

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2026

Cleveland Dance Fest Returns to Playhouse Square November 13–15, Bringing Dance Artists Together from Across Ohio and Beyond

The Movement Project's annual festival celebrates professional and emerging dance artists through performances, education, and community connection.

CLEVELAND, OH - The Movement Project (TMP) is excited to announce the return of **Cleveland Dance Fest (CDF)** to Playhouse Square, November 13–15, 2026. Following a milestone 10th anniversary celebration and successful debut at Playhouse Square in 2025, the festival returns for another weekend of dance, bringing together professional artists, emerging choreographers, youth dancers, and audiences from across Northeast Ohio and beyond.

Founded in 2016, Cleveland Dance Fest has grown from a grassroots initiative into an annual celebration of dance, providing artists with opportunities to present their work, connect with fellow professionals, and engage with new audiences. Now entering its 11th year, the festival continues to strengthen Northeast Ohio's dance community while welcoming diverse artistic voices and perspectives from throughout the region and across the country.

The 2026 festival will feature:

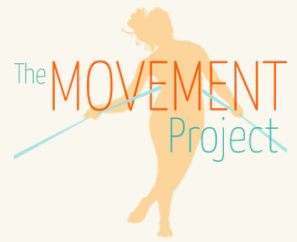
- **Four professional concerts** showcasing dance works by artists from Cleveland, the Midwest, and beyond.
- Two Youth Showcases celebrating the next generation of dancers from Northeast Ohio schools and studios.
- **A free Virtual Dance Film Gallery** featuring dance works created for the screen and accessible to audiences beyond the theater.
- **Free master classes** providing opportunities for professional and pre-professional dancers to train, explore new movement practices, and learn from CDF professional artists.
- **A free Artist Panel** bringing together dance professionals for an open conversation about the different approaches to creating and sustaining artistic practices.

Since its founding, Cleveland Dance Fest has distributed more than **\$88,000 directly to artists**, reflecting TMP's continued commitment to supporting a thriving and sustainable dance ecosystem.

"Cleveland Dance Fest has always been about creating opportunities for artists to share their work, connect with one another, and build a stronger dance community," says Megan L. Gargano, Artistic Director and Founder of The Movement Project. "As we return to Playhouse Square, we're excited to continue creating a space where artists at different stages of their careers can come together, exchange ideas, and celebrate the breadth of dance being created in Ohio and beyond."



cdf
cleveland dance fest



Connecting Artists Through Conversation

Beyond the stage, Cleveland Dance Fest continues its commitment to professional development and community engagement through free educational programming and opportunities for artistic exchange.

On **Saturday, November 14, from 1:00–2:00 pm**, the festival will host the free Artist Panel, **Making Dance in Ohio: Different Models, Shared Landscape**, in the Gund Dance Studio at Playhouse Square.

The panel will bring together dance artists from across Ohio to explore the different ways they structure their artistic practices, from training and rehearsal to creative processes, organizational models, and producing work.

Supporting the Next Generation of Dance Artists

Cleveland Dance Fest provides opportunities for youth and pre-professional dancers to perform, train, and connect with professional artists through its two Youth Showcases and educational programming. By bringing artists at different stages of their careers together, CDF helps inspire and support the next generation of Northeast Ohio's dance community.

About The Movement Project

Founded in 2009, The Movement Project (TMP) is a Cleveland-based nonprofit dance organization dedicated to cultivating a thriving dance ecosystem by supporting artists, engaging communities, and expanding access to meaningful dance experiences. Through performances, educational initiatives, and artist development programs, TMP creates opportunities for artists to train, rehearse, perform, and gather. Grounded in the belief that dancers should not simply be surviving, but thriving, TMP is committed to building a healthy and sustainable dance community throughout Northeast Ohio.

Event Details

Cleveland Dance Fest 2026

Dates: November 13–15, 2026

Location: Playhouse Square, Cleveland, Ohio

All CDF performances and master classes will take place at the Idea Center at Playhouse Square.

- Performances: Westfield Studio Theatre
- Master Classes & Artist Panel: Gund Studio

Tickets and Festival Information

Festival Website: <https://www.themovementproject.org/cleveland-dance-fest-2026>

Tickets: <https://www.playhousesquare.org/events/detail/cleveland-dance-fest-2026>

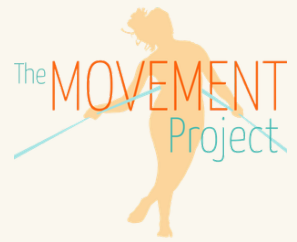
Media Contact

Megan L. Gargano, Artistic Director & Founder

The Movement Project

meganlee@themovementproject.org



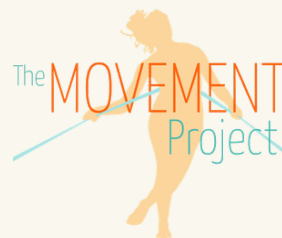


Cleveland Dance Fest 2026 Funders & Sponsors

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