



culture shock®

WASHINGTON DC | 2017 Annual Report

Culture Shock, Washington, D.C. Inc. (CSDC) is a non-profit organization committed to using the art of hip hop dance as a tool for providing constructive alternatives for urban youth through dance training and mentor relationships, as well as educating the broader community about the positive influences and possibilities of hip hop culture. In 2001 our current Executive Director, Margareta Chughtai (formerly Eysel), moved from San Diego, California, where she was a core dancer with the original non-profit Culture Shock dance organization, to start a new life on the east coast. She soon settled in the State of Maryland. In 2002 Margareta and co-founder Brian Resurrection decided to establish a Culture Shock DC, a chapter in the Washington, D.C. area Margareta served its first Artistic Director while Brian served as the Administrative Director. Since then, CSDC has grown with the addition of many new dancers, captains, and staff members. CSDC operates as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization affiliated with the greater Culture Shock International dance organization.

Our Motto

"We are a troupe of individuals who, through the power of music and dance, cultivate self-worth, dignity, and respect for all people. We do this through professional entertainment, dance education, and youth outreach."

Our Mission

Culture Shock DC utilizes Hip Hop & urban dance culture to cultivate education, enrichment and entertainment to inspire positive change in the communities we serve.

Letter from the Executive Director

As I look back on the past twelve months or so, I am so proud of all we have achieved collectively as an organization. First and foremost, I am most proud of the development of our operational staff. The staff has grown in capability and talents such that we are now totally independent from Board involvement—we are self-sufficient. Other achievements that I am proud of:

- Financially, we are more stable. We're good for 2017-2018. We have a small savings account and a good credit rating.
- We have achieved a \$10,000 grant three years in a row from The Community Foundation for National Capital Region!
- Grant writing is now fully supported with dedicated staff.
- Artistic staff has matured and now has a clear vision for what we want to be and how we want to create choreography. We have had lots of turnover and now have strong players in place.
- We have some of the best dancers in the country! We continue to develop and grow. Our dancers believe in this company and they want CSDC to succeed,
- Our dancers are contributing their skills to CSDC beyond dance as volunteers. For example, we have a dancer who is a self-proclaimed "web enthusiast" volunteering to keep our site up to date. This is so critical because we can't afford a professional Webmaster. Even when our dancers can't dance due to injury, they ask how they can help out.
- The support I get from the staff is incredible! I can hardly write this line without tears of joy.
- The parents, families and friends of CSDC are our backbone. Without them, our youth troupes would not exist. Because of them, we have one of the largest and most successful youth hip-hop dance programs in the DC area.
- We have more formal processes and procedures that give us the discipline to run the organization efficiently.
- I've grown as a leader and manager in ways I could never have imagined.

We continue to struggle with generating ongoing revenue and funding. Our events are fairly well attended, but our audience levels are declining—this is true for all of the dance community throughout the DC area. My dream is that we will someday be positioned to pay all of our staff what they deserve and have more solid footing for building the future

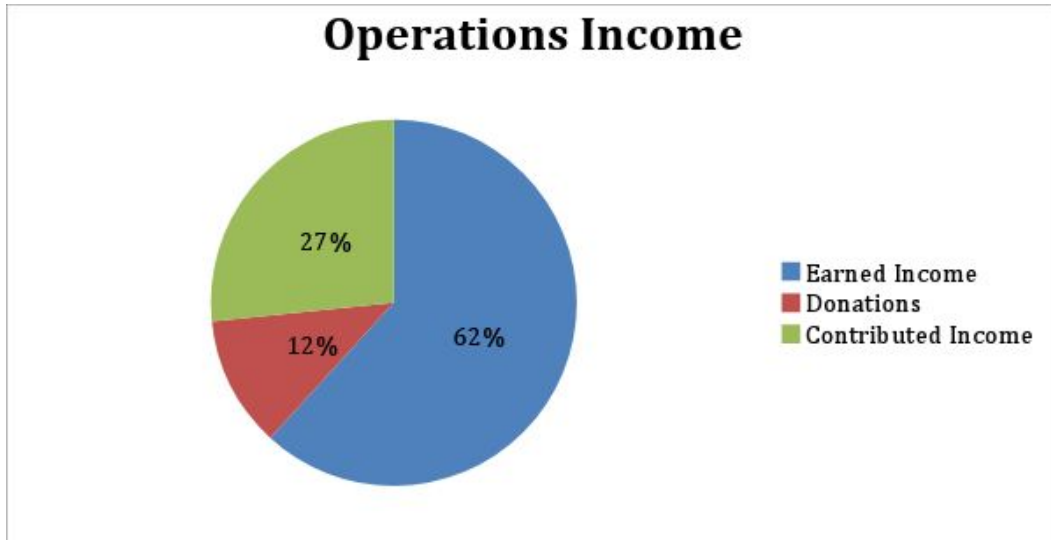
All in all, "the pluses" far outweigh "the minuses." CSDC is a living, breathing and growing organization. We have so many blessings!

Thank you all—dancers, family members, staff, board members—for all you do to make CSDC successful!

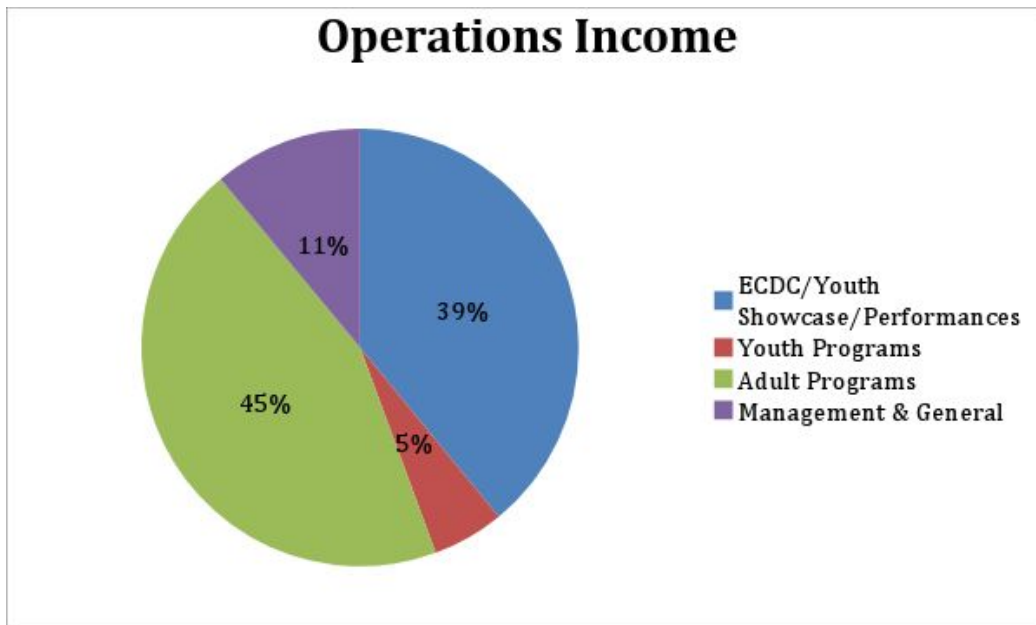
Sincerely,

Financial Report

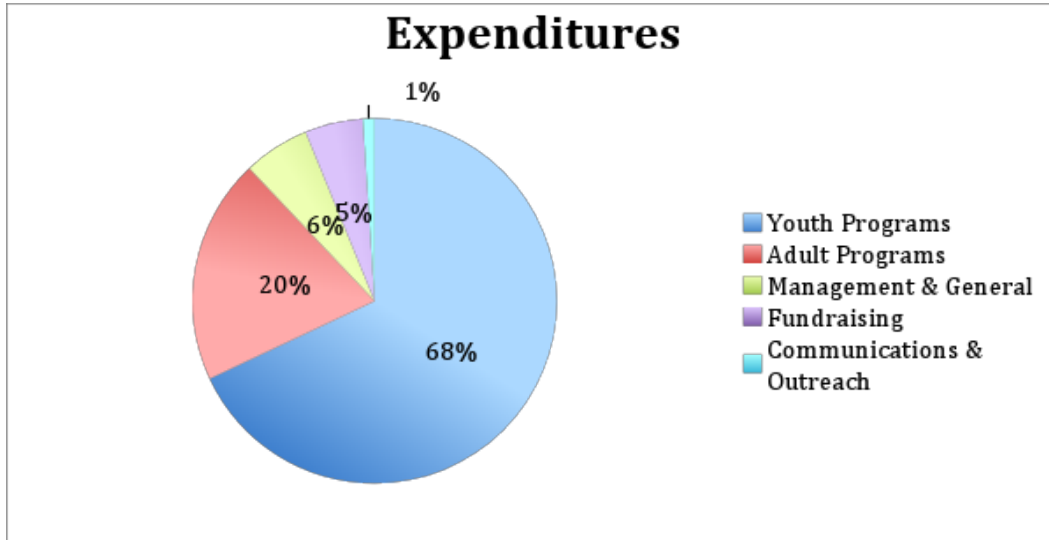
In 2016, CSDC operations income was \$104,039. Most of the revenue, \$64,286 (62%) came from Earned Income generated by paid performances, instruction and fundraising events. The remaining income of \$39,753 (38%) came from Membership Dues, \$27,726, and Donations, \$12,027.



Operations income was driven primarily by adult programs (45%). ECDC and Youth Showcase Performances generated 39% of operations income.



Expenditures totaled \$121,533 driven primarily by Communications & Outreach (\$35,071). Adult programs expenses were \$10,288.



Costs for the two big annual fundraising events—ECDC and Youth Showcase—were \$47,462.

Dancer Stories



Courtney Rice

Culture Shock Washington, D.C. is an organization I fell in love with when I first discovered it six years ago. An inspiration of mine, Stephanie Johnson (Captain, Season 14), invited me to the 2011 East Coast Dance Concert workshops. I walked in and immediately felt welcomed. Positive energy was flowing throughout the room and I knew then that this was the organization for me.

I fell in love with its passion to educate our community, its drive to enrich others, and its dedication to making everyone feel like they belong. Culture Shock has turned into a place I run away to – to feel home.

I auditioned for Culture Shock DC's Season 14 in 2015. I went back and forth for weeks whether to audition or not. The day of the audition, I decided to go for it. And few days later, I received an email saying I had the opportunity to be a scholarship dancer. I read the email and cried tears of joy. This was the moment that I realized my potential and my growth.

2016 was a year full of experiences. It was a very humbling feeling to train with Culture Shock DC while being on Future Shock DC at the same time. I finally had the opportunity to dance with some of the people I had looked up to for so long. Every week I would come to class excited to learn and watch others dance. But the year went on, and as my final season of Future Shock ended, I remained a scholar. I started to lose my drive for dance at this time. I would come to classes wanting to dance, but I couldn't find a purpose. As the year ended, my drive decreased even more and I didn't really know if I had a purpose in dance anymore. This feeling nearly stopped me from auditioning for Season 15 of Culture Shock DC.

In October 2016, I realized that I had been living with anxiety for long time and started therapy. Living with anxiety along with severe ADHD is tough, especially when I didn't know how to manage the two together. The therapy sessions really made me question what I was doing with my life and how I was tackling it. But throughout it all, I knew deep down - I loved to dance and that my life wouldn't be the same without it.

With that realization, I decided to audition for Culture Shock Season 15 a few days before the date. I shocked myself in my audition. I was surprised at how well I performed and executed the material. I walked out of the audition feeling like I had found my drive for dance again. A week later, I received an email stating I had an opportunity to be a core dancer. WOW. To this day it still shocks me. From when I first discovered Culture Shock six years ago, it was always a dream of mine to be a core dancer and to be able to dance with my inspirations - and I did it. I made it.

The season started and I loved every second of it. I made new friends and bonded with people quickly. But in January my life took a turn. I went through a hard time and felt like I lost it all. I hit my rock bottom. I lost every ounce of self-confidence, I hated who I was, what I looked like, how I acted - everything. There were so many days in a row where I would cry until I couldn't anymore. My anxiety had taken over.

Being a part of Culture Shock DC truly helped. I would see everyone's beautiful smiles, waiting for hugs and hellos. I would look to them for happiness when I couldn't find it in myself.

I started putting all of my sadness and frustration into my dancing and started seeing a huge improvement again in my dancing. I began to look past the sadness and anxiety to see my growth. In March, I started to find my drive for dance again. This is when Culture Shock DC became my home - my safe place to run to. I put all of my energy into Culture Shock DC and started becoming happier than ever. As the season went on, I began to learn that I wasn't alone. Others around me were feeling the same way I was or were going through a hard time too. One important thing I've learned this year is from Greg David - "you have to love yourself and realize that you need yourself before anyone else." I had to re-learn, slowly, how to love myself again. Piece by piece I put myself back together and Culture Shock DC was there every step of the way. I could walk into rehearsal and everyone was by my side and everyone else by each other's side. We have each other's backs. Now, I can honestly say I am the best version of myself that I can be right now. My drive for dance is higher than ever along with my self-confidence, and I thank Culture Shock DC for that.

In my years of being in the Culture Shock family, I have learned it is important to share our stories and be vulnerable. Dance is a very open art form in that we can use it to share our stories in ways others cannot. It is okay to be open because that allows for growth within ourselves and the community. This community is so important and it is so much stronger when we come together and share what we are feeling and what we are fighting for. I am so thankful for the dance community I live in and the opportunities it - and Culture Shock DC - have given me.

Culture Shock means a lot to me. It have grown up in this organization and have been able to do what I love while improving every part of myself. For being a 19 year-old, I am very proud of where I am right now and what I have accomplished so far. I love Culture Shock DC and I am very grateful for all it has done for me as a dancer and as an individual.

Board of Directors

Our CSDC Board members steer the organization towards a sustainable future as well as advancing CSDC's mission of conducting innovative performances, artist development, and community enrichment.

Kimberly Washington, President

Kimberly is the President of the Board of Directors. She comes to CSDC from the Culture Shock San Diego Board of Directors, where she first got involved with this unique dance community. Kimberly is a Correctional Program Specialist with the DC Department of Corrections. She has a BS in Marketing and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Missouri. She also has a law degree from the University of San Diego, and is a licensed attorney in New York and New Jersey.

David Cobb

David has been on the CSDC Board of Directors for over seven years, where he has served as Comptroller. David is the Director of Accounting Policy and Global Valuation for Ally Financial Inc. in Washington, D.C. Prior to this position, David was Vice President, Accounting Policy for TD. He is a graduate of Indiana University Bloomington.

Tiffany Bailey

Tiffany has been a CSDC Board member for five years. She was active on Culture Shock San Diego's board for two years prior so she is a longtime supporter of the larger organization. Tiffany has a passion for dance and community service. She has a law degree and a Masters degree in Public Health and currently lives in Los Angeles, CA.

Damon Silas

Dr. Damon Silas has been a board member since 2012. Damon has been involved with the Culture Shock DC organization since just after its inception in 2002 when he became a dancer. Following a brief hiatus due to traveling extensively for his job as a military contractor, Damon returned to the organization in 2012, at which point he began to dance with Afta Shock. He eventually took over the Artistic Director position in 2013 and held that position until 2016, when he relocated to Charlotte, NC. Though he has moved out of the DC area, he remains active on the board.

Richard S. Delaquis

Dr. Richard Delaquis has served over three years on the Board of Directors for Culture Shock D.C. Dr. Delaquis learned about Culture Shock through his cousin who is married to the choreographer for the Swiss Culture Shock Dance Troupe. While attending a Culture Shock performance, Dr. Delaquis was impressed with the quality of the dancers and wanted to do something to help. Dr. Delaquis is a retired Navy Commander and is employed with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs where he is an Information Technology Specialist.

Staff

Margareta Chughtai, Executive Director & Founder

Lisa Norman- Youth Programming director and Director of Special Events

Cameron Bennett- Director of Development and Strategic planning

John Pier Cardenas- Operations Director for Culture Shock DC

William Miller- Artistic Director for Culture Shock DC

Darius O'Neil- Afta Shock Artistic Director

Byron Brown- Afta Shock Administrative Director

Ollie Sangster- Future Shock Artistic Director

Ashley Chapman- Mighty Shock Co Artistic director

Unissa Cruse Ferguson- Mighty shock Co Artistic Director

Tricia Orpilla - Mini Shock Artistic Director

Annie Foster- Grants Administrator

Kayla Williams- Secretary and Grants Assistant Administrator

Angelica Townshend- Bookkeeper under accounting division

Looking Forward: 2017 to 2018

We have lots of new programming and fundraisers planned!

The Youth Teams

- Will put on "Chapter 2" as a fundraiser.
- Youth Showcase will become a competition show in 2018 with the intent to drive higher audience attendance and generate more revenue.

Afta Shock

- Is planning its own show, "Sensoria." This small adult troupe is thriving!

CSDC, the Troupe

- Is planning "Volume 4" for 2018 to raise money for the general fund. The dancers will get to develop their own choreography and showcase it for judging by the artistic director. No other outside troupes will be involved.
- Also planning a "Shockwave" fundraiser, including bigger name choreographers from California.

ECDC

- Our big annual show will have two workshops—a pre-show workshop in July and a post-show workshop after the ECDC performance. Proceeds from the workshops will go to the general fund.
- To fund ECDC, we will put on a series of workshops with high caliber choreographers from outside the DC area to enrich the skills of our dancers and enrich the community at large.

Donate

Your support is vital to keeping our dancers engaged in their passion for creative expression. Please consider contributing to CSDC. Your ongoing support sustains the art of dance, uplifts the youth in the DC area, and positively impacts the community as a whole.