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Luna Dance & Creativity to open new state-of-the-art center for dance education

Berkeley, CA – Luna Dance & Creativity, formerly known as Luna Dance Institute, announces the opening of its new community dance center with a series of classes and events, starting this May. The new space at 931 Ashby Avenue in Berkeley will be Luna’s first permanent home after more than 32 years of occupying temporary rental spaces throughout the East Bay. Now firmly established in a space of its own, the influential and innovative dance education organization is situated to become the region’s newest cultural hub for dance.

“Luna is a valuable member of our community, providing services that benefit citizens of Berkeley of all ages.... Luna’s move to South Berkeley will also bring a valuable community resource to an under-resourced part of our city.”

Susie Medak, Former Managing Director
Berkeley Repertory Theater

The new dance center will further Luna’s mission to serve the community with its signature creative dance programs as well as new initiatives for children, families, educators, and artists. Designed and remodeled for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessibility by Studio KDA, Woolman Architecture, and Oliver & Company, the former East Bay Express and technology office building that now houses two light-filled, state-of-the-art dance studios and work spaces for artists and educators will fortify Luna’s commitment to access and equity.

“Not only is it exciting for artists with disabilities to have a new space to create but it’s also valuable for nondisabled people to see us creatives with disabilities doing things out of the ordinary. It expands perceptions of disability.”

Bonnie Lewkowitz, Director
Access Northern California

Luna welcomes the public in a series of opening programs:

For children and families

- Free Studio Lab Classes for Kids, June 11 to June 18, (ages 5-7 years)
- Free Family Dance, Saturday, June 1, 1-2:30pm
- Luna Kids Dance Camp, June 24-28

For registration: <https://lunadancecreativity.org/studio-lab/kids/>

For educators and artists

- Summer Institute Reunion, a celebration of Luna's nationally acclaimed professional development program, May 25, 4-6pm
- Summer Institute 2024, July 8-12
- Learning & Teaching II workshop: CRAFTING, July 15-19

For information: <https://lunadancecreativity.org/professional-learning/institutes/summer/>

For the community

- Luna Dance & Creativity Ribbon Cutting, Saturday, August 24
- Luna Dance & Creativity Gala, Thursday, October 17

Email jmsevilla@lunadancecreativity.org for more information.

About Luna Dance & Creativity

Luna is a nationally recognized arts leader and institution that supports families, artists, teachers, leaders, schools, community, and arts organizations through programs that promote creativity and self-determination through the transformative power of dance. Founded in 1992, Luna has become the most comprehensive dance education organization on the West Coast. Luna fulfills its mission to bring creativity, equity, and community to every child's life through the art of dance provided via education services to the youth and families who are the least likely to receive the benefits of an arts education, including children and mothers in the dependency system and living in poverty; children living in neighborhoods and attending schools with little to no access to arts programs; and children diagnosed with autism, special learning needs, and other disabilities. Luna serves children, families, and dance practitioners through partnerships with schools, social service agencies, and arts and culture organizations. Last year, 519 teachers, who taught 35,895 students, received Luna's services and resources. Discover more at lunadancecreativity.org.