

PACIFIC
NORTHWEST
BALLET

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET'S DISCOVER DANCE PROGRAM RECEIVES FUNDING FROM NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

SEATTLE, WA — Pacific Northwest Ballet's large-scale education and outreach program DISCOVER DANCE has been awarded \$40,000 for the 2009-2010 school year from the National Endowment for the Arts. DISCOVER DANCE offers long-term in-school residencies that provide dance education to students who might not otherwise receive it and gives participants an opportunity to discover movement, creativity, choreography, and performance.

"This is wonderful news," said Kayti Bouljon, PNB's outreach manager. "Last year, the DISCOVER DANCE program worked with five public elementary and middle schools in the Greater Seattle area. The NEA award will permit us to substantially increase our programming capacity in Seattle Public Schools next year, allowing up to 600 students to take part." The culmination of the students' work will be showcased at two DISCOVER DANCE performances on November 14, 2009, and April 24, 2010 at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall.

Said Carri Campbell, the Visual and Performing Arts Program Manager for the school district: "Seattle Public Schools values the professionalism and rigor in arts teaching and learning that our community arts organizations provide. PNB's Discover Dance is an excellent program that is both deepening its ongoing relationships with our schools while providing new schools with more access to the arts. Increasing dance education through this community arts partnership supports our *Excellence for All* goal of increasing arts learning for all students, knowing that the arts build critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills that students need for 21st century lives and careers."

Pacific Northwest Ballet's innovative **DISCOVER DANCE** program was launched in 1998, and added a performance component two years later. The program serves a vital need by bringing dance education programs to Seattle and Eastside schools that might not otherwise have such opportunities. DISCOVER DANCE gives over 400 students (ages 7-14) the opportunity to work with PNB Teaching Artists, over three- to five-month residencies, to create original choreographic works specifically designed to be integrated into their academic curriculum. The students then perform their works onstage at McCaw Hall. Classes also get a behind-the-scenes look at a professional ballet company, including field trips to rehearsal studios, production offices and the costume shop. PNB's largest Community Education program, DISCOVER DANCE gives students a unique and comprehensive learning experience. PNB's Teaching Artists guide students to think of themselves as artists. The end result is not only dance education, but also fostering confidence, creativity, trust, and camaraderie among students.

PNB wishes to thank the National Endowment for the Arts for this award, as well as the other generous sponsors of DISCOVER DANCE: ArtsFund/Wells Fargo Cultural Education Enhancement Fund, The Horizons Foundation, Safeco Insurance Foundation, and Washington State Arts Commission.

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**To learn more about PNB Community Education Programs, please visit: www.pnb.org/outreach.
To learn more about the National Endowment for the Arts, please visit: www.nea.gov.
Images from Community Education Programs are available in the press room at: www.pnb.org.**

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