

Guide to the Dancers/Artists in the Schools Records, 1974-1988

(S)*MGZMD 177

Jerome Robbins Dance Division

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York**

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Dancers/Artists in the Schools Records
Collection ID:	(S)*MGZMD 177
Creator:	Dancers/Artists in the Schools
Extent:	2 linear feet (5 boxes)
Repository:	Jerome Robbins Dance Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Abstract: Dancers/Artists in the Schools promoted the use of qualified dancers at dance residencies to benefit kindergarten through high school students. This collection consists of the administrative and financial records of an arts advocacy group.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Preferred Citation

Dancers/Artists in the Schools Records, (S)*MGZMD 177, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Custodial History

The Dancers/Artists in the Schools Records were donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 1996 by John Day.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2007.

Historical Note

The National Endowment for the Arts Artists in Schools Dance Component began as a pilot project in 1971. By 1979, 27 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands participated in this program, which funded residencies for dance companies and dance movement specialists. These dancers brought their art to kindergarten through high school students, and performed for the local community, as well. In 1975, an elementary school teacher wrote of the impact the residency had on her teaching: “[Dance] has given me a new way to work and communicate with my children - a chance to join them ...as a part of the group, not as its leader...My children have experienced...a feeling of freedom and acceptance.”

These residencies were carefully planned, and both the teachers at the schools and the dancers had well-defined roles, as outlined by the National Endowment for the Arts. Summer workshops brought dancers, teachers, and state art administrators together to understand the scope of the program. Charles Reinhart Management of New York was the liaison between the dancers and the NEA, largely handling the financial matters. The dancers created an Artists Advisory Committee in 1976 to maintain the high quality of residencies, and to lobby for continued funding. The quality guidelines, which included dancer evaluations and evolved over a seven year period, were dropped in 1978, after a meeting between Artists in Schools and the National Association of State Arts Agencies, and their decision to cede coordination of the program to the states. Charles Reinhart Management lost its contract to manage the dancers. In the wake of these events, the Artists Advisory Committee decided to become a non-profit organization, Dancer's Inc. Its role was to continue to advocate for participating dancers in the Artists in Schools program, and to retain the quality standards of the preceding years.

While the National Endowment for the Arts continued to give some monies to the state art agencies, the years of the Reagan presidency (1981-1989) brought enormous cuts in funding for the arts, which made the dancers' efforts to survive more challenging. Many dance companies closed, and the membership of Dancer's Inc. dropped. Due to the difficulties of maintaining a national organization when funding power remained with the states, the dancers voted to dissolve their group in 1985, and this decision was legally finalized in 1988. In the final communication from members, many acknowledged the importance of Dancer's Inc. records, requesting archival retention.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of the administrative and financial records of a dance organization born during a time of declining federal dollars for the arts. The correspondence between the dancers, often quite personal in nature, evokes enormous respect for the passion they brought to the promotion of their art. A former chairman noted the importance of many dancer evaluations done over the years. These peer-reviewed evaluations were the basis for qualifying a dancer as a superb presenter for Artists in Schools residencies. Only a few of those records are to be found within this collection.

Organization

The collection is organized into 2 series, as follows:

Series I: Administrative Records, 1974-1988 and undated
Series II: Financial Records, 1979-1988

Series Descriptions

Series I: Administrative Records

4 boxes

The administrative records cover board meetings, correspondence, grant applications, and membership directories. In addition, folders on significant activities, such as the annual summer workshops for dancers and school administrators, and the valuable survey of dance residencies from members of the National Assembly of State Art Agencies, are included.

Series II: Financial Records

1 box

This series contains bank records, cancelled checks, and ledgers. The fluid nature of the organization's finances is indicated by the requests for reimbursement of funds advanced by the dancers to carry out Dancer's Inc. business.

Series I: Administrative Records, 1974-1988 and undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Affiliations, 1981-1985 and undated Dance & the Child International-meeting notices and brief correspondence; National Dance Association-meeting notices and brief correspondence
	2	Artists Advisory Committee, 1976-1980 Predecessor to Dancer's Inc. board.
	3	Ballots, 1984 Jan-1985 Nov Ballots for 3 events: by-law changes, general board election, and the vote to dissolve, along with suggestions on how to disburse the treasury.
		Board Meetings, 1979-1983
	4	Durham, N.C., 1979-1981
	5	Salt Lake City, Ut., 1982 Sept
	6	New Orleans, La. , 1983 Sept. (includes undated organizational goal sheets)
	7	Charter/By-laws, 1979-1984 and undated Includes drafts and related material
		Correspondence, 1971-1988
		Board Executives – Chair, 1976-1988
	8	Artists in Schools Dance Component - Shirley Ririe -1976-1978. Connie Jo Hepworth - 1978-1979. Joan Woodbury - 1979-1980.
	9	Dancer's Inc. - Susan Cambique - 1980-1983. Barbara Lacy - 1983-1985. Janice Day - 1985-1988.
	10	Board Executives - Secretary/Treasurer, 1980-1985 Dancer's Inc. - Barbara Lacy - 1980-1981. Joanne McGhee - 1981-1982. Joan Brown - 1982-1985.
2	1	Corporate Dissolution, 1985-1988
	2	Membership, 1979-1985
	3	National Endowment for the Arts, 1978-1984 Includes correspondence with government officials and Guidelines for Artists in the Schools: 1978, 1980, 1981.
	4	General, 1980-1989
	5	Grant Applications and Funding Solicitations, 1981-1982 and undated Documents and related correspondence
		Major Activities, 1974-1984
	6	Dancer Evaluation Requests, 1978-1982
		Summer Workshop
	7	New Haven, Ct. 1974, 1976, 1977-1978
	8	Durham, NC. 1980 -1983
		Dance Residency Survey
3	1	1981-1982
	2	1983-1984
	3	Membership Application Forms, 1981-1985 Includes some loose artist brochures.
	4	National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, 1979-1985 The NASAA selected and hosted dance residencies. Includes meetings and correspondence, and Participating Agency Lists.
		Publications, 1979-1985
		Membership Directories
	5	1979-1980 Lists only; incomplete.
	6	1980-1981

		Includes supplement.
	7	1981-1982
	8	1982-1983
	9	1984-1985 Lists only, and undated.
		Newsletters
4	1	1976-1981 Title: FYI, published by Charles Reinhart Management; incomplete.
	2	1982-1984 Published by Dancer's Inc.; incomplete.
	3	Stationery & Forms Membership applications, etc.
	4	Telephone Chain 1981 and undated

SERIES II: FINANCIAL RECORDS, 1979-1988

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
5	1	Bank Deposits, 1979-1985 Deposit slips and record.
		Bank Statements
	2	1979-1983
	3	1984-1988
	4	Cancelled Checks, 1980-1988
	5	Dues Receipts, 1981-1982
		Ledgers
	6	Bookkeeping, 1979-1984
	7	Check, 1980-1988
		Requests for Reimbursement
	8	1980-1981
	9	1982
	10	1983
	11	1984-1985