

### HIGHLIGHTS

### 21-35 Report

"The value of this study is its presentation of the first concrete research relating to the untenable economic plight of young dancers, choreographers, and administrators working within the dance field in New York City. While no answers are posed, the need to find answers is made evident. If the passion, discipline and creativity of these individuals is not to be wasted, it must be allowed to flourish in a way that confirms that dance is, indeed, a respected profession — a place where achievement is recognized by the ability to earn a living wage, with appropriate health insurance benefits and a modicum of financial stability."

Beverly D'Anne

### Profile of a NYC Dance Worker, Age 21-35

#### **Freelances, performs 4 dance jobs, and likely more than 1 in other sectors**

Reported # of dance jobs/respondent:  
mean = 4.3 / median = 3.0;  
most popular jobs outside of dance:  
restaurants/hospitality, administrative,  
bodywork/fitness

*Clare*

#### **Is 28**

(mean = 28;  
median = 27.75)

#### **Is single, white, and female**

84% of respondents, single;  
65%, single/never married;  
76%, white

#### **Is highly educated and may still be studying**

90%+ of respondents with at  
least a college degree

#### **Earns a total of \$28,000/year, but only 55% from dance jobs**

Reported income from dance jobs:  
mean = \$15,747 / median = \$6,063

#### **Attends only 0-2 performances per month**

73% of respondents

#### **Rents, does not have rent-stabilized housing, and does not live alone**

85% rent; 80% of renters pay \$500-\$1,500; 76% do not have rent stability;  
mean household size = 2

#### **Identifies with multiple dance forms, most strongly with modern, contemporary (American), and ballet**

60%+ with modern and contemporary (American) dance; more than half with ballet

#### **Lives in Brooklyn and commutes to work, often to multiple boroughs**

44% live in Brooklyn; 94% perform dance jobs in Manhattan



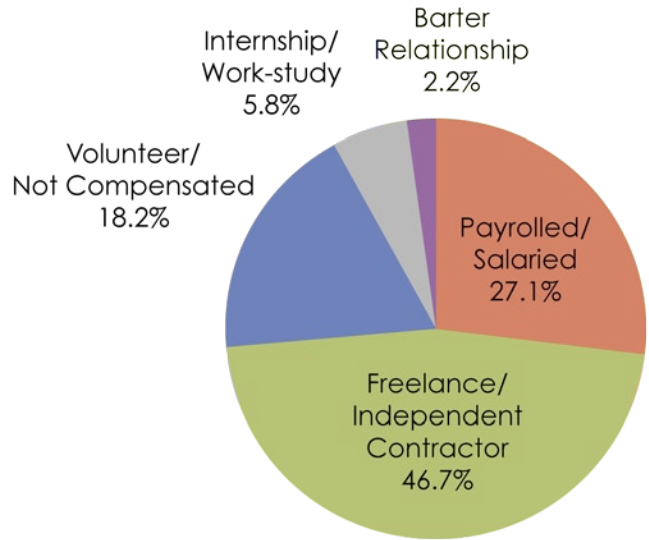
#### NOTE ON DANCE WORKER SAMPLE

This study is based on survey responses from a sample of 1,231 dance workers, who were 21-35 at the time of participation; performed work (paid or unpaid) in the dance field in 2010; and performed some part of that work in NYC. The survey was open to any type of worker in the field, from dance artists, managers, and educators to designers, publicists, and consultants. The analysis of dance jobs is based on 1,870 jobs reported in detail.

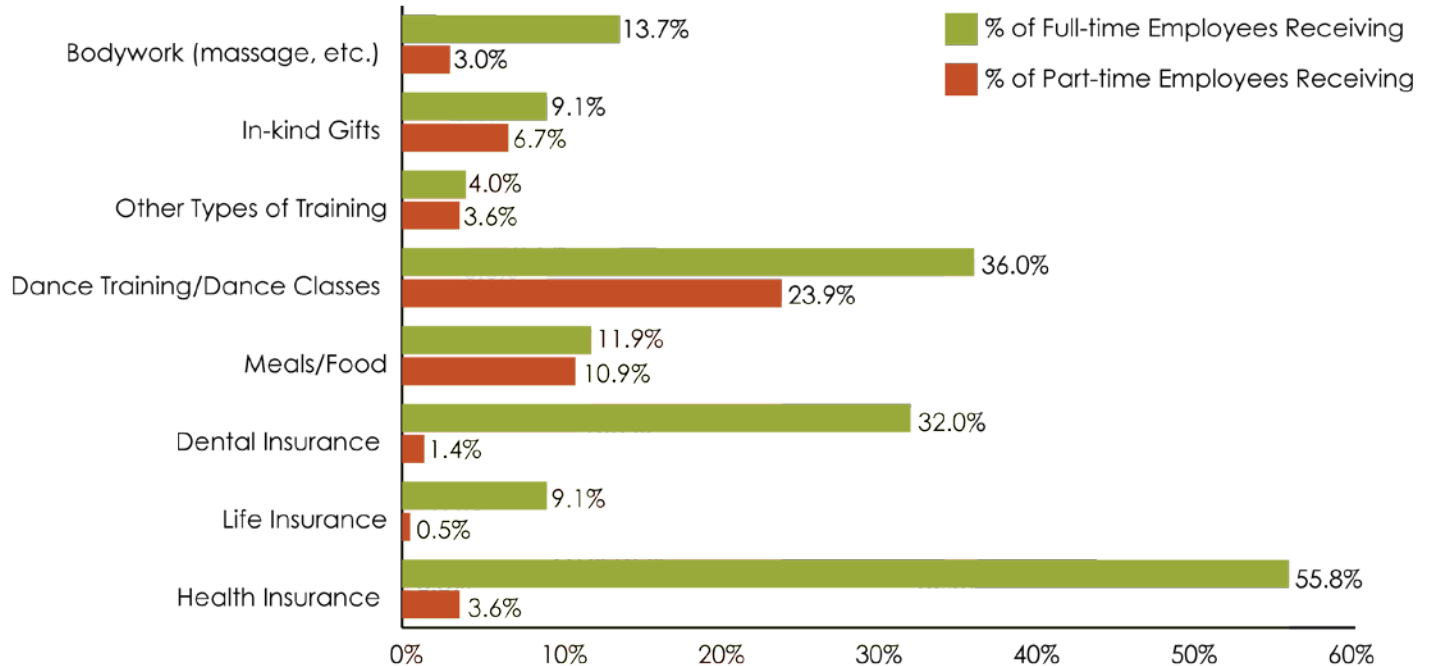
## Sample Silver Linings

- Earnings from work in NYC dance increase in relation to years of experience, plateauing, on average, at approximately \$23,000 after 10 years.
- NYC dance wages and opportunities for career growth, entry-level to executive, are greatest for full-time workers, with average annual salaries for dancers/performers and management/administration at around \$40,000.
- Hourly pay for most common part-time and seasonal/occasional work begins, on average, at \$15. The hurdle is the number, grouping, and stability of hours.

## Terms of Compensation



## Benefits for Full-time and Part-time NYC Dance Workers



## Research Team and Partners

**This study represents a volunteer effort by the Dance/NYC Junior Committee** with pro bono support from the Bloustein Center for Survey Research at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Visit the Junior Committee at [www.dancenyc.org/juniorcommittee](http://www.dancenyc.org/juniorcommittee).

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Read the full 21-35 Report at [www.dancenyc.org](http://www.dancenyc.org)