



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Luna Dance & Creativity officially opens new state-of-the-art center for
dance education with Ribbon Cutting Celebration, Saturday, August 24, 1-3:30 pm**

Berkeley, CA – Luna Dance & Creativity officially opens its new community dance center at 931 Ashby Avenue in Berkeley with a Ribbon Cutting Celebration and open house on Saturday, August 24, from 1 to 3:30 pm. The event, presented in collaboration with Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, will feature an official ribbon cutting ceremony including remarks from Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arrequin and Councilmember Terry Taplin, family dance classes, dance rehearsals in session, and tours of the new ADA-accessible dance space. Free admission. RSVP requested. To register, visit <https://lunadancecreativity.org/product/ribbon-cutting-celebration/>

The Ribbon Cutting launches the long-awaited establishment of Luna's permanent home after more than 32 years of occupying temporary rental studios throughout the East Bay and surviving the loss of its space during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The arts are not only critical for our cultural soul and vitality...they play an important role in our local economy [and] are deeply embedded in our city's vibrant environment.... I'm excited that after 30 years Luna will be moving into a new home here in West Berkeley that's going to allow this organization to thrive and give back to the community. This project, which includes dance space that is completely ADA-accessible, will expand opportunities for artists to continue making Berkeley an epicenter for arts and culture."

Jesse Arrequin, Mayor
City of Berkeley

Formerly known as a U.S. Government Office (1980 to 1991), Fred's Market (1991 to 1992), Express Newspaper (1996 to 2000), Ashby Chiropractic and Health Center (1996 to 2011), and TechSoft 3D (2009 to 2018), the new Luna Dance & Creativity has been designed and remodeled specifically for dance and

accessibility by Studio KDA, Woolman Architecture and Oliver & Company and features two light-filled, state-of-the-art dance studios, a dance education resource library, a new elevator, ADA-accessible bathrooms and workspaces for artists.

“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 Lewkowicz, Director
Access Northern California

The new dance center will further Luna’s mission to serve the community with its signature creative dance and internationally recognized professional development programs as well as new initiatives for children, families, educators, and artists from across the globe. Firmly housed in a space of its own, the influential and innovative dance education organization is situated to become Northern California’s newest hub for dance and—with such neighbors as Kala Art Institute, Shotgun Theater, Ashby Arts Space, La Peña, and Gamelan Sekar Jaya—the latest addition to the culture corridor of South Berkeley.

“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

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’s mission to bring creativity, equity, and community to every child’s life through the art of dance is fulfilled through education services to the youth and families who are the least likely to receive the benefits of an arts education, including families in the dependency system and living in poverty; students 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.