



Organizational Background

Dance Repertory was founded in 1997 by dancer/choreographer Donnette Heath to provide professional opportunities and increased exposure to emerging local, national, and international choreographers, Bay Area dancers, and youth. Since its founding, dRep has presented professional repertory by numerous local and national choreographers, including Dr. Cindy Gratz (Sam Houston State University); Michael Kelly Bruce (Ohio State University); and Emma Lou Huckabay (Huckabay McAllister Dance), among others. The company has performed at the Cowell Theater at Fort Mason, the McKenna Theater, Dance Mission, and ODC Theater, and was named Artist-in-Residence at Venue 9 in 2002. Last year, dRep shared its Home Season with Huckabay McAllister Dance, performing at the Cowell Theater in August 2002 for a large and enthusiastic audience. Executive/Artistic Director Donnette Heath has been producing dance performances and educational events since her college days at Sam Houston State University, where she presented six dance workshops for high school students. She was a member of the highly acclaimed Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company, and served as Master Teacher and Director of the company's TEEN BOARD Project, where she created a choreography performance festival. The organization is a fiscally sponsored project of Dancers' Group.

In 1999, dRep inaugurated the *Vision Series*, an educational dance festival which brings together a diverse pool of emerging professional choreographers and their companies with high school dancers, and presents their work in a professional showcase format. Since 1999, it has provided opportunities to over 525 choreographers and 1,950 performers from 35 California high schools, youth programs and dance studios and 62 professional emerging companies and college dance programs. Over 67 professional educators, master teachers, Dance Magazine and California Dance Education Association have graciously given their time, energy and expertise to the advancement of all participants. This project has also provided exposure for these artists to over 6,500 audience members. Over \$6,000 in scholarships have been developed and distributed to participating choreographers and/or participating programs as support for expansion of artistic careers and program enhancement. In addition, Vision Series Fundraiser Workshops have given professional technical training to over 1,500 high school students. Lastly, visual art exhibits were presented by The International Children's Art Museum and a portion of ticket sales were donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Shanti Aids Project.

The mission of the Vision Series Dance Festival is to provide educational and professional performance opportunities to an innovative cross-section of dance artists from the Greater Bay Area. It develops and presents the diverse visions of high school dancers, professionals, emerging choreographers, and academic instructors, regardless of individual experience or expertise. This education project expands knowledge, provides mentorship, offers support, cultivates artistic exchange and increases the exposure of modern dance as an art form to the general public. Through this Festival, artists are supported and given the framework in which to grow and flourish.

Headquarters:

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"We need more such programs to prove to educators, administrators, politicians and the public that dance and the arts make for strong people and great performers."
Joanna Gewertz Harris, Ph.D
Voice of Dance
Vision Series 2004

"DANCE MAGAZINE has been proud to lend our name to the *Vision Series*... The commitment of Ms. Heath and those who work with her is of the highest standard. I wish that each of our partnerships with the dance community could be as easy and fruitful as this one."
Sincerely,
Barbara Paige Kaplan

"Thank you for all the time and faith you have invested in my peers and me. You've contributed to our development as individuals and our position in life..."
Love Always,
Lauren Nelson, Sequoia H.S.
Vision Series 1999-2001

"I took a dance convention and wanted to say that it was one of the best experiences in dance I have had in a long time. Donnette is a wonderful choreographer and I hope to be as good as she..."
Amanda McSweeney
Lamar H.S., Texas

San Francisco Youth Arts Festival
Performing Arts Award 2001

Zellerbach Family Foundation
Grant 2001-2002, 2004-2007

Fort Mason Foundation
Grant Recipient
2000-2002, 2004-2007