



2017 Annual Report
HOPE STONE, INC.
1997-2017





MISSION

*To unlock the
innate creativity
of young people
and adults
through our
arts outreach
programs.*

Elementary School Dance Class



VISION

Art for All

Veterans Drumming Circle



“Reflecting back

on our first arts education classes and the dance works created, it is an honor after 20 years to remain a vital part of Houston’s art and arts education community.”

TWENTY YEARS

1997-2017

Dear Friends,

I am filled with gratitude as Hope Stone enters into its 20th year of art-filled teaching, creating and presenting. Reflecting back on our first arts education classes and the dance works created, it is an honor after 20 years to remain a vital part of Houston’s art and arts education community.

The Hope Project, our arts education outreach program, began with 20 children. It had been a dream of mine to bring passionate working artists into the classroom, and after 20 years the program has blossomed to reaching over 1,100 students in 10 schools with classes in dance, theater, music (percussion, drumming, violin, chorus), yoga and spoken word. The program also reaches beyond the traditional classroom to teach homeless youth, intellectually and physically disabled children, veterans and the elderly. The powerful work of The Hope Project is creating children and adults who are problem-solvers, critical thinkers and compassionate citizens.

In 1997, I created Hope Stone Dance with eight dancers, and brought a new energy to Houston’s modern dance scene with work that was “intellectually challenging, profoundly human and fresh with humor.” Twenty years later we are still creating that work, transforming into a performance company that believes that art can be performed anywhere and should be affordable, which opens the door for anyone to view and experience it.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we pause and catch our breath this year as Houston faces many challenges from Hurricane Harvey. With the delay of school openings, we took our teaching artists into the temporary shelters to give the children there the opportunity to express through art their fears, sadness and trauma that they and their families went through, as well as find some joy in movement and music. We remain fluid with our City’s changing needs and are glad to be back in the classroom!

My deepest gratitude over 20 years goes out to all who have supported and made Hope Stone the organization it is today – the donors, teaching artists, dance company members, community partners, board members and staff who have all given the gift of art to students and audiences through our enduring belief and vision of “Art for All.”

Warmly,

Jane Weiner
Founder & Director

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THE HOPE PROJECT

Serving over 1,100 students, ages 2-99 years, The Hope Project reaches diverse populations through music, dance and theater classes. This mindful arts education program has expanded from its beginnings of 20 children and now impacts homeless youth, the elderly, physically and intellectually disabled children and veterans. The goal is to foster creative citizens who learn teamwork, compassion and problem-solving abilities that are essential to the success of our growing communities and businesses.



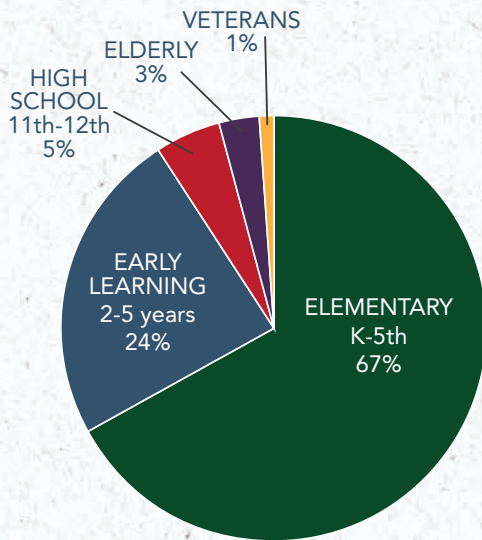
HOPE STONE DANCE

Celebrating 20 years of powerful, joyful and profoundly human performances, the company is known for its strong, technical ensemble work with “effortless partnering” and “gorgeous, big-hearted movement.” From warehouses to local streets to traditional theaters, the company brings communities together through the power of live art. Hope Stone Dance annually presents its performance outreach work to over 3,000 children and teenagers.

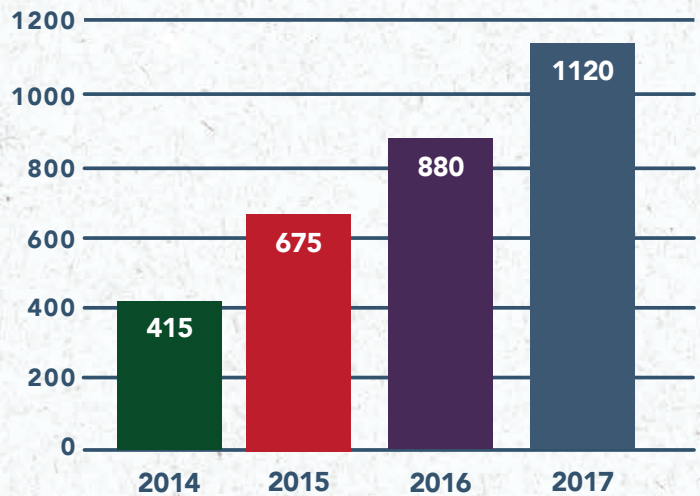


THE HOPE PROJECT

PARTICIPANTS BY GRADE/AGE LEVEL



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



“For the 20 junior students,

first period theater was more than a class or a credit on a transcript. It was a safe place: a place of free expression, of high expectations, a place to be and to better oneself, a place of learning and of hope.” – High School Principal

HOPE STONE DANCE

3 days

6 FREE performances

3,000 children

Hope Stone Dance annually performs as part of the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts' Discovery Series educational program.

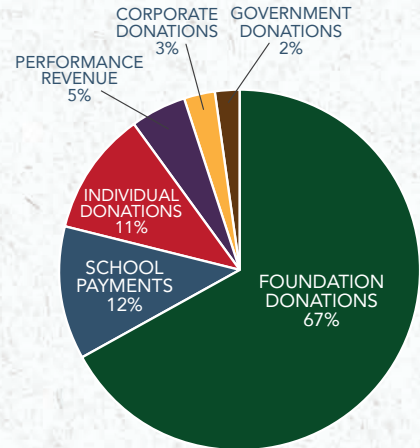
“Jane Weiner’s ‘squared dancer’

is quite possibly the most beautiful 25 minutes of movement to have come out of the Houston dance community in recent years. In a world filled with bigotry and prejudice, ‘squared dancer’ imagined a time when a communal hoedown can jubilantly begin.” – Houston Press

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2016-2017

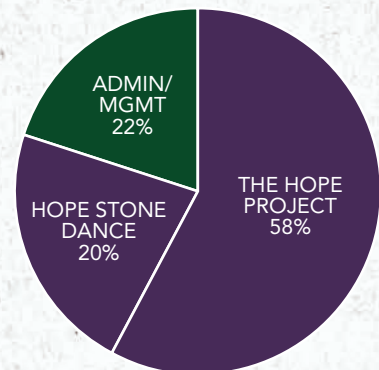
REVENUES

While most of our funding comes from foundations, we continually strive to increase individual and corporate giving. Since the closing of our studio location in 2014, funds are no longer raised through galas and large events in order to fully devote our time and resources towards our programs. We are so grateful for 20 years of community support for The Hope Project and Hope Stone Dance. Collectively we make a difference in the lives of those we serve through art.



EXPENSES

Our expense breakdown shows that the majority of our total expenses (78%, or \$233,467) are for our two programs – The Hope Project and Hope Stone Dance. With a major reduction in overhead upon closing our studio location in 2014, we have been able to refocus our organization on programs that make the most impact in the community and deploy our resources in the most cost-effective way possible. 98% of program expenses are direct costs.



ARTS EDUCATION METRICS STUDY

A significant yearlong study (2016-2017) at Browning Elementary by Rice University's Department of Psychology to research and evaluate intellectual and cognitive development within The Hope Project has recently concluded. The study will provide much needed empirical evidence about the benefits of arts education on an array of student outcomes including cognitive (intellectual creativity, classroom performance), affective (empathy, attitudes about the self and others), and motivational (self-regulation/self-control, persistence in goal pursuit). With five rounds of data collected, approximately 5,550 surveys, from multiple sources over the entire school year, the longitudinal analysis on the survey data is underway with estimated completion by spring 2018.

