



City of Takoma Park, Maryland Mayoral Proclamation

DANCE EXCHANGE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN TAKOMA PARK

- WHEREAS**, the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange – established in 1976 – moved into a new home at 7117 Maple Avenue in Takoma Park in 1998; and
- WHEREAS**, the 2006 renovation of Dance Exchange’s studios created new spaces for rehearsal and education, and helped launch 30th Anniversary celebrations that embraced Dance Exchange’s role of as a center of artistic and community exchange, including facilities for renters, with today more than 100 renters annually using studio space; and
- WHEREAS**, with a video retrospective and party – Celebrate Liz Lerman – founder Lerman was honored in 2011 as she left the organization; Cassie Meador stepped into the Artistic Director role; and the organization was renamed “Dance Exchange” with a renewed commitment to local programming at the Takoma Park studios; and
- WHEREAS**, in 2014-2015 in partnership with Takoma Park’s New Ave initiative, and led by Cassie Meador, New Hampshire Ave: This Is a Place To... brought together community members living and working along New Hampshire Avenue in a multi-year collaboration exploring and celebrating what this corridor is, was, and could be; and
- WHEREAS**, as Dance Exchange celebrated its 40 anniversary in 2016, they launched Organizing Artists for Change, a national initiative to connect, support and grow the network of socially engaged artists through programs and creative projects; and
- WHEREAS**, most recently, in 2018 as part of its commitment to advance racial equity and anti-racist frameworks, and dismantle white supremacy, Dance Exchange partnered with Dance Metro DC to host the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond’s Undoing Racism training, a two day convening aimed at expanding those efforts locally; and
- WHEREAS**, this summer Dance Exchange celebrated its 20 years in Takoma Park with an event featuring live music, food trucks, dance performances, and community classes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Kate Stewart, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, do hereby recognize Dance Exchange for its 20 wonderful years as a beloved member of Takoma Park’s creative community and a continuing national leader in innovative dance performance and education.

Dated this 5th Day of December, 2018.

**Kate Stewart
Mayor**