



Raising the Barre: Curriculum for the Next Generation of Leadership in Dance

DDP recently announced the second season of *Raising the Barre* to expand upon the robust toolkit of resources, interviews, and deliverables that we offer our viewers. To develop a second season that builds upon the success of the first, we have implemented feedback received from candidates, search firms, boards, and others in the dance economy. This input has encouraged DDP to open the aperture of the equity lens to include the role of boards of directors in searches. We will also offer advice/support for the administrative needs of smaller companies, without the need for an (often unavailable) infusion of funding.

Episodes from Season Two of *Raising the Barre*:

- Shane Jewell, Executive Director of Oregon Ballet Theatre: *Creating an Open Door Policy: A Revolutionary Approach to Building Trust and Community*
- Anne Kavanagh, President & Founder of MediaPros 24/7: *Importance of Having a Media Plan/Media Training for Team/Board*
- Geoff Chang, Vice-President and Executive Search Practice Leader of Arts Consulting Group: *Working with Boards to Diversify Searches and Overcome Unconscious Bias*

Here's a quick look at the faculty members who contributed their expertise to Year 1 of *Raising the Barre*:

- Shannon Riggs Managing Partner at FINN Partners: *The Importance of Crisis Communications and Strategy*
- Jacqueline Gerrald, McLaughlin & Stern, Partner in the Litigation Department and Co-Chair of Employment Law Practice: *So You Got the Offer, Now What?*
- Helen Pickett, Choreographer & Kristopher McDowell, Founding Partner of Rhizome Consulting and Founder of KMP Artist: *Building a Successful Choreographer and Manager Relationship*
- Jodie Gates, Founding Director of the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance & Victoria Morgan, Artistic Director Emeritus, Cincinnati Ballet: *Collaborative Approaches to Leadership Transitions*
- Susan Jaffe, Artistic Director of American Ballet Theatre: *The Art of Programming a Season*
- Dacquiri Baptiste, Vice President and COO of the Orpheum Theatre Group & Harris Ferris, Former Executive Director of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre: *How to Navigate the Budget Rapids*
- David Mallette, President of Management Consultants for the Arts: *Ten Search Dos and Don'ts*
- Lauren B. Cramer, Partner at the New York Law Firm of McLaughlin & Stern: *Dance Company in a Box*

All *Raising the Barre* episodes and their accompanying resources can be found [here](#).

[Moving Forces: Motherhood in Dance](#)

This short interview series, utilizing social media as its main platform for distribution, was a complete success. One thing that became abundantly clear throughout the interviews was the need for greater support systems, and advocacy efforts focused on mothers in dance. With this in mind, Moving Forces has been paused while DDP takes the time to conduct deeper conversations with mothers in the dance industry in order to combine advocacy efforts for the betterment of the sector.

[Moving Forces interviews from 2023 include conversations with the following women:](#)

- Lucy McCrudden, Founder and CEO of Dance Mama
- Ali Duffy, President's Excellence in Teaching Professor, Associate Head and Professor of Dance and Honors, and Graduate Dance Director Texas Tech University
- Morgan McEwen, Founder and Director of MorDance
- Endalyn Taylor Outlaw, Dean of the School of Dance at UNCSCA
- Rachel Rizzuto, Assistant Teaching Professor at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Yvonne Montoya, Founding Director of Safos Dance Theatre

Check out *Moving Forces: Motherhood in Dance* [here](#).

[DDP Talks To](#)

DDP interviews with new & emerging talents as well as current leaders in the dance world: choreographers, art directors, journalists, dancers, set/lighting/costume designers, patrons, festival/venue programmers, etc.

[DDP Talks To interviews from 2023 include conversations with the following leaders in dance:](#)

- Kimberlie Page, Director of Facilities & Operations at Dallas Black Dance Theatre
- Adam Sklute, Artistic Director of Ballet West
- Angela Harris, Executive Artistic Director of Dance Canvas
- Victoria Morgan, Artistic Director Emeritus, Cincinnati Ballet - Advisory Council Member
- Israel Tannenbaum, Partner at Withum - DDP Advisory Council Member
- Andrea Miller, Founder and Artistic Director - GALLIM Moving Artist Parent Residency
- Morgan McEwen, Founder and Artistic Director of MorDance
- Robert Curran, Artistic Director of Louisville Ballet
- Andrea Schermoly, Resident Choreographer of Louisville Ballet
- Claudia Schreier, Resident Choreographer of Atlanta Ballet
- Jennifer Archibald, Artistic Director of the Arch Dance Company
- Avatâra Ayuso, Artistic Director of AVA DANCE COMPANY

View all DDP Talks To interview [here](#).