

## SLAUGHTER TELLS NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF DANCERS "YOU TRANSCEND BARRIERS"

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Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) spoke at the Dance/USA Annual Conference, telling arts leaders and dance advocates that we must continue spreading the power and promise of the arts.

"Dance, music and art transcend barriers of language, time, and generation, translating cultural differences, breathing life into history, and bridging experiences across cultures," said Slaughter. "They accomplish the seemingly impossible task of both revealing our differences across the globe, while managing to illuminate all that connects us enriching our lives in ways nothing else can."

Slaughter was introduced to the advocacy conference by Ruby Lockhart, Executive Director of Rochester's Garth Fagan Dance.

"I have to mention how lucky I am to live in Western New York. The arts community in my district is one of the strongest, longest lasting, most impactful communities in the nation," said Slaughter. "Garth Fagan Dance is now in its 39th season and is at the top of its game. Not only do they offer unique, multifaceted performances to the people of Western New York and beyond, they also work tirelessly to teach dance as well as the appreciation and understanding of dance."

Dance/USA is the national service organization for professional dance which represents more than 500 ballet modern, ethnic, jazz, culturally specific, and tap companies, artist managers and dance service organizations. The 2010 Annual Conference, Dance Beyond Borders, will examine and eliminate the borders, real or imagined, that define us.

Nationally, the arts support 5.7 million jobs. In the 28th Congressional District alone, more than 1200 arts-related businesses employ nearly 16,000 people.

"Dancers, musicians, authors, educators, architects, designers and every other creative worker are like every other employee in our economy," said Slaughter. "They deserve just as much support in surviving this economic downturn as anyone else. The arts create a hub of economic activity, attracting investments, generating tax revenues, and stimulating local economies through tourism and urban renewal."

Slaughter is a longtime champion for the arts community and is Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus. For more on her leadership in the arts, [click here](#).

A copy of her remarks as prepared can be found [here](#).

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