



Impact Report

DDC

DARE DANCE
COLLECTIVE

2024 - 2026



Table of Contents

Our Story

1

Founder

2

Our Values

3

Accomplishments

4

Competition Record

5

Community Impact

6

The Team

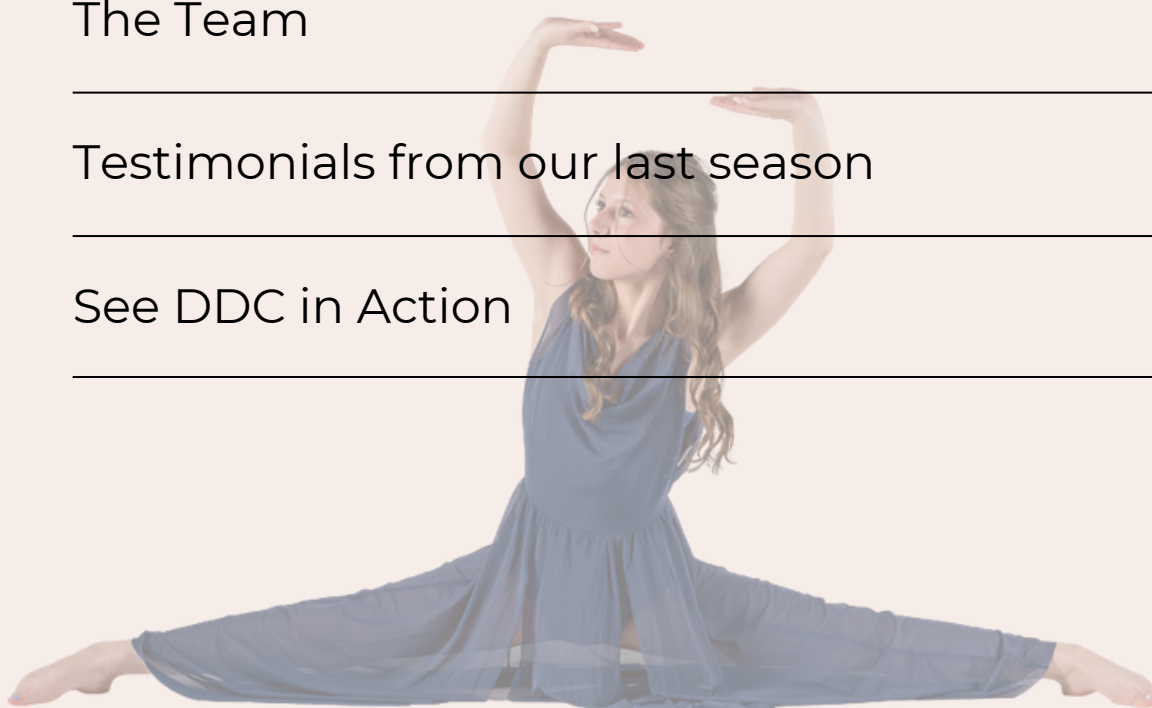
7

Testimonials from our last season

8

See DDC in Action

9





Our Story

Dare Dance Collective was founded because of its students. After years of teaching across the Bay Area, Deja Hill was encouraged by the dancers and families she worked with to build something of her own. Not just a studio, but a community. A place where young people could train seriously, be supported fully, and leave every class feeling more capable than when they walked in.

In 2024, that vision became DDC.

What started as a small, intentional program has grown into something that reaches classrooms, stages, and neighborhoods across San Francisco. The students showed up first. Everything else followed.

Founder

Deja Hill
Founder & Director

Deja Hill is a San Francisco native whose relationship with dance began at age five at Westlake School of the Performing Arts, where she trained in tap, musical theater, lyrical, ballet, and contemporary. From an early age she was fully immersed in the craft – competing at regional and national dance competitions, performing in *The Nutcracker*, and taking the stage at shows across San Francisco.



She went on to train at the California State Summer School for the Arts (CSSSA) in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, before graduating from Ruth Asawa School of the Arts with a focus in ballet and contemporary. She then graduated early from San José State University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, concentrating in Management.

Through years of experience in studios across the Bay Area, first as a student and then as a teacher, Deja developed a clear picture of the environment she wanted to create. She saw firsthand how strong leadership transforms young dancers, and how poor studio culture can do the opposite. DDC was built with that awareness at its foundation. She holds her students to high standards because she believes in what they're capable of, and brings enough care to the room that they feel it.

Outside of DDC, Deja is on staff at Stanford University School of Medicine and works with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Our Values



Student Growth Comes First

At DDC, dance is a vehicle for growth. We care deeply about how we teach – with structure, clarity, and heart. Technique matters, but so does confidence, discipline, and self-belief. Every class is designed with intention.

Expanding What Feels Possible

Students are encouraged to try new styles, challenge themselves, and discover strengths they didn't know they had. We guide them step by step, helping them build both skill and courage in the process.

Every Dancer is Seen

No two dancers grow the same way. We honor individual pace, personality, and potential. Progress is measured by personal development – not comparison.

Beyond the Stage

Showcases, competitions, and masterclasses are opportunities to build poise, work ethic, leadership, and pride. The lessons learned in the studio carry into school, relationships, and future goals.

Rooted in Community

DDC is a space where students uplift one another, form lasting friendships, and feel proud of the work they put in together. It's more than dance – it's belonging.



“ The amazing communication and detailed information from the teachers - it is so appreciated!

Also, my daughter is SO HAPPY at DDC and she always says how much she loves it! And she loves seeing her other friends in class too! I am amazed by the professionalism of the teachers. ”

– DDC Parent, 2024

Accomplishments

Every season DDC showed up with structure, heart, and high standards. Here's what that built.

Program Development & Structure | 3.5 Full seasons completed
8 productions staged · Ages 5–18 served · 8 teaching artists

A program built with intention, from the very first season.

DDC developed an age-based curriculum spanning ballet, hip hop, lyrical, jazz, and contemporary for dancers ages 5–18. Private coaching was offered across technique, solos, and duets — giving every dancer individualized attention beyond the group setting. Professional dance photoshoots were produced for dancers across all levels, so every student left with a tangible record of how far they'd come..

Growth & Retention | 15 founding students → 65+ dancers served

They found something here worth staying for.

Dancers have returned every season since founding, and word spread naturally — annual showcases consistently brought in new families through peer referrals. It grew because the people already in the program shared their experience.



Competition Record

Competing gave our dancers more than placements. It opened their eyes to a wider world of dance and showed them what they were capable of beyond the studio walls.

2025 Season — Thunderstruck Dance Competition

- 1st Place – “Chances” Senior Soloist
- 2nd Place – “Feels Like” Senior Duet
- 5th Place – “Let’s Go Back” Senior Group
- 6th Place – “Where Did You Go” Senior Group
- 7th Place – “Cold Little Heart” Senior Group



2026 Season — Showstopper Dance Competition

- 1st Place – “Reflection” Senior Duet
- Top 10 Overall – Two Senior Soloists: “Her” & “Everywhere, Everything”



2026 Season — Thunderstruck Dance Competition

- 1st Place – “Devoted” Senior Small Group
- 3rd Place – “A Moment” Senior Trio
- 4th Place – “Reflection” Senior Duet
- Top 7 Overall – Two Senior Soloists: “Her” & “Everywhere, Everything”





“ I love how you brought the joy back to dancing for my kid! Thank you! ”

– DDC Parent, 2025

Community Impact

Not every child grows up with access to dance. DDC was built to change that — because that door should be open to everyone.

School Partnerships | 4 SF elementary schools served
We go to schools because not every family can come to us.

DDC brought dance to students ages 4–10 — many of whom had never taken a dance class before. Students performed DDC choreography at school events, giving young dancers a real stage and a real audience. Multi-season partnerships kept us rooted in the same communities year over year.



Open Masterclasses | 4 Masterclasses hosted
Dance is better when everyone's in the room.

DDC hosted four masterclasses open to everyone — students, parents, and community members who danced side by side, learning the same choreography as their kids. Guest artists from Jabbawockeez, Disney Cruise Line, and the Bay Area performance community led each session, giving every person in the room a chance to move alongside a working professional.



Community Performances & Events
The love of dance brings people together.

DDC performed at the 2025 Potrero Festival, hosted Bay Area Run Club for a private hip hop class, and co-produced a professional dance video with guest artist J4 of Jabbawockeez. Every event drew a different crowd — all connected by movement. That's what DDC is built on: the idea that dance doesn't divide it just brings people in.



Digital Reach

400+ TikTok followers · 200+ Instagram followers · Content reaching 100 to 224K views per post · YouTube interview series featuring collegiate dance majors on navigating the professional dance industry

“ We love how quickly you built such a wonderful, supportive, and kind community which helped our daughter retain her love of dance. The communications, quality of instructors, master classes, and consistency were very much appreciated! ”

– DDC Parent, 2024



The Team

Dare Dance Collective would not exist without its teaching artists and collaborators. Their artistry, dedication, and commitment to our students have shaped everything we've built – a studio culture where young dancers grow with confidence, integrity, and a true sense of community.



Jaliana Semien

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Madison Chang

ASST. DIRECTOR OF
OUTREACH



Shevaghna Milton

HIP HOP INSTRUCTOR



Hanna Persky

BALLET INSTRUCTOR



Akemi Smoot

OUTREACH INSTRUCTOR



Nina Palada

CONTEMPORARY INSTRUCTOR




Tai Lum

BALLET INSTRUCTOR



Deja Hill

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

A young woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a black sports bra and shorts, is captured in a dynamic dance pose. She is balancing on her right leg with her left leg raised and bent at the knee. Her right arm is extended to the side, and her left hand is behind her head. The background is a dark, gradient grey.

“ Loved how proud she is to include family and friends in participating in the master classes. She is no longer embarrassed about dance as her main interest outside school.

She is engaged and motivated to practice, attend classes and work hard.

That’s 100% due to you Deja! ”

– DDC Parent, 2024

Testimonials

From our student's parents who shared their experience during the last season, Spring 2026.

"She has made great progress this season. I've seen improvement in her technique, coordination, and ability to pick up new choreography. Her confidence has also grown, which has been wonderful to watch."

"We have enjoyed it so far and love the quality of instruction as well as positive environment and flexibility with the parents. Thanks for understanding we have chaotic schedules."



"My daughter really enjoyed learning new choreography and being part of such a positive and encouraging environment. It's been great to see her grow in both skill and confidence".

"She has definitely gotten more confident and has a 'I can do it!' attitude - this is all thanks to the positive re-enforcement that she gains from class."



"She loved Deja and all of the incredible support and care she invests in her students - and keeps dance fun!"



See DDC in Action

By checking out our Youtube Channel

Showcase & Performances

Competition Footage

Parent & Student Testimonials





Dare Dance Collective 2024 – 2026