

# The Dance Complex's Portal to Dance

## Things learned along the way:



### The Crunchy Granola Stuff:

- Metaphor and mission can lead you to a physical manifestation
- Physical manifestation as an outgrowth of mission/metaphor leads you to concrete, tactile presence that translates where mere words cannot
- Refreshed physical space allows dream in your community to reawaken; draws new interest from unknown places (individuals, other groups, business....)
- There will be bumps. Expensive bumps. Remember that, and be nimble, solve the problem as best you can

### The Brass Tacks Stuff:

- Feasibility studies- with clear focus on what you want to know at the end- are worth the price
- You will need a dedicated project manager and best to have someone not involved with your day-to-day operations
- Budget wisely; big-ly...
- Avoid denial: safety, all ability usage, up to code will not go away nor should it
- Ask for help, no heroes here: communities can wrap around "building" more so than philosophy (sometimes)... ask for help even if you don't think you need it

### Celebrate Stuff: Let your light shine:

- Budget for celebration, for programming, for the after party: do not forget to celebrate with all those who helped
- Let everyone know what you did and are doing now
- Be authentic: most of us are hard workers and humble but don't let humbleness impede your storytelling. Engagement with your story will help you and all of us
- Make art – or dance, or gatherings happen, or dynamic learning – even more than you did before. Even if over budget and spent beyond your means, you need evidence that the art doesn't die.
- Making will bring you more of everything you need

Peter DiMuro  
peter@dancecomplex.org  
www.dancecomplex.org  
facebook: Dance Complex  
twitter: dancecomplex  
instagram: thedancecomplex  
536 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617 547 9363

