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Luna Dance Institute Recognized as 2015 National Humanities Youth Program Award Finalist
Organization selected by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities for its MPACT
(Moving Parents and Children Together) program.

Luna's MPACT (Moving Parents and Children Together) program has been recognized as a 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award finalist by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. The NAHYA was founded seven years ago to recognize high quality youth arts programs which take place out-of-school and after-school. Arts programs compete in a thorough application process that evaluates the rigor of art-making by participants, staff qualifications and stature as a valued program by arts leaders regionally and nationally. MPACT strengthens families through relationship-based dance classes offered in partnerships with community centers, libraries and social service agencies. MPACT is one of 50 programs nationwide to be distinguished with this honor.

Over 2000+ families have participated in MPACT classes since its inception in 2001. Classes are offered free to children and parents to ensure access for those with the most need—families who are separated due to substance abuse, domestic violence, immigration or poverty. MPACT was originally designed for families reunifying following a court mandated separation. The program has grown from its first parent-child dance class at an Oakland, California residential center for women in substance abuse recovery to a multi-faceted program which includes an internship program, embodied parent education classes, and research on engagement in parent-child dance. This research, "Engaging Families in Dance: An Investigation of Moving Parents and Children Together in Dance" was funded by Alameda County Behavioral Health Services and published in the [*International Journal for Education and the Arts*](#) in February 2014. Through MPACT internships, family dance has widened its geographic reach beyond Alameda County to Marin, Los Angeles and Orange counties. We have also expanded the definition of reunification to include—migrant farmworkers, single and dual parent families holding down multiple jobs, parents and their children with special needs, and former gang members. Over the past 15 years, Luna has built strong program partnerships through MPACT with the East Bay Community Recovery Project in Oakland, Asian Women's Shelter in San Francisco, and the Wooden Floor in Santa Ana.

As MPACT evolves, Luna is committed to meeting the human need for connectivity, play and art-making in families. Through our Professional Learning Department we offer our second Family Dance Institute July 13-16, 2015. This intensive seminar is open to artists, educators and mental health professionals interested in bringing relationship-based dance to their communities. In the city of Oakland, where MPACT launched we are excited to incubate new MPACT projects through Allen Temple Health and Social Services and the Boys and Girls Club, as well as publishing a practitioner's guide to family dance implementation. As one of "50 outstanding arts programs" from across the country "providing excellent arts and humanities learning to young people," Luna looks forward to the potential of sharing MPACT with teaching artists and agencies nationwide who are inspired to use dance as an essential part of connecting children to their families and their communities.



ABOUT LUNA DANCE INSTITUTE

Luna Dance Institute (LDI) is the most comprehensive dance education organization on the west coast. We serve children, families, dance artists, educators, schools and organizations through a variety of programs aimed at increasing access to dance for everyone. Last year we brought dance to over 20,000 children and 300 artists, teachers, and social- service providers. Our rigorous approach emphasizes creativity, collaboration, and composition. LDI's programs include Professional Learning, providing education and support to all who teach dance; Studio Laboratory, the Bay Area's only choreography-based program for children and teens; School and Community Alliances (SCA), supporting schools in our community to build standards-based dance programs; Moving Parents and Children Together (MPACT), providing parent-child dance classes to families in the child welfare system. As an established Institution with a national reputation for expertise and training in dance education—Luna's Building Cultures of Dance initiative offers program planning, implementation, consultation and evaluation to schools, districts, and arts organizations throughout the country. For more information visit: lunadanceinstitute.org  