



DISCOVER DANCE

Program Report
2014–2015



Peter Boal
Artistic Director

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT PACIFIC NORTHWEST BALLET

In support of the Vision and Mission of Pacific Northwest Ballet, PNB's Education programs seek to engage the community through programs and partnerships that provide access and equity. PNB views dance as a fundamental part of education and life. We believe every child and adult has the ability and merit to participate. We value:

- community engagement;
- excellence in dance and education;
- collaboration with our partners;
- lifelong learning in the arts.

Throughout the 2014–2015 season, PNB reached 22,785 students, teachers, and families through in-school programming, visits to PNB studios, specially-priced student matinees, and community partnerships. DISCOVER DANCE is the largest, most comprehensive program within PNB's educational offerings. All programmatic elements of DISCOVER DANCE are available to any school in the area.

*Dance class gave me confidence.
Confidence that I can do about
anything I want if I try.*

–DISCOVER DANCE Student

DISCOVER DANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PNB offers DISCOVER DANCE so that schools which otherwise provide little or no dance instruction have access to high-quality, standards-based dance education and world-class professional dance resources. DISCOVER DANCE provides students with opportunities to learn skills and processes needed to bring an original creative work to life. At each partner school, all classrooms and students from one grade level participate in a residency lasting an average of three months. Mirroring professional artistic practices and using curriculum that blends creative movement and choreographic tools, students work as a class to create their own dance. A hallmark of DISCOVER DANCE is integration with other subject areas—aligning learning objectives and vocabulary across disciplines. PNB teaching artists collaborate with classroom teachers to develop lessons that reflect residency and classroom goals, state standards, and 21st Century Skills such as collaboration, creative thinking, and growth-mindset. Additionally, partner classrooms attend live professional performances at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, tour PNB's professional studios and costume shop, observe and meet Company dancers, and perform their original choreography at McCaw Hall or PNB's professional studios.

Opportunities for additional students or alumni from the partner schools to engage in DISCOVER DANCE include music programs in which students perform live music for DISCOVER DANCE, visual arts residencies to create backdrops, participation in REACH Student Dance Group at PNB studios, and invitations to PNB performances and events.

2014–2015 Program Highlights

- Expanded partnership with Seattle Public Schools to include professional development for Physical Education specialists, integrating dance into their curriculum
- New residencies for self-contained Special Education classrooms and training in inclusive practices for PNB teaching artists and staff thanks to funding from Safeco Insurance
- Selected partner for Creative Advantage Roster, Seattle Public School's district-wide arts plan, for integrated arts residencies and professional development
- Selected partner for Bellevue Public School's *Dream Big* summer learning initiative
- Added two new teaching artists to the DISCOVER DANCE team and expanded professional development and training for all Education staff



2014–2015 PROGRAM IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

35 classrooms participated from 11 partner schools

846 students, 1st–8th grade, received standards-based dance education

18 average total contact hours for each partner classroom

65 elementary chorus members and middle school musicians performed with student dancers

939 instructional hours

52 classroom teachers participated in dance classes with their students, professional development, and collaborative arts teaching

2,402 audience members at final 2 McCaw Hall performances

3,353 audience members at in-school performances

4 fieldtrips for classrooms to PNB

21 total staff: 9 teaching artists, 5 accompanists, 3 program staff (1 ft, 2 pt), 1 teaching apprentice, 3 interns

9 languages: Amharic, Cantonese, English, Mandarin, Oromo, Spanish, Somali, Tagalog, Vietnamese

17 years serving Seattle and Bellevue students

WHY DISCOVER DANCE WORKS

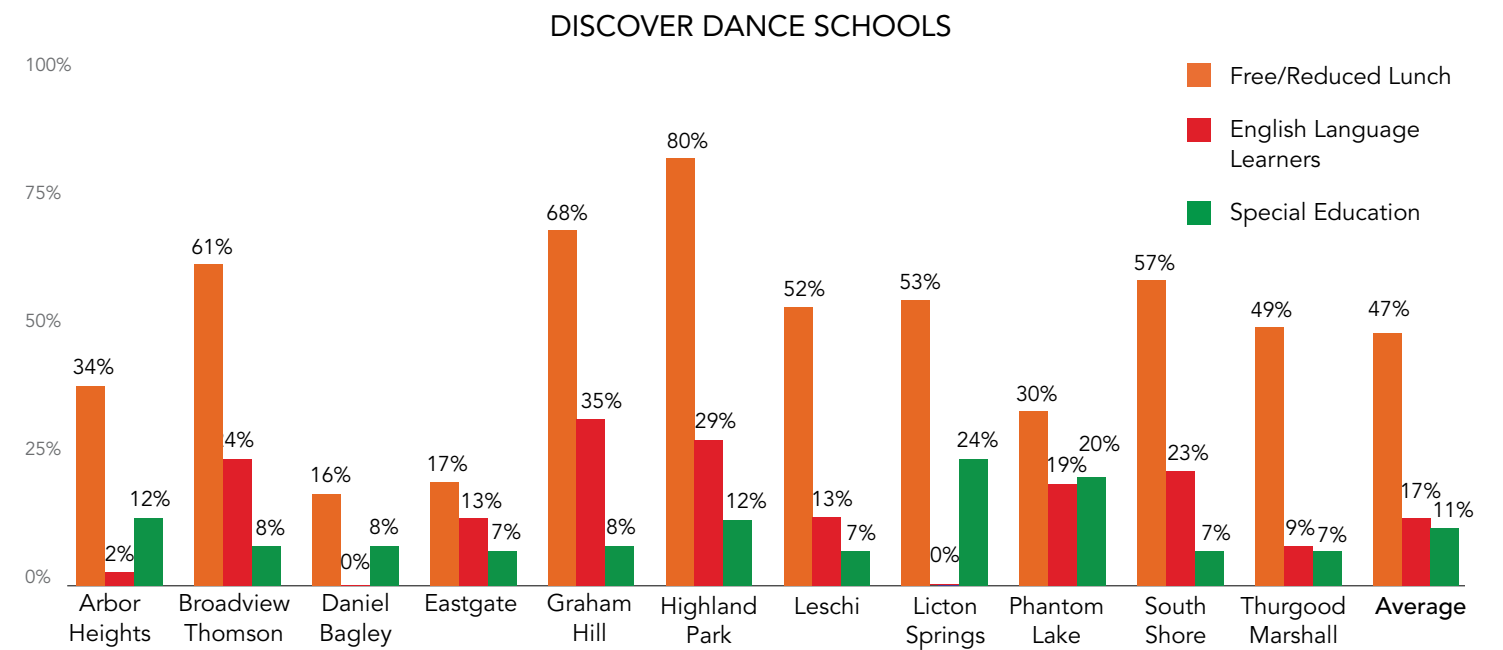
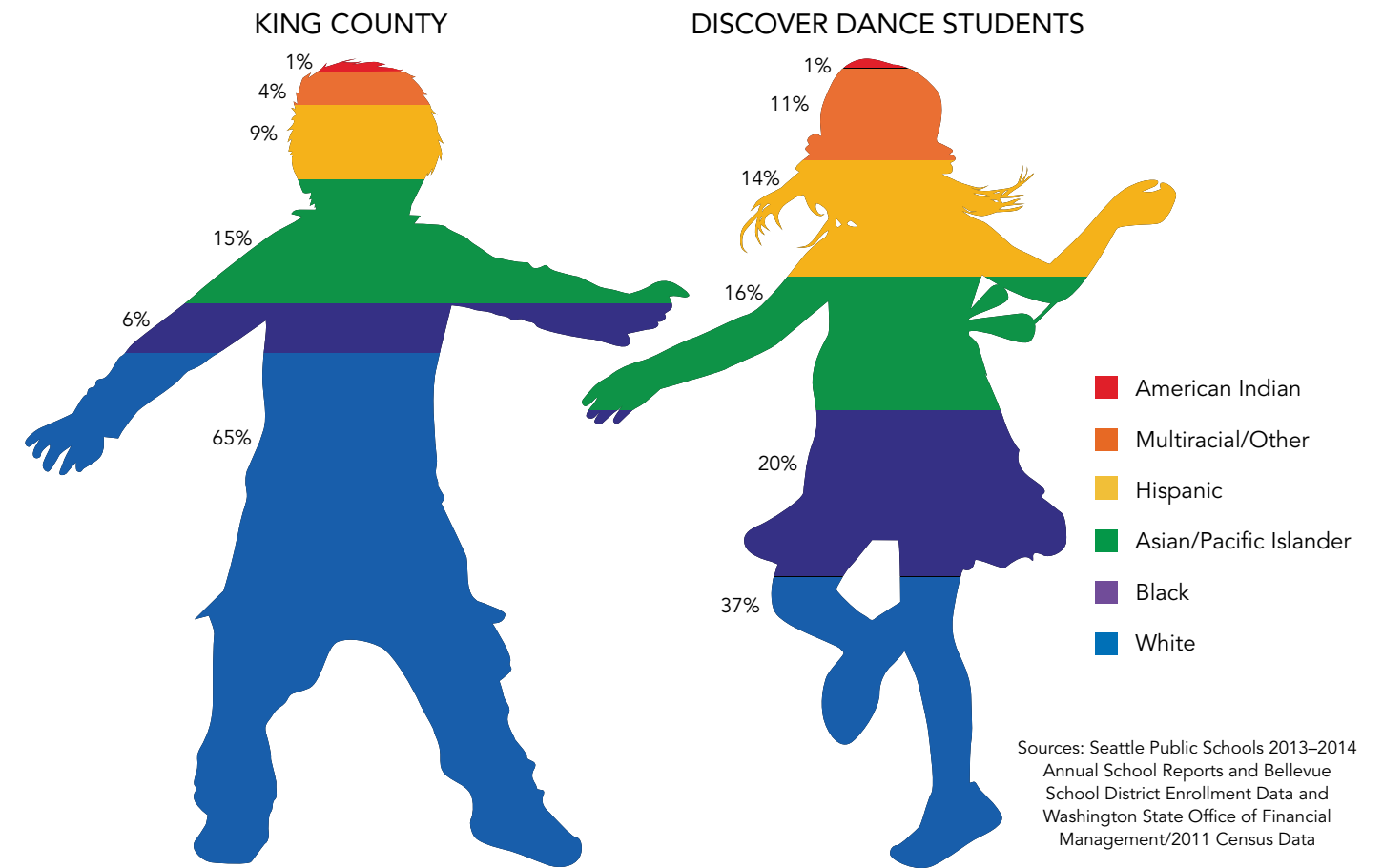
- A highly-skilled, committed, and passionate group of teaching artists who participate in ongoing professional development
- A formalized partnership with Seattle Public Schools, which provides district support and opportunities
- A collaborative partnership with classroom teachers and schools
- A commitment from PNB artists and staff to fostering community engagement and access to the Company
- Partnerships with community organizations, including professional development for classroom teachers and teaching artists





- 1 Arbor Heights Elementary
2nd grade (2 classrooms)
Partner since 2008
- 2 Broadview Thomson K-8
2nd grade (4 classrooms)
Partner since 2008
- 3 Daniel Bagley Elementary
4th grade (2 classrooms)
Partner since 1999
- 4 Graham Hill Elementary
3rd grade (2 classrooms)
Partner since 1999
- 5 Highland Park Elementary
3rd grade (3 classrooms)
Partner since 2008
- 6 Leschi Elementary
2nd grade (3 classrooms)
Partner since 2010
- 7 Licton Springs K-8
2nd-8th grade (4 classrooms)
Partner since 2009
- 8 South Shore K-8
1st grade (3 classrooms)
Partner since 2010
- 9 Thurgood Marshall Elementary
2nd grade (3 classrooms)
Partner since 2012
- 10 Eastgate Elementary
4th grade (3 classrooms)
Partner since 1997
- 11 Phantom Lake Elementary
3rd grade (2 classrooms)
Partner since 2010

DEMOGRAPHICS



PNB translated DISCOVER DANCE materials into nine languages: Amharic, Cantonese, English, Mandarin, Oromo, Spanish, Somali, Tagalog, Vietnamese

STUDENT LEARNING: PHASE I

Building Skills

In this phase, students gain foundational skills in dance. Lessons focus on movement concepts, choreographic tools, dance vocabulary, and include live musical accompaniment. Participants collaborate with their peers as they work toward creating increasingly complex choreography.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 1

Students will understand three to five dance concepts

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 2

Students will improvise and create short movement phrases using dance concepts and skills

98% of sampled students demonstrated proficiency for objectives 1 and 2

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 3

Students will understand dance class structure and protocol

100% of sampled students demonstrated proficiency for objective 3

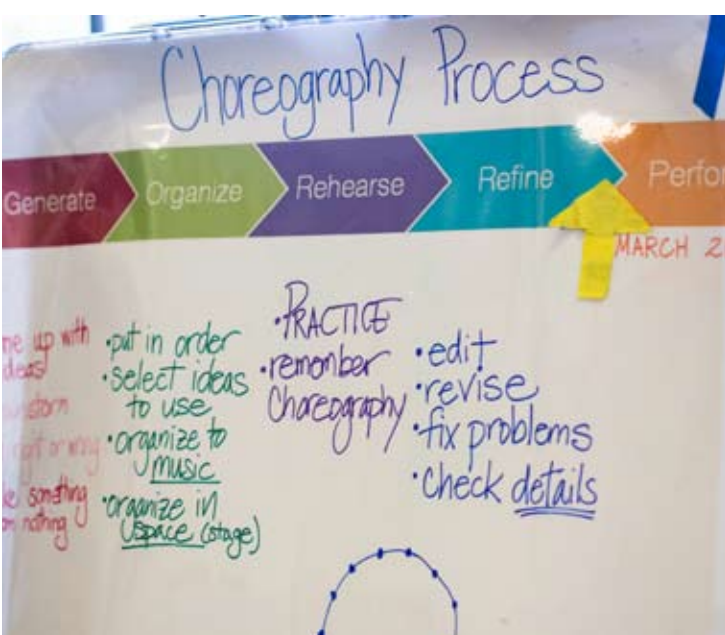
Our [teaching artist] clearly knows what she is doing and is just wonderful with the students. I think they were immediately responsive to her because she is both knowledgeable and caring.

—DISCOVER DANCE Classroom Teacher



I am so proud of myself and the people in my class because PNB taught us the true meaning of teamwork. —DISCOVER DANCE Student





STUDENT LEARNING: PHASE II

Creating Choreography

In this phase, students collectively create a piece of choreography inspired by a topic from their classroom curriculum. Working individually, in groups, and as a class, participants generate and organize movement ideas and think critically about how to communicate their ideas to their peers and to an audience. Students also attend a PNB matinee and visit PNB's professional studios for a behind-the-scenes tour, expanding their understanding of the professional world of dance.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 1

Students will communicate ideas through movement

81% of sampled students demonstrated proficiency

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 2

Students will apply a creative process for creating choreography

96% of sampled students demonstrated proficiency

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 3

Students will describe and discuss movement using dance vocabulary

94% of sampled students demonstrated proficiency

I discovered how to make my dance and other things. We make an idea, practice, and perform or represent it. –DISCOVER DANCE Student

The interdisciplinary connection...allowed students to have a deeper understanding of complex issues and curriculum—highly valuable!

–DISCOVER DANCE Classroom Teacher





A challenge I faced was memorizing the dance. I faced it by paying attention in class and practiced at home. –DISCOVER DANCE Student

STUDENT LEARNING: PHASE III

Rehearse and Refine

In this phase, students revise their choreography, finalize their dance, and evaluate performance quality in preparation for a performance at PNB. Lessons focus on the rehearsal process and include a dress rehearsal on stage.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 1

Students will identify strengths and weaknesses in choreography during rehearsals

84% of sampled students demonstrated proficiency

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 2

Students will revise and refine choreography and performance quality throughout the rehearsal process

92% of sampled students demonstrated proficiency





STUDENT LEARNING: PHASE IV

Performance & Reflection

In this phase, students perform their choreography on stage during a DISCOVER DANCE Community Performance. Following the performance, students analyze the impact of the residency experience and how they can apply learned skills beyond dance class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 1

Students will understand how performing affects the experience of a dance

97% of sampled students demonstrated proficiency

LEARNING OBJECTIVE 2

Students will recognize and reflect skills and habits used by dance artists

93% of sampled students demonstrated proficiency

Having a shared performance opportunity at such a wonderful venue will be a lifelong memory for all the students.

–DISCOVER DANCE Classroom Teacher

When I first stepped on that stage I was frightened. Once I started dancing the fear went away because I was having so much fun. I felt great about trying something new. –DISCOVER DANCE Student

WHAT CLASSROOM TEACHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT DISCOVER DANCE:

100% are "satisfied" or "extremely satisfied" with their DISCOVER DANCE experience

100% are "satisfied" or "extremely satisfied" with their PNB teaching artist

95% state that their students gained new insights into their curriculum during DISCOVER DANCE

78% state that their students changed their attitude about dance over time

TOP THREE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS ADDRESSED BY DISCOVER DANCE, AS RANKED BY CLASSROOM TEACHERS:

- Creative thinking
- Collaboration
- Perseverance

Additionally, teachers report that their students gain and understand the following as a result of DISCOVER DANCE participation:

- Risk taking
- Communication skills
- Change in behavior and motivation in academic work
- Confidence
- Positive classroom community and culture
- Engagement with the larger school community: teachers, families, students
- Respect for multiple perspectives
- Body awareness
- Ability to stay focused on a long-term task
- Connections to the professional world of dance and wider view of career possibilities

My students grew as a community because they felt like they achieved something amazing, together.

—DISCOVER DANCE Classroom Teacher



DISCOVER DANCE programming supports school goals as well as State and District standards through its distinct efforts to increase student learning and build teacher capacity. Seattle Public Schools values the professionalism and rigor in arts teaching and learning that this partnership provides. —Seattle Public Schools

In one word: Awesome!

—DISCOVER DANCE Parent



WHAT FAMILIES ARE SAYING ABOUT DISCOVER DANCE:

Percentage of families ranking each benefit within the top three most important aspects of DISCOVER DANCE

70% Students experience a creative art form

67% Every student in the class participates, working together in a shared experience

59% Exposure to the working world of professional dance (fieldtrips to PNB, tour of costume shop, Q&A with Company dancers, performing at McCaw Hall or professional PNB studios, working with professional stage crew)

27% indicated DISCOVER DANCE was their first time at McCaw Hall or a PNB performance

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Beyond in-school instruction, DISCOVER DANCE provides opportunities for families to connect with PNB. Participation through special events, discounted tickets, and school-based curriculum nights helps foster engagement both at PNB and within individual school communities. Highlights include:

- 595 individual tickets to PNB performances
- Free dress rehearsal and lecture opportunities
- 169 DISCOVER DANCE families attended DISCOVER DANCE Day at *Nutcracker*, including a backstage tour and opportunity to meet artists, thanks to lead funding from Alaska Airlines
- 85 attendees at Family Day at PNB Studios, including student performances, family dance activities, and performances of PNB repertory
- Low and no-cost opportunities to come to PNB performances of *Carmina Burana* and *Snow White*

The self-esteem DISCOVER DANCE has helped blossom within [my son] has filled me with joy and gratitude. —DISCOVER DANCE Parent

Looking To The Future

After reviewing materials, listening to stakeholders, and receiving a report from an outside evaluator, PNB is excited to embark on the following for 2015–16:

- Continuing use and improvement of student dance journals, utilizing a familiar format to capture student ideas, questions, and learning
- Adding modifications and accommodations for students with disabilities to the curriculum
- Adding schools to the Physical Education specialist professional development program
- Developing training sessions and guides for teaching artists and classroom teachers, ensuring more reliability in student assessments
- Improving access to discounted PNB performances and events for DISCOVER DANCE students and alumni

PROGRAM GOALS AND EVALUATION

Pacific Northwest Ballet conducts an annual program evaluation in order to track student achievement of learning objectives, identify the impact and effects of the program, monitor for ongoing quality of the program, and to identify opportunities for program improvement. Program evaluation is based on multiple sources of input and data—including student assessments, classroom teacher/partner school feedback, family surveys, and teaching artist reflection. For more detailed information about how assessment and evaluation is conducted, contact education@pnb.org.

“It is clear, PNB’s DISCOVER DANCE program is committed to quality teaching and learning in dance for all students, teachers, and schools. The program is comprehensive. The leadership is exceptional. The outcomes are lasting.” –External Program Evaluator

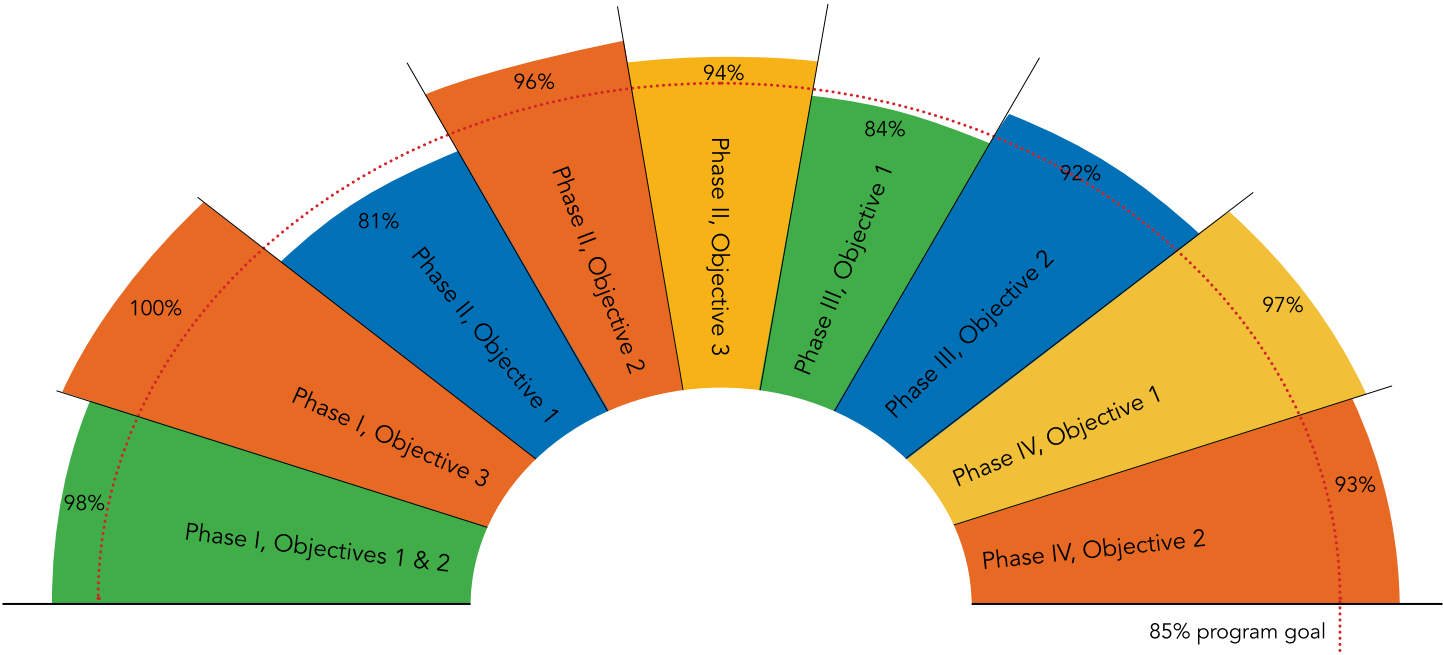


WASHINGTON STATE STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN DISCOVER DANCE

Essential Academic Learning Requirement Components: Dance	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
1.1 Understands and applies dance concepts and vocabulary	●	●	●	
1.2 Develops the technique and skills of dance	●	●		
1.4 Understands and applies audience conventions in a variety of settings and performances of dance		●		●
2.1 Applies a creative process to dance	●	●	●	
2.2 Applies a performance and/or presentation process to dance	●		●	●
2.3 Applies a responding process to a performance and/or presentation of dance		●		●
3.1 Uses dance to express feelings and present ideas	●	●		
4.2 Demonstrates and analyzes the connections among the arts and between the arts and other content areas		●	●	
4.3 Understands how the arts impact and reflect personal choices throughout life				●
4.5 Understands how arts knowledge and skills are used in the world of work, including careers in the arts		●	●	●

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT 2014–2015

(results for program objectives using random samples of completed student assessment materials)



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DISCOVER DANCE PROVIDED BY



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*Dance class has changed who I am
because it makes me brave.*

—DISCOVER DANCE Student

PNB Education Department Staff

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Alisha Dall'Osto

Teaching Artist Apprentice: Hayley Shannon

Accompanists: Adam Kessler, Becca Baggenstoss, Jeremy Jones,
Morgan Gilkeson, Daniel Zwelling

2014 External Program Evaluator: Gail Sehlhorst

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DISCOVER DANCE photos by

Lionel Flynn, Jacob Lambert, Joseph Lambert, and Lindsay Thomas

PNB Education Programs are committed to serving ALL members of the community. We believe every child and adult has the ability and merit to dance. Programming is inclusive, regardless of race, national origin, disability status, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or gender.

