and embracing creativity and innovation in business.



## SPONSORS

### 2019–2020

Buckingham Wealth Strategies  
 Edward Jones  
 Saint Louis Fashion Fund

### 2020–2021

Buckingham Wealth Strategies  
 Edward Jones



# Community Connections

## 2021 Building St. Louis Award

COCA's expanded Ferring East Wing was awarded a 2021 Building St. Louis Award by the St. Louis Business Journal for the category of public/private projects more than \$10 million. The St. Louis Business Journal's annual Building St. Louis Awards honor the commercial real estate projects that made the biggest impact in the St. Louis region. Christner + Axi:Ome collaborated on the multi-phase project that roughly doubled COCA's footprint through a renovation and 52,000-square-foot expansion that honors the historic modernist building while enabling the growth of COCA's programs.

## 2021 St. Louis Arts Awards

Co-Artistic Directors of Dance Antonio Douthit-Boyd and Kirven Douthit-Boyd were honored for Excellence in the Arts at the 2021 St. Louis Arts Awards for supporting the next generation of dancers and sharing their talents with other organizations in the community. The St. Louis Arts Awards recognizes the artists, educators, philanthropists, corporate citizens, and arts organizations that make St. Louis vibrant.

## BroadwayWorld Award Winners

The BroadwayWorld Regional Awards are the largest theatre audience awards, with over 100 cities worldwide participating and, for the first time, included streaming productions for audience voting. Two productions from the 2020–2021 COCApresents season were selected as 2021 BroadwayWorld St. Louis Award Winners. *Billy Elliot* received recognition for Best Musical, and *Suffer the Children* earned Best Direction of a Stream.

## ABT Across America

Presented in partnership with COCA, Susan Sherman, and St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, American Ballet Theatre (ABT) brought 20 acclaimed artists to St. Louis for two free performances as part of the company's eight city tour, *ABT Across America*, in July 2021.

ABT soloist Catherine Hurlin and corps de ballet member Sung Woo Han perform Act III Pas de Deux from *Don Quixote* on Wednesday, July 14, 2021.



ABT corps de ballet member, Melvin Lawovi, led a free master class for Intermediate-level students at COCA. A second master class was held for Advanced-level dancers with corps de ballet member Betsy McBride. Additionally, one master class took place at The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis: North Grand Club for a closed group of young students enrolled in that program.

Shakespeare Glen in Forest Park was the site ABT Across America performances. COCA friends, students, and families came out to see the show under the stars.



Kirven and Antonio Douthit-Boyd were presented the 2021 St. Louis Arts Award for Excellence in Arts by former Arts and Education Council Board Chair Caren Vredenburg (left) and Arts and Education Council President and CEO Cynthia A. Prost. Photo by Lance Omar Thurman.





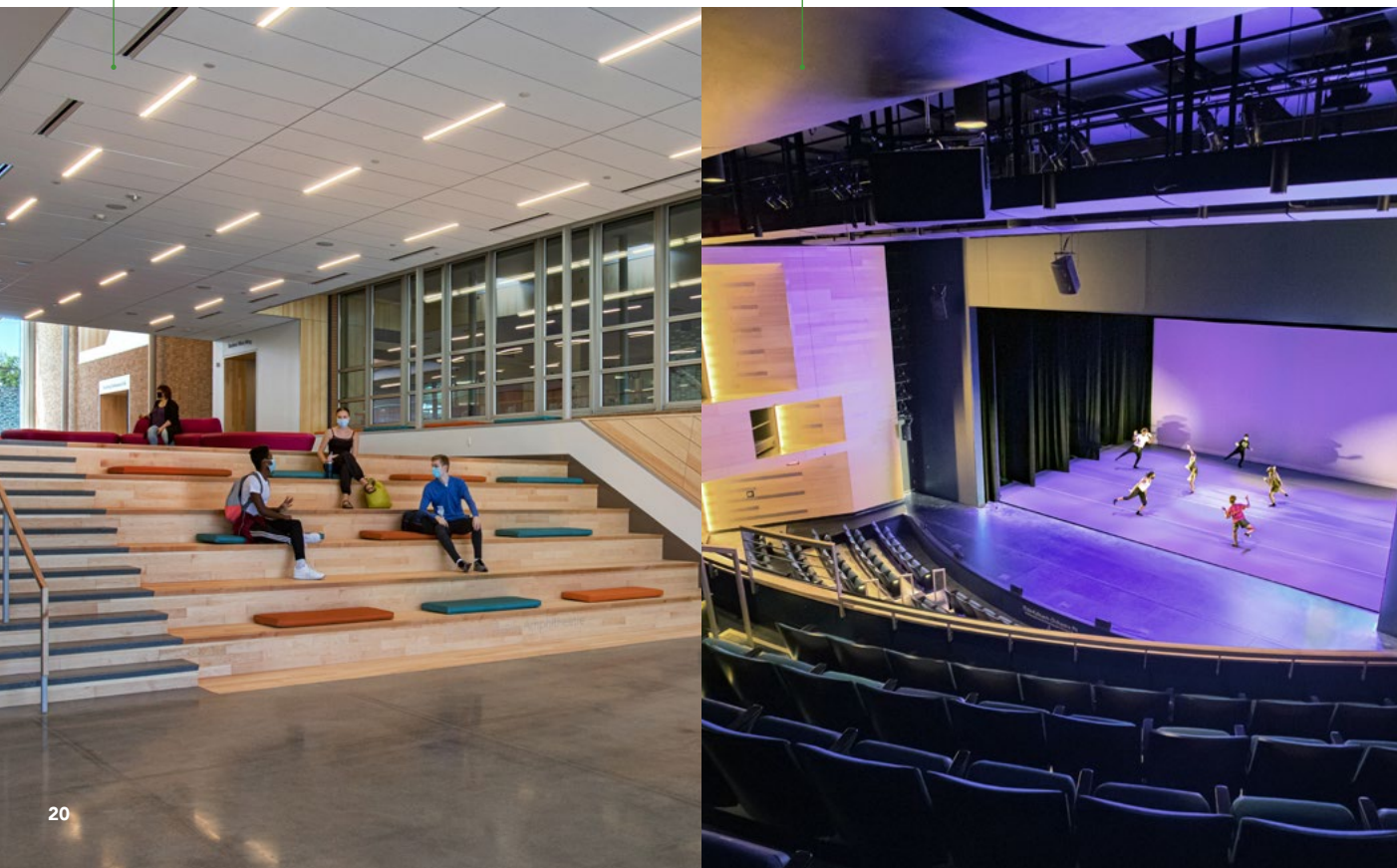
# Our Future. Created.

Art connects us, expands our worldview, informs our emotions, and helps us tell our collective story. If we can imagine the beautiful world we want and need, then we can create it. This is the enduring gift of artistic expression. In times of progress and transition, art leads the way.

Upon entering the COCA building, the Holman Family Amphitheatre greets visitors with a fun pop of color, while acting as a flexible space for students to relax in between classes or wait to be picked up.

The state-of-the-art, 450-seat Catherine B. Berges Theatre meets COCA's growing performance needs as well as expands opportunities to host local and visiting artists. The theatre features two-tier seating, a spacious stage, and a generous technical inventory.

The Centene Commons provides a new community space to create a more hospitable and welcoming second home for COCA's families and visitors.



The *Create Our Future Campaign*, a \$45 million effort to double COCA's University City campus, was completed in early 2020. The renovation of COCA's historic Erich Mendelsohn-designed building, now named the Kuehner West Wing, and the Ferring East Wing expansion have established a "house of the people," welcoming diverse, multigenerational audiences for classes, camps, exhibitions, and performances. The building is a gathering space for the whole St. Louis community.



# FLAME°

After a year apart, COCA welcomed the Richard Baron Leadership Circle for FLAME° 2021. The event celebrated the 10th anniversary of the RBLC—a milestone occasion and a special group of people. Guests had the option to join for dinner or a champagne toast before a special preview of COCA's Summer Musical production of *Billy Elliot*. Guests were treated to a post-performance reception with the *Billy Elliot* team.

COCA honored the more than 100 original RBLC members with the 2021 Ferring Award for Philanthropy. Barbara Archer, longtime COCA volunteer, supporter, and Life Member of the COCA Board, was recognized with the 2021 Newell S. "Jim" Knight Service Award for her contributions of time, expertise, network, and leadership.



Steve Knight, Barbara Archer, Kelly Pollock



COCA Alumna RhonniRose Mantilla performs



Miles Ashe, Suzanne Johnson, Kelly Pollock

Pam Mandelker, Miles Ashe, CiCi Gregory, Malik Ashe, Kelly Pollock



## Art Leads The Way: A Grand Opening Film



COCA's unveiling of the new Ferring East Wing and completion of the *Create Our Future Campaign* shifted to a virtual experience with the launch of *Art Leads The Way: A Grand Opening Film*. Friends and supporters were also invited to drive through the Edward Jones Drive to get an up-close look at COCA's expansion.

The celebration honored COCA's 2020 Award Recipients which included Kim Kuehner, Ferring Award for Philanthropy recipient; Linda & Jesse Hunter, Newell S. "Jim" Knight Service Award recipients; and Cheryl Holman, Special Recognition for *Create Our Future Campaign* Chair.

You can still enjoy *Art Leads The Way: A Grand Opening Film* to experience this one-of-a-kind virtual celebration featuring performances, an insider's guide to COCA's spaces, and more.

### Presenting Sponsors of COCA's Grand Opening



MCCORMACK  
BARON  
SALAZAR



# COCAcabana 2020

COCA staff and supporters reimagined this essential annual event, and *COCAchella* was held virtually. COCA captured the essence of the *COCAchella* theme, celebrated the arts, and shared its mission with the more than 1,700 individuals both in St. Louis and worldwide. Ticket holders received a special delivery with all the party essentials to celebrate in style, and Butler's Pantry provided dinner for VIP attendees. COCA partnered with STL Barkeep for handcrafted cocktails brought to local attendees' front doors. COCA was able to successfully pivot the event to a virtual platform in less than six weeks with the help of our event leadership, supporters, Lisa Caplan and Touchwood Creative, and our dedicated COCA Staff.

## Event Chairs

Gregory Glore & Sherry Sissac  
Abby & Michael Goldstein  
Elizabeth Mannen  
Elizabeth & Richard Nix, Jr.

## Honorary Chairs

Jane & Dave Peacock

## Alumna Chair

Erin Moore

## Presenting Sponsor



Local artist The Knuckles recorded their performance when *COCAchella* was converted to a virtual platform.



# COCAcabana 2021

*Taking It To The Streets* was COCA's first-ever hybrid COCAcabana. Participants had the option to celebrate the arts on COCA's newly expanded campus or virtually from home. Onsite attendees wore their best street-chic attire and enjoyed student performances, the live auction, and music by The LustreLights from the street outside of COCA. @Home attendees received packages delivered to their door filled with street food, specialty cocktails, decorations, and the opportunity to support the live auction.



## Event Chairs

Kristin & P.K. Johnson  
Brooke & Brian Meek  
Tedd & Justin Trabert  
Stephanie Williams & Keith Williamson

## Honorary Chair

Carolyn Gold

## Alumni Chair

Christopher Page-Sanders

## Presenting Sponsor



1. Julio Suárez, Kelly Pollock, P.K. & Kristin Johnson, Tedd & Justin Trabert, Brian & Brooke Meek, Carolyn Gold, Christopher Page-Sanders
2. Virginia Howell, Carolyn Gold, Kelly Pollock, Steph Gold
3. Reggie Van Derson, John Nickel, Elizabeth & Richard Nix, Jr.
4. Christopher & Bashir Page-Sanders
5. Jamie & Dan McClain, Joye Forrest, Bill & Tiffany Bradley
6. Will Bonfiglio & Bess Moynihan
7. Attendees enjoying the live auction outdoors on COCA's Edward Jones Drive





# Financial Data

	FY20	FY21
<b>CONTRIBUTED SUPPORT</b>		
Contributions - Operating	1,615,730	3,941,732
Federal CARES Act		2,480,974
Contributions - <i>Create Our Future</i>	1,498,586	295,500
Special Events ( <i>before expenses</i> )	1,295,007	1,217,831
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>4,409,323</b>	<b>7,936,037</b>
<b>EARNED REVENUE</b>		
Program Activities	1,306,566	1,596,062
Investment Income	611,215	1,476,481
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,917,781</b>	<b>3,072,543</b>
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>6,327,104</b>	<b>11,008,580</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Programs	3,664,763	5,274,905
Management & General	977,741	1,586,851
Fundraising		
Fundraising Events	211,386	405,931
<i>Create Our Future Campaign</i>	515,979	24,450
Development	782,856	719,906
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>6,152,725</b>	<b>8,012,043</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>174,379</b>	<b>2,996,537</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS OF AUGUST 31</b>		
Cash & Equivalents	3,814,734	4,989,024
Investments	5,634,975	6,830,057
Receivables	9,605,554	7,720,127
Fixed Assets	34,694,835	33,698,218
Note Receivable	10,498,869	10,498,869
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>64,248,967</b>	<b>63,736,295</b>
Accounts Payable & Deferred Revenue	3,839,663	2,715,332
Long-term Debt	24,031,890	21,820,422
Payroll Protection Loan	741,800	568,390
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>28,613,353</b>	<b>25,104,144</b>
Net Assets: Unrestricted	219,993	2,315,487
Temporarily Restricted	30,561,463	29,970,300
Permanently Restricted	5,294,144	6,346,364
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>35,635,614</b>	<b>38,632,151</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>64,248,967</b>	<b>63,736,295</b>

## SOURCES OF OPERATING INCOME

70% Contributed Support

50% Donations\*

Operating

20% Special Event

COCACabana

30% Earned Revenue

20% Program Activities (fees/tickets)

10% Investment Income

## USES OF OPERATING INCOME

60% Programs

16% Management & General

24% Fundraising

## SOURCES OF OPERATING INCOME

72% Contributed Support

61% Donations\*

Operating

11% Special Event

COCACabana

28% Earned Revenue

15% Program Activities (fees/tickets)

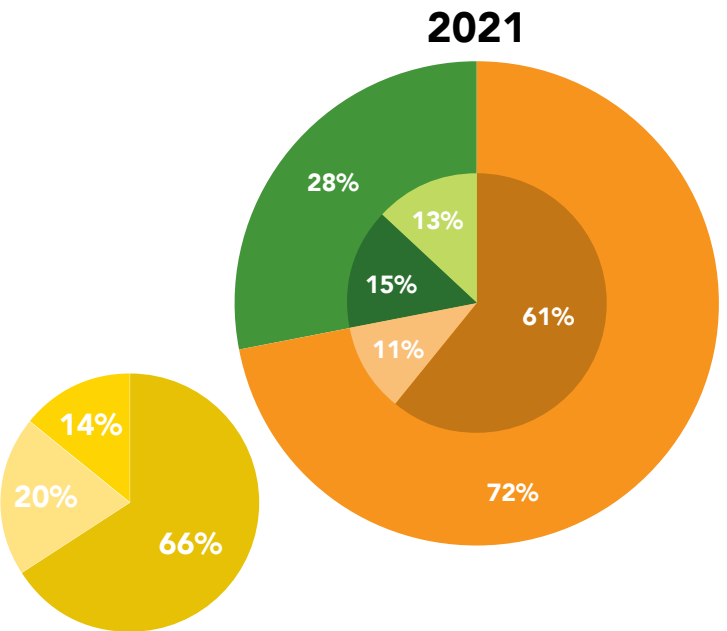
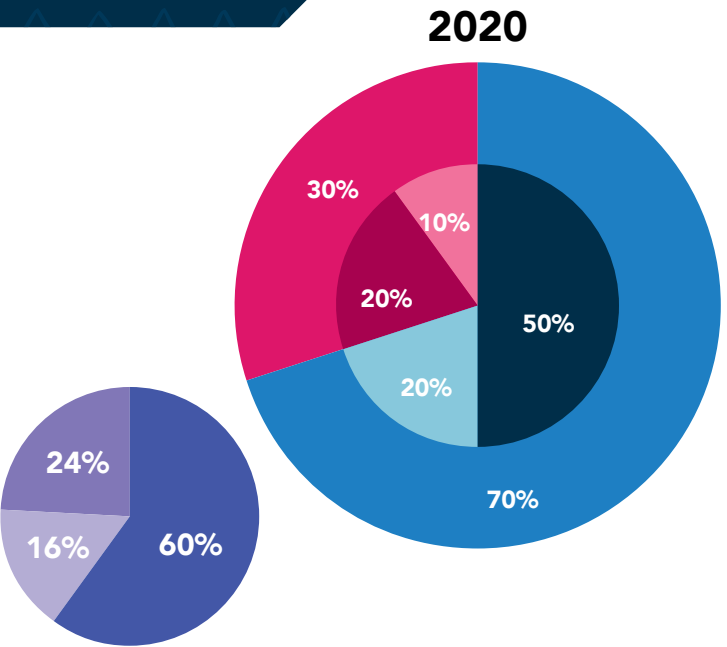
13% Investment Income

## USES OF OPERATING INCOME

66% Programs

20% Management & General

14% Fundraising



\*Donations from Individuals, Foundations, Companies & Public Agencies

# 2019–2020

50,000 people served by

232

faculty members,

28

full-time staff members,

49

part-time staff members,

41 board members,

157 committee members,

34

advisory board members,

28

associate board members,

& 279 volunteers.

# 2020–2021

50,000 people served by

283

faculty members,

36

full-time staff members,

63

part-time staff members,

35 board members,

107 committee members,

36

advisory board members,

26

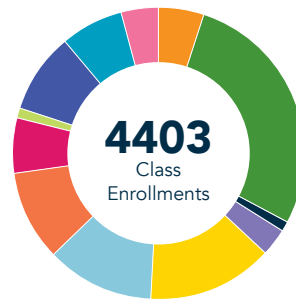
associate board members,

& 212 volunteers.



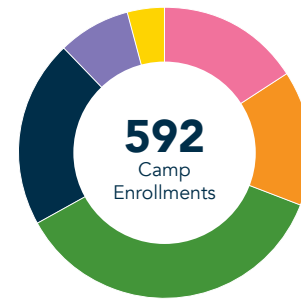
# Program Participation

2019–2020



2020 Class Enrollments

5%	Art & Design
28%	Ballet
1%	Culinary
3%	Dance Enrichment
14%	Early Childhood
12%	Hip-Hop
10%	Jazz
6%	Modern
1%	Social/Cultural
9%	Tap
7%	Theatre
4%	Voice



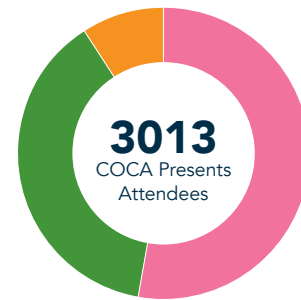
2020 Camp Enrollments

16%	3-5
15%	6-7
36%	8-10
21%	11-13
8%	14-18
4%	Teen Intensives



2020 Pre-Professional Division Members

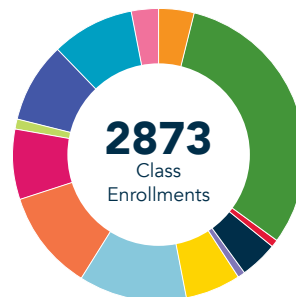
21%	Ballet Eclectica
25%	Hip-Hop Crew
18%	COCAdance
23%	Vocal Company
13%	Theatre Company



2020 COCA Presents

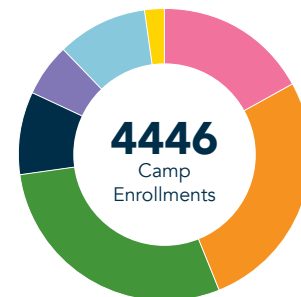
53%	Winter Rep
9%	Joyful
38%	Four Little Girls

2020–2021



2021 Class Enrollments

4%	Art & Design
31%	Ballet
1%	Circus
4%	Culinary
1%	Dance Enrichment
6%	Early Childhood
12%	Hip-Hop
11%	Jazz
8%	Modern
1%	Social/Cultural
9%	Tap
9%	Theatre
3%	Voice



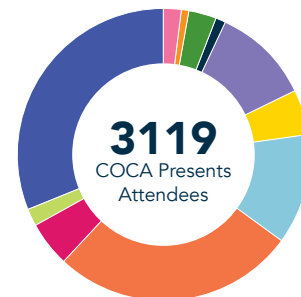
2021 Camp Enrollments

17%	3-5
27%	6-7
29%	8-10
9%	11-13
6%	14-18
10%	Before & After Care
2%	Teen Intensives



2021 Pre-Professional Division Members

15%	Ballet Eclectica
22%	Hip-Hop Crew
19%	COCAdance
16%	Vocal Company
13%	COCAwrites
15%	Improv Troupe



2021 COCA Presents

2%	Suffer the Children
1%	Joyful
3%	Manual Cinema
1%	Winter Improv
11%	Dance Season Preview
5%	COCAwrites Festival
12%	Evidence
27%	TRlumphant
5%	Harmonious
2%	Spring Improv
31%	Billy Elliot

C O C A edu  
2019–2021

72

Schools and  
Community  
Organizations  
Served

366

Educators  
Impacted

C O C A

4,340

Students  
Impacted

C O C A biz 2019–2021

1,556

TOTAL  
Attendees

83 TOTAL  
Programs



# Richard Baron Leadership Circle

## Individual Members 2019-2021

Hope & Kirill Abramov  
Rhonda & Carlton Adams  
Tina Anderson  
Barbara & Steve Archer  
Nancy Barnes-Ault & Ken Ault  
Renee & Andrew Bell  
Christina & Vince Bennett  
Elizabeth Mannen Berges & James Berges  
Amy Best  
Marion Black  
Nida & Chad Bockert  
Ramsey & Mark Botterman  
Joanne & Scot Boulton  
Lisa & Greg Boyce  
Tiffany & Bill Bradley  
Claudia Brodie & Kevin Twellman  
Chrissy & Lee Broughton  
Betsey & Hunter Brown  
Barbara Bryant  
Barb & Steve Burrows  
David Butler & Lance Licht  
Jennifer & Jonathan Campbell  
Lisa & Tom Carnahan  
Amy Drummond & Bill Carson  
Christy & Gian Cavallini  
Mary & Bob Ciapciak  
Maxine Clark & Bob Fox  
Peter Czajkowski & Juliet Chayat  
Molly & Chris Danforth  
John Davis  
Pamela Dern  
Hazel & Arnold Donald  
Kay Drey  
Kim & Tim Eberlein  
Mr. David C. Farrell  
Alison & John Ferring  
Linda & Steve Finerty  
Beth Fisher & Amit Shah  
Debbie & Art Fitzgerald  
Gretta Forrester  
Marilyn & Ambassador Sam Fox  
Lotta & Jeff Fox  
Merle Fox  
Angela & Brendan Freeman  
Wendy & Mark Gellman  
Nancy & Michael Georgen  
Sue & Norm Gilbert  
Erica & Edward Glanz  
Gregory Glore  
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Sally Johnston  
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Karen Kalish  
Michele Rose & Larry Kaplan  
Peggy & Lee Kaplan  
Lauren Weissman Kerner & Kyle Kerner  
Ms. Pauline Kim & Mr. Philip Lee  
Janet Knight  
Beverly & Steve N. Knight  
Beth Kovaly Willis  
Sarah Kramer  
Nancy & Ken Kranzberg  
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Kate & Mike Kupstas  
Gail & Carl Lang  
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Terese Messman  
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U.S. Small Business Administration  
US Bank  
US Bank Foundation  
Wells Fargo Advisors

+ Deceased

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Ameren Missouri  
American Endowment Foundation  
Anheuser-Busch Companies  
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Bellwether Foundation, Inc.  
Berges Family Foundation  
Bernoudy Foundation  
Boeing Company  
Centene Charitable Foundation  
Cigna  
Dentons  
Dula-Kobusch Charitable Trust  
Edward Jones  
Emerson  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
Hauck Charitable Foundation  
Hearst Foundation, Inc.  
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COCA extends sincere thanks to the following individuals for their generous support through gifts that underwrite performances, exhibitions, arts education programs, scholarship & outreach programs, special projects & operating expenses, not including fundraising events.

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Axelbaum  
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Paige Banet  
Richard Baron  
Beverly & Philip Barron  
Maggie & AJ Barton  
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Genevieve Berrick  
Aurelia Beye  
Camille Bianco  
June Bierman  
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Marian Bleeke  
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Becky & Lucien Fouke  
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Miriam Wilhelm & Eric Friedman  
Sandra Gainey  
Sella Garlich  
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Webster Heffern  
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Josh Renner  
Kylie Reuter  
E Richardson  
Jessica Richardson  
Mikyle Richardson

Jamar Roberts  
Kristi Rocca  
Rick Rogers  
Peter Romano  
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Jeff Ryan  
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Sheila Williams  
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Adam Wilson  
Benjamin Wilson  
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Cynthia Zhang

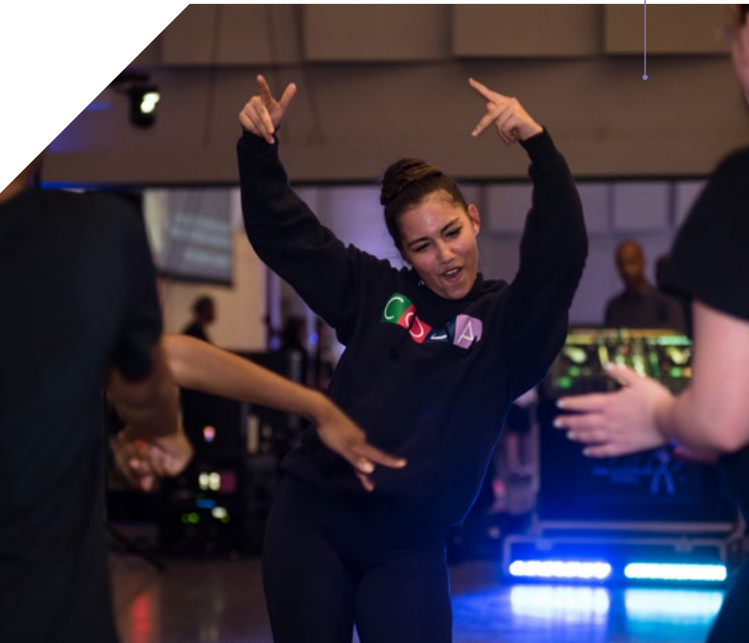
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### 2019-2021

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Buckingham Wealth Strategies  
Cardinals Care  
Commercial Van Interiors  
Dentons  
Dewitt and Caroline Van Evera Foundation  
E. Reuben & Gladys Flora Grant Charitable Trust  
Exelon Foundation  
Graybar Foundation  
Jane M. And Bruce P. Robert Charitable Foundation  
Kuhn Foundation  
Lenoir Charitable Trust  
Network for Good  
Pothoff Family Foundation  
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Lee Nolting, COCA's first dance faculty member hired in 1986 and the founder of COCAdance, was recognized at a special reception for her retirement from COCA after 35 years. COCA students, faculty, alumni, friends, and fans celebrated "Miss Lee" and the impact she's had on the lives of thousands of COCA students.





Tributes & Memorials

COCA wishes to thank the following individuals for their Tribute & Memorial gifts:

**In Honor Of Cindy Kohlbr**  
Mary Atkin

**In Memory Of Edith Feigenbaum Lubin**  
Marc & Holly Bernstein

**In Memory Of Jack Wichmann**  
June Bierman

**Berges Tribute Event**  
Michael Boyle  
Jack Lane

**In Honor Of Miles Ashe**  
Jessica Byrd

**In Honor Of Elizabeth Mannen Berges**  
Alisse Camazine & Mark Ellebrecht

**In Memory Of Patricia McGraw**  
Marcella Carey

**In Memory Of Rev. William Kester**  
Jane Declue

**In Memory Of Cathy Berges**  
Carrie Eisenbeis

**Peter J Witte Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Mark & Judith Fitterman  
Genex Consulting  
Sherri & Richard Goldman  
Margaret Guest & Frank Hamsher  
John Haug  
Carol Hemphill  
Wendy Henner  
Patricia Hussmann  
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Miriam Levin  
Latisha Love-Gregory  
Bill & Barbi Macon  
Matter Family Office  
Michael Merritt  
Lauren Morrow  
Thomas Pohlman, MD  
Steve & Bonnie Rosen  
Mr. Norman Shacat  
David & Mary Steward  
Michael Strassman  
Adam Goldstein & the Buckingham Team  
Caryl & Alan\* Sunshine  
Jack & Debbie Thomas  
Josephine & Richard Weil  
Susan & Alan Witte

**In Honor Of Davis Allen**  
Genex Consulting

**In Honor Of Mary Walsh**  
Margaret Guest & Frank Hamsher

**In Honor Of Our friends at McCormack Baron**  
John Haug

**In Memory Of Pauline E. Goetz**  
Carol Hemphill

**In Honor Of Caryl & Alan\* Sunshine**  
Wendy Henner

**In Memory Of Jack Wichmann**  
Patricia Hussmann

**In Memory Of Ginny Downey**  
Katie Jensen

**In Honor Of Suzanne Johnson**  
Bettie S. Johnson

**In Memory Of**  
Kiwanis Club of Hampton-  
Midtown Saint Louis

**In Honor Of Dwight Erdmann**  
Miriam Levin

**In Honor Of Miss Lee**  
Latisha Love-Gregory  
Lauren Morrow

**In Honor Of Susan Sherman**  
Bill & Barbi Macon

**In Honor Of Abby, Max, & Sam Hillman**  
Matter Family Office

**In Honor Of Chris Mrozewski**  
Michael Merritt

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Carmen Dence  
Maya Dietz & Chris Pacewicz  
Halle Dimar  
Carrie Dodson-Ching  
Rachel D'Souza-Siebert  
Faye & Vic Edwards  
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Annette Haller  
Stacey & Stefan Hamelin  
Amy Hamilton  
Irina Havera  
Melissa Hollie  
Maggie & John Horn  
Laura Horwitz & Guy Friedman

**In Honor Of Alan Strassman, Father**  
Michael Strassman

**In Memory Of Jack Wichmann**  
Adam Goldstein & the Buckingham Team

**In Memory Of Monica Neidorff & Virginia Haigler**  
Caryl & Alan\* Sunshine  
**In Honor Of Charles Dill**  
Jack & Debbie Thomas

**In Honor Of Lee Nolting**  
Josephine & Richard Weil

**In Honor Of Alan Sunshine\* Birthday**  
Tom & Cindy Woolsey

**In Honor Of Caryl Sunshine Birthday**  
Tom & Cindy Woolsey

**In Honor Of Beth Zienty Birthday**  
Scott Zienty

Yana & Christian Hotter  
Devyani & Mitchell Hunt  
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COCA's renovation and expansion was made possible by hundreds of donors (\$5,000+) whose names appear on COCA's interactive donor wall, *Fusion*. This wall represents the energy and creativity that comes together when we are inspired by the arts.

Hundreds of thousands of particles, representing the extended COCA community, come together in this immersive media experience to form donor names on the screen. Motion tracking technology allows visitors to interact with and add their energy to the animations. *Fusion* was created with design-thinking leadership from IDEO, programming and code translation from SOSO, and equipment support from Walbrandt Technologies.



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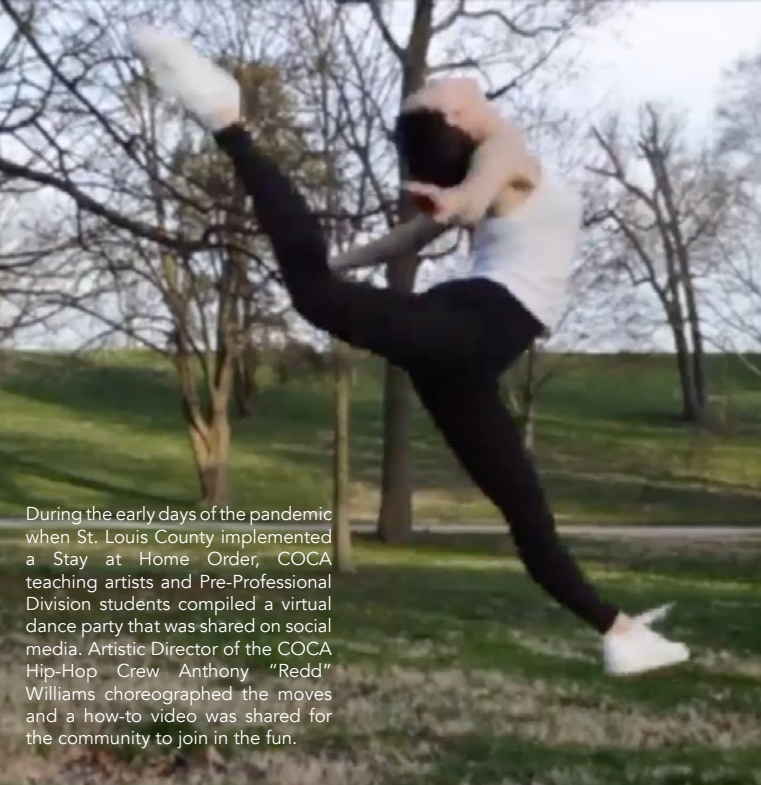
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During the early days of the pandemic when St. Louis County implemented a Stay at Home Order, COCA teaching artists and Pre-Professional Division students compiled a virtual dance party that was shared on social media. Artistic Director of the COCA Hip-Hop Crew Anthony “Redd” Williams choreographed the moves and a how-to video was shared for the community to join in the fun.







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