

Luna's School & Community Alliances' Students Perform Birthday Flashmob

OUSD students celebrate Luna 25th anniversary with dance



Berkeley, CA- On March 8, 2017 students in Luna Dance Institute's School and Community Alliances (SCA) program will perform a flashmob in honor of Luna's 25th anniversary. Oakland public school students will perform together at their school site, and Luna Dance after-school Studio Lab students will perform for parents. Everyone is invited to learn the flashmob, dance and share it on Luna's birthday.

Luna's SCA program includes model-classes and professional learning for classroom teachers in order to create viable programs that reach those with the least arts access. Dance is taught in early childhood centers, schools, districts, and arts and community centers. This year Luna is working in five Oakland Unified Schools that include: Grass Valley Elementary, Reach Academy, La Escuelita, International Community School, New Highland Academy,

and Berkeley Head Start to bring creative, standards-based dance to over 500 children and 40 classroom teachers.

The dance is choreographed by Luna teaching artists Heather Stockton and Nia Womack-Freeman to Stevie Wonder's "Happy Birthday", a song relevant to our current political climate, and student backgrounds. Wonder created the tune to advocate for Dr. Martin Luther King's National Holiday, and the message aligns with Luna's mission to bring creativity, equity and community to all children through the art of dance.

"Dance is about creation," states Patricia Reedy, who founded Luna in 1992. She adds, "When I think about dance, I think about freedom. That is the thing that I want for all children. From that place, I want them to feel the power of their own voice coming through."

In addition to the special anniversary events, Luna hosts regular workshops, classes, community gatherings, and other programs for children, families, artists and educators out of its Aquatic Park location at 605 Addison Street in West Berkeley.

About Luna Dance Institute

Luna Dance Institute, a 501(c)(3), was founded in 1992 and brings dance and creative movement to children, adults, and families throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, and throughout the United States. In its 25 years, Luna has created continuously-running dance programs in the Oakland Unified School District, and its MPACT program currently offers 90 parent-child classes a year to families in residential centers and public libraries throughout Oakland. Dance educators around the nation look to Luna's outreach programs, workshops, and resources as a model for the possibilities and potential of dance education. lunadanceinstitute.org