transcenDANCE
Youth Arts Project

# Hearts in Action

An evening of original dance
and spoken word where kindness, compassion,
and creativity have the power to shape our reality

June 28 & 29, 2019 | 7:30pm
**LYCEUM THEATRE** | 79 Horton Plaza | San Diego, CA | 92101
**www.tdarts.org**

**Dear transcenDANCE Patrons,**

Welcome to ***Hearts in Action!*** Thank you for joining us for our 14th annual performance. Tonight, we share and celebrate the culmination of a five-month intensive journey with our Performance Group students.

Each year a new cohort of youth come together to participate in transcenDANCE's CREATE Performance Group. Our current cohort's ages range between 13-19 years old. They have been immersed in technical dance training and a social-emotional resiliency curriculum that incorporates self-reflection, community-building, and life and leadership skills training. The students have co-created *Hearts in Action* with professional choreographers and directors working with the theme of KINDNESS.

I'd like to share a quote that really captures the essence of our theme on kindness.

*"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale."*
Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Through our CREATE Performance Group Program, this year's students are learning tools for self-kindness, self-love, and self-care. Our students are also engaged in dialogue and action to demonstrate kindness to peers, family, and community. Kindness is not the same as being nice. Kindness is about being compassionate, loving, empathetic, and engaging the world with a generosity of spirit. A kinder culture can lead to tangible positive change that keeps us connected to the good in the world. Through this awareness, consciousness, and commitment to kindness, our students are agents of positive social change.

As a result of our program, our students show up making healthier choices, affirming their personal values, breaking negative cycles, being critical thinkers, and having more trust and optimism.

Thank you for being here tonight to witness our students' passion and talents and to celebrate their courage and perseverance through their performance! May this be the spark for you to imagine a world overflowing with kindness. It is possible. You are a changemaker. Be yourself, be kind!

With care,
**Cat Corral**
Co-Founder & Executive/Artistic Director

**Dear Friends,**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to ***Hearts in Action***. I'm so glad that you can be with us for this uplifting and inspiring evening of dance and storytelling.

As I've spoken with family, friends, and colleagues, sharing the work of transcenDANCE, I have heard time again and again that we're all longing for more empathy and compassion in our world today. I truly believe that when I keep my thoughts positive and my words affirmative, I create an environment that produces positive action.

I'm struck by how small seeds of kindness, nurtured in interactions with our student performers can be transformative. Our CREATE Performance Group Dancers have worked together, across differences, to build understanding and reliance on each other to reach a common goal. The culmination of that work is celebrated in their dancing tonight.

From day one, transcenDANCE has been so much more than a place where young people learn how to dance. It has always been a safe space of love and support, where students are seen for who they are.

Meaningful Creative Youth Development programs, like the ones offered by transcenDANCE, are truly life-changing for our students and their families and communities. Each year, through your generosity, we have been able make these experiences available to more youth from throughout San Diego County through camps, residencies, performances, and partnerships.

Your gift, large or small, provides critical support to our mission to guide youth in underserved San Diego communities to transcend barriers, expand ambitions, and create positive change for themselves, their families, and communities, through dance and performance. Thanks for all you do to make our work possible.

Warmly,
**Patricia Zigarmi**
transcenDANCE Board Chair

## ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR NOTE

This year has been a journey for all of us at transcenDANCE. Our theme this year invites us to imagine a world of kindness. Also, in contrast, it has us contemplating on the reality of our current world, and our place within it. This year's theme is calling us to action to make movement towards acts of kindness: acceptance, to be courageous, compassionate, supportive listeners and so much more. I am very proud to be a part of the transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project team and it has been my pleasure to witness the growth of our young artists as they become more confident and creative young voices that demonstrate a spirit of true resilience and perseverance. Thank you, dancers!

**Tonnie Sammartano**
Associate Artistic Director

## OUR CREATE PERFORMANCE GROUP PROGRAM AND PROCESS

The CREATE Performance Group is the flagship program of transcenDANCE and provides the following opportunities to students:

- Train with professional Teaching Artists and Choreographers
- Perform at community events and on a professional stage
- Attend an off-site 3-day retreat
- Individual and group therapy
- Life skills and leadership training
- Leadership Team positions
- 400 hours of programming

**All services are 100% free-of-charge (including meals and bus passes)**

**2019 CREATE Community Partners**
UCSD ArtPower, Fern Street Circus, National Conflict Resolution Center, Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT), A Reason To Survive (ARTS)

MALASHOCK DANCE

## STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY MENTORSHIP RESIDENCY

Malashock Dance, founded in 1988 by local icon John Malashock, showcases incredible modern dance and promotes dance as an avenue for personal expression through participation, education, and artistic collaboration. Currently in their 31st Season, Malashock Dance is an active contributor to the vibrancy of San Diego's cultural life, serving residents of the San Diego region, visitors in search of cultural activities, and the dance community as a whole. **Through generous funding from the California Arts Council, Malashock Dance has teamed up with transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project to create an after-school program aimed at giving dance creation tools to students at the start of their training.** Malashock's professional dancers spent 12 weeks working with transcenDANCE performance students with the goal of performing the student's choreography. The program fosters creativity and leadership among young artists.

## TRANSCENDANCE YOUTH ARTS PROJECT MISSION

transcenDANCE's mission is to guide youth in underserved San Diego County communities to transcend barriers, expand their ambitions, and create positive change for themselves, their families, and their communities through dance and performance.

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Co-Founder &
Executive / Artistic Director

**Tonnie Sammartano**
Associate Artistic Director

**Viviana Alcazar**
Company Manager

**Catherine Kineavy**
Grants Manager

**Katie Lorge**
Program & Marketing Manager

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Finance & Operations Manager

**Cheryl McIlhon**
Individual & Corporate Giving Manager

**Adriana Olalla**
Therapist

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# Hearts in Action

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Choreographers
**Tonnie Sammartano**
**Viviana Alcazar**
**grace shinhae jun**
**Jae Nicolas**
**Seiha Vor**

Hearts in Action Student
and Alumni Performers
**Lily Ear**
**Amy Garcia**
**Jonathan Garcia**
**Leti Garcia**
**Jada Greene**
**Daisy Gutierrez**
**Carlos Hernandez**
**Jackie Hernandez**
**Keiana Johnson**
**Eliuth Lopez**
**Angel Madrid**
**Trinity McClanahan**
**Akira Mitchell**
**Sacara Northard**
**Melissa Nuno**
**Carolina Olea**
**Itzel Oros**
**Isabella Pacello**
**Alma Perez**
**Florence Quoi**
**Yesenia Ramirez**
**Linzy Clara Ramos**
**Emily Jane Sutherland**
**Jennifer Tran**
**Ruth Victor**
**Seiha Vor**

Puppeteer
**Tonnie Sammartano**

Malashock
Company Dancers
**Darren Oei**
**Nicole Roerick**
**Rachel Torres**

Malashock
Residency Student
Choreographers
**Niza Galindo**
**Eliuth Lopez**
**Valeria Morando**
**Carolina Olea**
**Isabella Pacello**
**Emily Jane Sutherland**
**Samantha Villagomez**

Malashock Lead Teaching
Artist & Director
**Jaime Nixon**

CREATE Program
Teaching Artists
**Viviana Alcazar**
**Rebecca Bellingham**
**Ron Davis**
**Eric Geiger**
**Catherine Kineavy**
**grace shinhae jun**
**Jae Nicolas**
**Seiha Vor**
**Tonnie Sammartano**

CREATE Student
Co-Leaders
**Eliuth Lopez**
**Carolina Olea**

**ANNOUNCING OUR 2019-2020 TRANSCENDANCE PROGRAMS**

# CONNECT

- Father Joe's Family Shelter Youth Dance Residency
- LGBTQIA+ Community-Based Residency
- Fall Outreach Community Performances (see website for details)
- Nativity Prep Academy In-School Residency
- UC San Diego ArtPower Master Classes and Performance Outings
- Port of San Diego Performance Residency in 2020

# CREATE

- Annual Performance Group Auditions (now a year-round program!) October 5, 2019
- Performance Group special event – Jason Mraz Concert – February 2020
- CREATE Express Camps (Six 5-day Camps each year with Title I schools)

# CONTRIBUTE

- Alumni Engagement includes:
  - Paid Teaching Artist positions (lead and assistant roles)
  - Paid Choreographer positions
  - College and Career Individual Mentorship
  - Volunteer roles as Mentors of incoming students
  - Annual gatherings to sustain our transcenDANCE Community

**In 2020, transcenDANCE will produce a site-specific community arts residency, *Portmanteau*,** at the Port of San Diego in neighboring cities, National City and the City of San Diego.

**transcenDANCE youth and alumni, alongside local choreographers, will create five world premiere dance pieces inspired by the architecture, history, and people who work, live, and play at the Port.**

All five performances will be free to the public, ensuring all communities have access to the arts.

**Will you join us in producing this innovative art?**

We must match a generous grant from the California Arts Council to fund this project. **Step up your support and help us reach our goal of $15,000 raised to launch this exciting new project.**

Donors who give over $5,000 in support of this project will be thanked personally with a lunch hosted by transcenDANCE Executive/Artistic Director and the Choreographers of the Port Residency.

Please contact Cheryl McIlhon at cheryl@tdarts.org for more information, or to make your donation.

# WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

## DONATE NOW!

**$150**
Provides one professional dance workshop for high school students

**$300**
Sponsors one youth dancer's participation in an off-site retreat

**$500**
Provides an outreach performance for a local high school or non-profit

**$1,000**
Provides costumes for our Annual Summer Production

**$3,000**
Provides one student a CREATE Performance Group experience

## GET INVOLVED!

- JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
- DONATE
- VOLUNTEER
- ATTEND AN OPEN STUDIO
- BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER BY JOINING TDANCE365
- ATTEND OUR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EACH SUMMER

For information on how to get involved, please contact Cheryl McIlhon, Individual & Corporate Giving Manager, at cheryl@tdarts.org

Thank you for the gifts that have allowed transcenDANCE and our students to thrive. Our community of generous, dedicated donors and volunteers have contributed to our success. transcenDANCE gratefully acknowledges the support we received over the past year. We regret any errors or omissions on this list. For corrections, please contact Cheryl McIlhon, cheryl@tdarts.org

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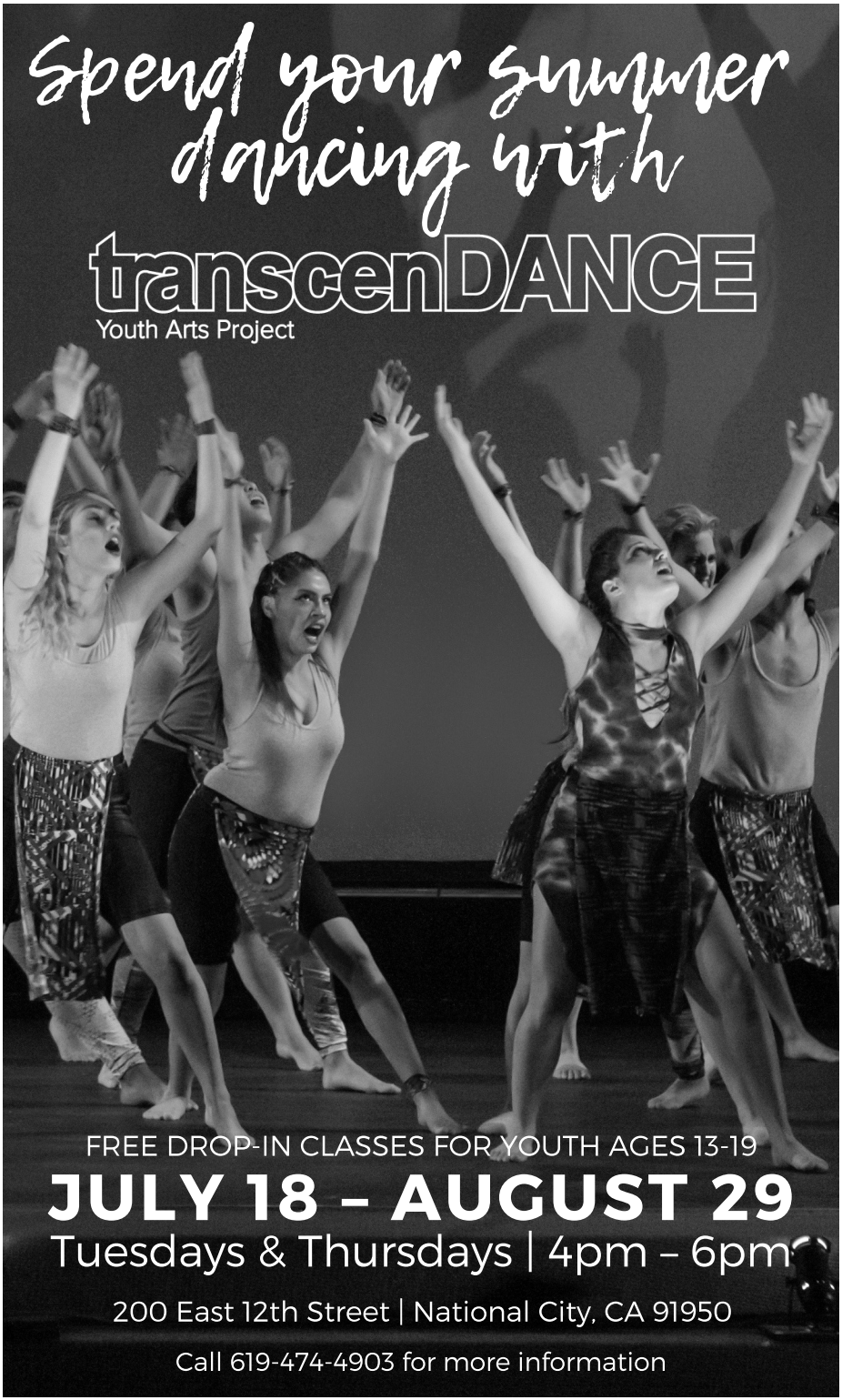
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Call 619-474-4903 for more information

# LET'S DANCE!

**If you like what you see onstage tonight, you can be a part of it!**

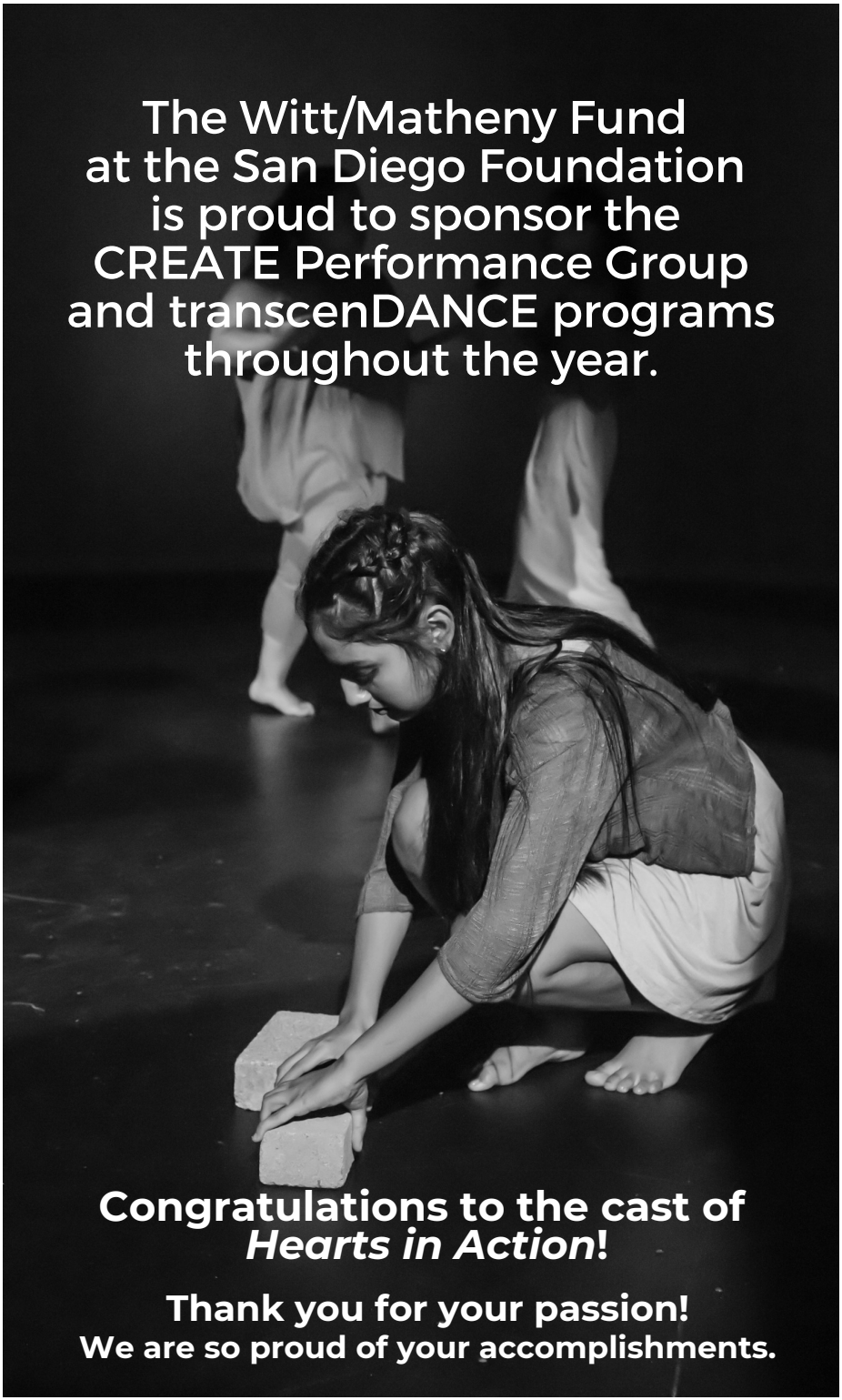
transcenDANCE is accepting new youth dancers,
ages 14-18, to our 2019/2020 CREATE Performance group

**Join us for our Audition Day**
Saturday, October 5, 2019
11am-3pm

Food will be provided & Transportation assistance is available

transcenDANCE Studios
200 East 12th Street
National City, CA 91950

**FOR MORE INFO**
Call (619) 474-4903 | visit www.tdarts.org | email info@tdarts.org


The Witt/Matheny Fund
at the San Diego Foundation
is proud to sponsor the
CREATE Performance Group
and transcenDANCE programs
throughout the year.
Congratulations to the cast of
*Hearts in Action*!
Thank you for your passion!
We are so proud of your accomplishments.

ArtPower
University of California San Diego

SAVE THE DATE

ArtPower Season Announcement on June 30 in the *San Diego Union Tribune*, dancing down the coast of San Diego.

**Tickets start at $30; Student tickets start at $15**
artpower.ucsd.edu | 858.534.TIXS

Delphi Private Advisors is proud to support transcenDANCE and their impact on San Diego youth.

**Congratulations to all Hearts in Action performers!**

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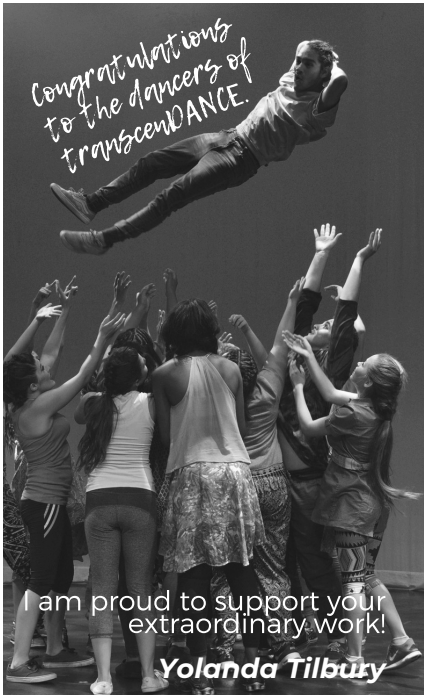





Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion.
- Martha Graham

The transcenDANCE Board of Directors sends congratulations and best wishes to all dancers!

# Congratulations

*to our 2019 Danah Fayman Award winners, recognizing students for their spirit of generosity and service*

Elinth Lopez

Carolina Olea

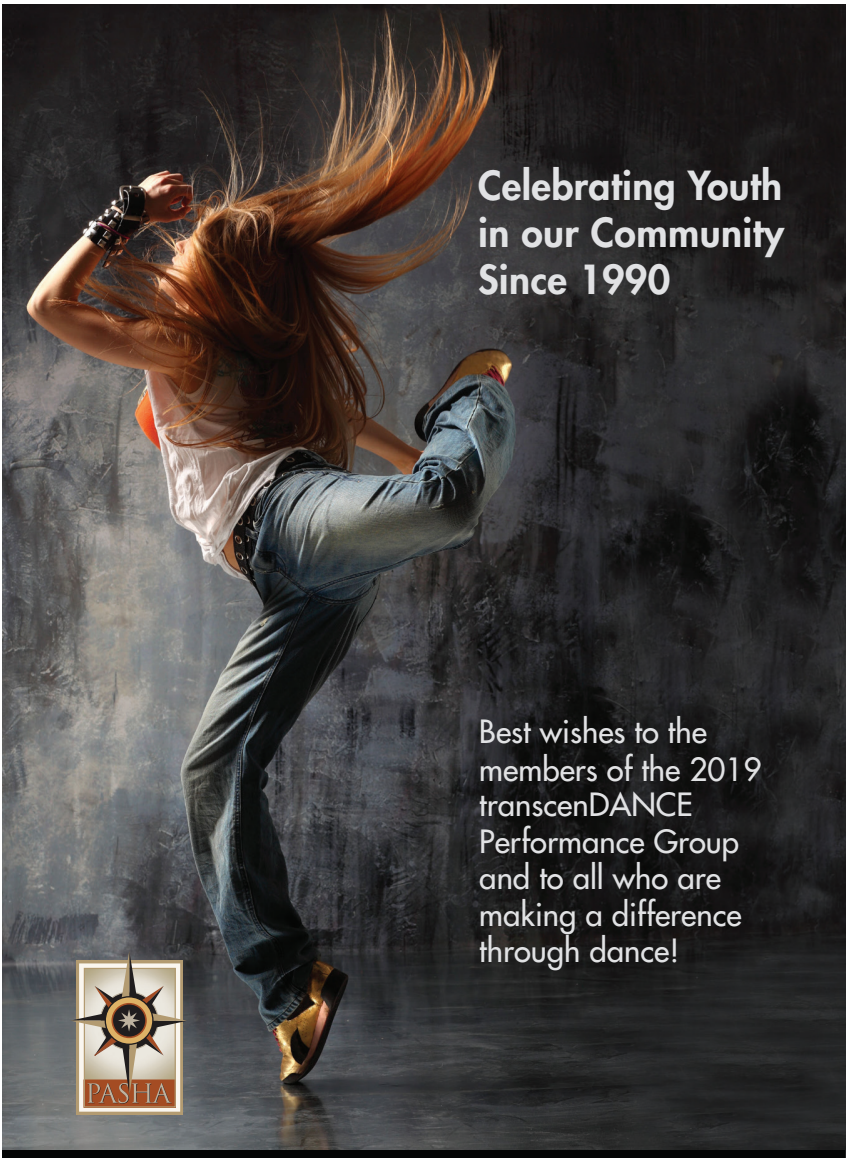
# Save the Date

transcenDANCE has been invited to perform with

## Jason Mraz & friends in SHINE, a bright new musical adventure

**February 15 & 16, 2020 at Spreckels Theatre!**

More details to come!

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***Hearts in Action*** **is partially funded by the City of San Diego through Horton Plaza Theatres Foundation.**

**Special thanks to our organization's premier funders for their commitment to transcenDANCE's impact in our community.**

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