



# 2023 Year in Review

When I was first appointed to lead the organization, I had my sights set on amplifying CPRD's core impact. The challenge at hand with a growing artistic and administrative team was to improve on work we were already doing well. While our work has certainly expanded in reach, in many cases, this has often meant going deeper in programming and partnerships.

As we review this past calendar year, our early childhood educational programs, like **PNC Preschool Tales**, show growth and success in serving more than 1,000 early learners. Our **BA in Dance** program, established in partnership with **Metropolitan State University of Denver**, has also expanded in both majors and minors, and this fall, we showcased students on stage with international artists in co-production with Dr. Dennis Law's **Mozart Requiem Evermore**. Not only did the CPRD Ensemble collaborate with our beloved **Colorado Symphony**, we reunited on tour with none other than our newly made family, the **New Orleans Jazz Orchestra**, performing the critical work **Sacred Spaces?** in Detroit, Michigan and Opelika, Alabama.

At a foundational level, CPRD is dedicated to cultivating healthy minds, bodies, and spirits and co-creating spaces of belonging with You—the Village! We engage this work with direct services and advocacy through the arts across

Colorado. As summer began, we launched **Mental Health is Wealth**, a trauma-informed internship program, in partnership with our friends at the **Farley Health Policy Center**. The first cohort of young learners completed 80+ hours each of workplace learning with partners throughout the Denver metro area.

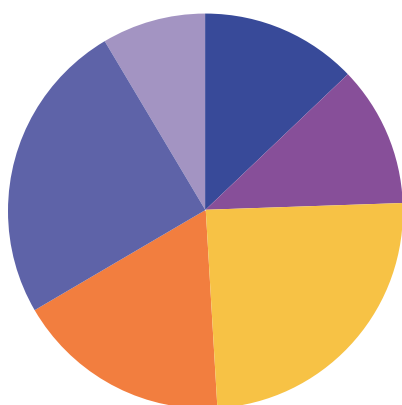
In addition to numerous health advocacy engagements in Denver, Ft. Collins, Pueblo, and San Luis Valley, our **Arts-in-Wellbeing** team was a key player in launching **My Spark Denver**, a pilot aiming to provide up to 4,000 DPS middle schoolers with \$1,000 to participate in an after school program of choice.

On May 23, we entered into the public-facing phase of our **Campaign for the Future**, a 25,000 SF expansion project adjacent to our headquarters in the Historic Shorter AME Church. While we push to break ground in early 2024, we are committed to keeping 100 percent of programming firing on all cylinders across the organization. CPRD is a small nonprofit with a huge impact, and our ability to maintain this high level of community work is only through your partnership and support.

Malik Robinson  
President & CEO

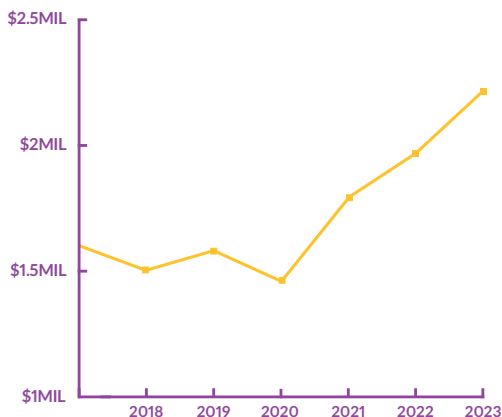


## HOW CPRD WAS FUNDED IN 2023



- 5% Other
- 21% Ticket Sales
- 10% Individual Donations
- 18% Annual Gala
- 10% Classes & Tuition
- 36% Foundations

## CPRD ANNUAL BUDGET GROWTH



2018.....	\$1,490,500
2019.....	\$1,597,500
2020.....	\$1,445,120
2021.....	\$1,871,000
2022.....	\$1,959,000
2023.....	\$2,281,000

# Our Future

In May 2023, CPRD publicly announced a significant facility expansion. In Spring 2024, we will break ground on a new 25,000 SF wing that will connect to our existing Historic Shorter Facility landmark—and continue a future of leadership as a cultural anchor in Denver and the Rocky Mountain Region.



**10,000 → 20,000**  
THEATRE PATRONS

**1,200 → 2,500**  
ACADEMY STUDENTS

**15,000 → 30,000**  
ARTS-IN-EDUCATION  
STUDENTS

**Thank you to our amazing Village of individuals, foundations,  
and companies who began (or continued) support in 2023  
so our dream becomes a reality.**



The **Sankofa Society** was founded in 2019 and launched the **CPRD Campaign for the Future** with donor commitments ensuring the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance legacy survives and thrives. The **Akan** symbol is a reminder that the past serves as a guide for the future—knowing where one comes from as one proceeds.



The word **Aya** represents an Adinkra symbol meaning “fern” and is representative of endurance, resourcefulness, and defiance against oppression. Our **Aya Society** began in 2023 with a small group of vibrant, diverse, resourceful, and forward-looking individuals who contributed \$100,000 or more to the CPRD Capital Campaign supporting future initiatives.

# Thank You

to the many individuals, companies,  
and organizations who supported  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance from  
November 2, 2022 to October 31, 2023

## 2023 DANCING WITH THE DENVER STARS

**Co-Chairs:** Hollie Velasquez Horvath & Jerome Davis

**Honorary Chairs:** Jane & Skip Netzorg, Esq.

### Stars:

Brian Holland, Mortenson

Brian Vogt, Denver Botanic Gardens

Chris Ross, US Bank

Cody Field, Special Olympics Colorado

Dakeana Jones-Bishop, Cannabis Human Resource Executive

Kelly Flenniken, Xcel Energy

Laura Nieto, Southwest Airlines

Lauren Guthrie, VF Corporation

Maisha Fields, Fields Foundation

Meredith Leighty, City of Northglenn

Michelle Griego, CBS Colorado (KCNC Channel 4)

Naquetta Ricks, Colorado General Assembly HD 40

Terrell Davis, Former Denver Bronco Running Back

## 2023 COMMITTEES

### Strategic Advisory:

Andrea Fulton

Debbie Herrera

Gwen Brewer

Hal Logan

James Kaiser

Shelley Thompson

Tina Walls

Tim Davis

### Marketing Committee:

#### Co-Chairs

Andrea Fulton & Demesha Hill

Flora Jane DiRienzo

Matthew Thornton

Jennifer Wozniak

Kelly Hawthorne Smith

Kelli Kelly

### Development Committee:

Dirk Bird

Shelley Thompson

Tina Walls

### ADA Task Force:

Allison Gipple, Craig Hospital

Darlene Poplawski, Craig Hospital

Elena Mendoza, Rocky Mountain Partnership

Joe Fangman, Craig Hospital

Julie Reiskin, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition

Rachel Wilson, Craig Hospital

Regan Linton, Theatre Artist | Actor | Writer | Change Agent

## ABOVE AND BEYOND IN 2023

### A special thank you:

AOR (Agency Off Record)

Allstate: CJ Keim

CBS Colorado, KCNC Channel 4

Fentress Architects: Kayhun Lee, John Kudrycki, Curt Fentress

LOM Consulting: Chad Oliver

Mortenson: Lisa Larance, Dave Espinosa, Doug McNichol

Safeway

Southwest Airlines

Xcel Energy

Visuals: Martha Wirth, Fentress Architects

## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Gwen Brewer**  
PRESIDENT  
Retired Educator

**Demesha Hill**  
Managing Director, DEI,  
Janus Henderson Foundation

**Debbie Herrera**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Director of Human Resources,  
Colorado Housing Finance Authority

**Jennifer Wozniak**  
Chief Communications Officer,  
Stanley Consultants

**Dr. Shale Wong**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
Director, Eugene S. Farley, Jr.  
Health Policy Center  
at CU Anschutz Medical Campus

**Josett Valdez**  
Chief Development Officer,  
American Red Cross

**Tyrone Gant, CTP**  
TREASURER  
SVP Director of Treasury,  
Vectra Bank

**Kelli Kelly**  
Business Development  
& Strategy Director, Kiewit  
Engineering Group, Inc.

**Cleo Parker Robinson**  
Founder/Artistic Director,  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

**Lisa Hogan, Esq.**  
Partner, Brownstein Hyatt Farber  
Schreck, LLP

**Malik Robinson**  
President and CEO,  
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

**Lisa Levin Appel**  
Retired

**Alfred Walker**  
Retail Manager, Kroger Inc.

**Matt Thornton, Esq.**  
Shareholder, Ballad Spahr LLP

**Chris Cardenas**  
SVP, Customer Services &  
Experience, Avangrid

**Matthew Keeney**  
President, AOR

**Darryl Collier**  
AVP Partner Strategy, Government  
Markets, Empower Retirement

**Robert Thompson**  
VP Mountain West Region,  
Comcast Business

**Tim Davis**  
Retired

**Toni Baruti**  
Chief Technology Officer, CTIO

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

Dr. Dwinita Mosby Tyler

Lisa Hogan, Esq. (CPRD Board Member)

## HONORARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

Cleo Parker Robinson

Daniel L. Ritchie

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CABINET

Bruce Johnson, Esq.

Kelly Hawthorne Smith

Chris Ross

Maude Lofton

Gwen & Moses Brewer

Paul Washington

Hal Logan

Tyrone Gant

Jane & Skip Netzorg, Esq.

“I am grateful for the community you have created for us over the years. Every time I see a performance or visit the studio for an event, I feel safe and hopeful that maybe we can have peace, love, and respect for everybody.”

— LINDA LAUFF



# Warmest Greetings to You All

This has been an extraordinary year, affording us the opportunity to advance our ever-expanding vision of strengthening community through the arts. Maintaining balance and purpose by means of both significant accomplishments and challenges, we feel a great sense of renewal, pride, and joy.

For me, a major source of inspiration comes from our President and CEO, my son, **Malik Robinson**, along with our entire Administrative and Technical Staff, our Academy Faculty, our Board of Directors, and the brilliant artists of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble (CPRDE), Cleo II, and our Youth Ensembles. Our entire Village continues to demonstrate outstanding dedication and commitment to our mission, and the highest level of excellence within the local, national, and international communities that we serve.

2023 has seen several significant artistic milestones for us:

The CPRDE and Cleo II local touring season encompassed numerous performances throughout Colorado, including the **Cities Summit of the Americas**, as well as collaborations with the **Colorado Symphony Music With Attitude** series, and the **Dennis Law Center of Arts and Technology** production of **Mozart Requiem Evermore**.

Our national touring season saw CPRDE “on the road” for three weeks in February as they brought educational residencies and performances to Livermore, California, Spokane, Washington, and Wilmington, North Carolina. In March, I had the great honor of joining the other four founding members of the IABD (International Association of Blacks in Dance) to receive the **National Medal of the Arts at the White House**. In July, I was privileged to be invited, along with Associate Artistic Director, **Winifred R. Harris**, and Ensemble member **Ralaya S. Goshea**, to present a three-day residency focusing on the powerful impact of my mentor, dance icon, **Katherine Dunham**. In September, I was profoundly moved to share a documentary outlining much of my own history and that of our organization in a documentary developed through the support of **Rocky Mountain PBS**.

Our Spring concert **Legacy**, presented here in our own theatre, featured the works of some of our greatest American Black dance legends—**Alvin Ailey**, **Talley Beatty**, **Katherine Dunham**, and **Donald McKayle**, along with the world premiere of a new work by innovative young choreographer, **Avree Walker**. We consider the preservation and presentation of the works of these iconic artists, and the

advancement of new artists, to be a sacred trust that we deeply honor.

Our Fall 2023 concert **Firebird**, at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House, was truly memorable as I reprised my own full-length ballet **Firebird**; we premiered **Catch Ah Fire** by **Thomas Talawa Prestø**, Founder and Artistic Director of **Tabanka Dance Ensemble**, based in Oslo, Norway. His works focus on the effects of colonialism throughout the world—and the need to bring healing from that impact.

As I reflect on this incredible season, I am continually uplifted by a renewed determination to continue to give voice to our young people, our families, our elders—to elevate each of us through the power, passion, and beauty of the arts. It is my hope that each of you will remain strong in mind, body, and spirit as we advance with a heightened sense of purpose—**sharing peace, love, and respect** within our communities and around the world.

In The Spirit Of Dance,



Founder and Artistic Director



@cleodance

@cleoparkerdanceacademy



CleoParkerRobinsonDance



Cleo Parker Robinson Dance