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**Luna launches new name to highlight creativity**

Berkeley, CA – The nationally acclaimed dance organization, known as Luna Dance Institute, announced its new name, Luna Dance & Creativity, during its recent Renovation Celebration street party on November 11. The new name amplifies the organization’s vision to instill the liberatory powers of creativity in every child’s life through the art of dance and to uplift justice and self-determination through the creative process. The renaming also coincides with the construction of Luna’s new permanent home at 931 Ashby Avenue, scheduled to open in Spring of 2024, that will house revitalized and new programs as the organization’s next chapter ensues.

Luna Dance & Creativity will continue to serve the community and lead the dance education field through its distinctive creative dance classes for children and families; professional learning and resources for teachers and artists; collaborations with schools, school districts, arts and education networks, libraries, and social service agencies. Under the new name and location, which will provide two fully ADA-accessible studio spaces and workspaces for dance practitioners, Luna will broaden its reach to a larger and even more inclusive population. At the new Luna Dance & Creativity space, Luna will inaugurate an artistic/educational residency to promote creativity and justice and the nation’s first dance creativity pedagogy and research center, among other new programs. In the coming weeks, Luna’s website, email addresses, and social media pages will reflect the name change.

“I consider dance and creative movement to be as essential as reading and math and science! That’s why we partnered with Luna to offer dance to my students when we founded New Highland Academy in Oakland in 2006. Every child is a mover and choreographer,” says Liz Ozol, the Berkeley Civic Arts Commissioner. “The new Luna Dance & Creativity name and center will ensure that more children, families, schools, and teachers will have access to Luna’s distinctive resources and creative experiences.”

## **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 fulfills its mission to bring creativity, equity, and community to every child's life through the art of dance provided via education services to the youth and families who are the least likely to receive the benefits of an arts education, including children and mothers in the dependency system and living in poverty; children 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 [lunadanceinstitute.org](http://lunadanceinstitute.org).