

Julie Enea

From:
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 5:15 PM
To: Julie Enea
Subject: Dance and CC County

Hi Julie

This is from Joan Borchers

At the suggestion of Amy Hollyfield from KGOtv News, I am writing on behalf of the thousands of young people involved in the study of dance, during the SIP period of the pandemic. Virtually all the aspects of our way of life have been discussed in the last several months. Safety, SIP, businesses opening and closing, even sports and when they might begin again under what conditions.

The one subject that has not been discussed at all on the national, state, congressional district, county or city level, has been dance. That word has not been uttered even once. I am the owner/director of the California Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA) in Moraga. We have been a fixture in the community for 41 years. Thousands of young people have trained with us. At the moment we have nearly 400 students. Some are training for professional companies like American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey, Broadway theater and others. Many students use their dedicated study over a long period of time, as long as 15 years, as a vehicle to help them with college admissions. Some of these students dance as much as 16 hours a week. The little ones learn discipline, teamwork, and of course, the art. For the older dancers, it is their passion and their second home. SIP deals with their physical health, but their mental health is suffering.

Our doors have been completely shut with no idea when we might have at least some small opening, and yet our landlord requires full payment of rent and fees totaling \$14,000 a month. That's real money. We have been paying our staff in full and trying to stay afloat by digging into our personal retirement and investments, but that can't go on for very long. I suspect our landlord has received help with his mortgage for the shopping center, but we have received no break whatsoever from the landlord.

We really would like to have some idea of what direction we should be heading. We realize that performances with an audience will probably be out of the question for some time, but when we are allowed to actually dance as a group, we can video and send that to family and friends. In the meantime, we can make adjustments to have small groups working in a 6 foot box, not ideal but better than nothing. However, we have no idea when this might happen. If little league and basketball and other group sports are allowed to function with special regulations, I really can't see that this is any different. But it needs to be addressed specifically so that we know what to do.

I would very much like this subject to be on your [May 28th](#) meeting. If you have any suggestions for me, I can be reached at

I am very much looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you for taking the time out from your busy day to listen to my issue.

Again, thank you so very much - Joan Borchers

Joan Borchers
Artistic Director - CAPA