

MEDIA RELEASE

December 9, 2023

**\$63,800 OTF Grant benefits local children's dance program:
The Citadel Dance Program**

Toronto, ON - On Saturday, MPP Kristyn Wong-Tam attended the Citadel Dance Program's Winter Recital and formally congratulated the dance company on what it's doing as a result of receiving a \$63,800 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF). Since receiving the grant this past spring, Citadel + Compagnie (C+C) has used it to expand the Citadel Dance Program and help the program recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

"Congratulations to Citadel + Compagnie on receiving a \$63,800 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF), supporting their commitment to fostering creative excellence, community engagement, and transformative initiatives aimed at dismantling systemic barriers while nurturing talent in the arts," said Kristyn Wong-Tam, MPP for Toronto Centre. "They have left a mark on Canadian dance through innovation and inclusivity. As they embark on a transformative journey with their Creative Incubator Pilot Project and establishment of residencies, I am confident that this will shape a more inclusive future for the arts."

The Citadel Dance Program, established in 2012 by C+C artistic director and founder, Laurence Lemieux, was created to make dance both accessible and visible to those living in Regent Park and empower youth through the arts. The program welcomes students of all levels of training and experience from JK to Grade 6, and works to foster a positive, inclusive environment that supports the individual development and creative expression of each child. Thanks to the \$63,800 OTF grant, C+C was able to grow its outreach initiatives to enroll more students and increase access to free high-quality arts education to children in the Regent Park neighbourhood.

"For me, the Citadel Dance program represents the most significant work that Citadel + Compagnie does in Regent Park," said Laurence Lemieux, Artistic Director. "It is at the centre of everything we do and defines the relationship we have with our community and the outside world. The Citadel Dance Program is all about giving, sharing and nurturing, and as artistic director it is my proudest accomplishment."

Citadel + Compagnie is an artistic and community entity nestled in the Regent Park neighborhood of Toronto. Since 2012, the Citadel: Ross Centre for Dance has established itself as an open and welcoming space for artists to rehearse, create and perform, and where the community can learn, communicate, and share. The Citadel also acts as home to its own professional dance company and plays host to a range of creative incubator and residency programs for some of Canada's most interesting choreographers and dance companies. If you wish to learn more, please visit www.citadelcie.com.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities across Ontario. As an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations, last year, OTF invested over \$110M into 1,022 community projects and partnerships. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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