2020 shook the world in ways never before seen.

Learn how STEM From Dance boldly responded to the pandemic with innovation, courage, and possibility.

At the outset of the COVID-19 crisis, STEM From Dance swiftly pivoted its school-year programs to a virtual platform, moving above, around, and in between any obstacles that came our way, modeling for our girls what perseverance looks like in action. In this report, you will read how innovation, courage, and possibility shaped our 2020 - and how they will continue to shape our journey forward.

LETTER FROM THE CEO

When I think back to the year 2020, what stands out is the summer. At that point, the world was four months into a global pandemic, and we were in the midst of adapting to a virtual reality. On the first day of our summer program, Girls Rise Up, our girls clicked JOIN MEETING and likely weren’t sure what to expect. Yet, as they logged in, they were transported into a space that exuded positivity and joy. They saw a screen filled with squares of girls joining from their bedrooms and backyards, each of them excited for what the day would bring, and maybe a bit nervous too. The feeling of hope was palpable.

We heard time and time again that girls joined Girls Rise Up because they simply wanted to make friends, have someone to talk to, and be challenged by learning something new. We heard their desire and led with it.

We started each morning by collectively reciting affirmations that reminded us to believe in, encourage, and respect one another. There was one in particular that touched me, and every day I’d recite it with shoulders squared and my head held high.

It was, “I am proud of what I have achieved, and each day I am becoming more confident, determined and focused.” I would recite it with STEM From Dance in mind, and by the end of the program, it had been proven true countless times over.

In 2020, our girls demonstrated that when given the opportunity, they will rise up. They declared that they matter and they deserve a shot to reach their potential. When I look ahead, I am excited about our plans to widen and deepen our impact on girls not only in New York City, but across the country and the world.
LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR

It takes a village, and last year our village grew exponentially. It was because of our community’s support that we were able to make incredible strides towards our mission. We grew our impact and expanded our footprint. Our work is resonating now more than ever, and to manage our growth and the increased interest, we are doubling our staff size. Our new team members will help us set even higher standards, ambitious goals, and will be essential in creating challenging and exciting programming for our girls. We are encouraged by the support we received last year and continue to receive today. This support is what allows STEM From Dance to serve girls in New York City and beyond. Our village continues to grow, and with it, we can accomplish anything.

Thank you for being an integral part of the STEM From Dance family.
Bryan Bulleogoe

OUR MISSION

Women of color make up only 4% of the STEM workforce nationally. STEM From Dance exists to end this disparity. We envision a world where underrepresented minority girls are creative, confident, and equipped to be leaders and innovators in the STEM fields.

To this end, we give girls of color the awareness and preparation for a STEM education through the creative and confidence-building aspects of dance. By amplifying their voices as artists, we equip them as our next generation of innovators, engineers, scientists, and techies.

Innovation

STEM From Dance's ability to innovate through tech is in our DNA. It's our origin story and our path forward.

WHY STEM+DANCE

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

Residencies
Alumni Initiatives
Girls Rise Up

EASILY NAVIGATE THE DIFFERENT CHAPTERS OF OUR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRO COURAGE POSSIBILITY
Our programming is designed with these factors in mind and is successful because we merge dance and STEM in a culturally-relevant and transformative way, empowering girls to think critically, be creative, and see themselves through a new lens - as future STEM professionals.

Music and dance are deeply woven into the cultural fabric of the communities with whom we partner, who have traditionally used artistic movement as an outlet to release, celebrate, draw strength, communicate, and learn.

At SFD, dance is not just a confidence-boosting “hook” but a fundamental principle that serves to prepare girls for the changing talent and skill needs of the future employment landscape.

In addition to teaching the “hard skills” of computer science and dance, the confidence our girls gain transforms them into students who are more likely to ask questions, take risks in the classroom, persist, and explore their intellectual curiosity - all characteristics of a student who excels in STEM.

**FEATURED PROJECTS**

Girls performed a piece with LED track pants they designed and created.

Girls performed a piece with motion-captured animations they coded over their dance.

This is an excerpt from a performance where girls used LEDs to create scenes that they used throughout their choreography.

Girls performed a piece honoring the Black Lives Matter and the #MeToo movement. They used code to create animations of names that served as their backdrop.

**PROGRAMS OVERVIEW**

STEM From Dance offers girls high-touch, weekly, school-year residencies, intensive Girls Rise Up summer programming, and ongoing alumni initiatives to build community, provide opportunity, and develop powerful mentoring relationships with STEM From Dance instructors.

In 2020, we reimagined and innovated virtual programming, providing hundreds of girls with:

- Hands-on, tactile learning, using STEM "kits" mailed to girls across the country
- Physical activity, utilizing dance and choreography through video communication
- Community building practices that engaged girls in an environment of positivity, joy, and artistic expression

"The most challenging thing for me during COVID was struggling to stay motivated. I felt like my world was crashing down. Girls Rise Up helped me by not only encouraging me, but by being a place where the instructors cared about you as a person."

- Girls Rise Up Student
Residencies provide schools and community-based organizations with weekly, innovative programming throughout the school year. Participants create technology-infused dance performances where they explore creativity, critical thinking, and the potential that lies in STEM careers.

In 2020, we partnered with ten schools across three boroughs utilizing a hybrid of in-person and virtual programming in order to meet girls where they were.

"STEM From Dance has been a boon to our school in so many ways. First, the thoughtful program design attracts young women who may not otherwise have considered pursuing STEM enrichment. To put it bluntly: dance gets girls in the door, but they stay for the awesome projects, and by the time they leave, they are excited about STEM careers. Second, the program connects our young women with mentors who are women of color pursuing careers in science and technology, which has lasting benefits for the students who participate."

- Achievement First Brooklyn, school partner

**GIRLS RISE UP**

Girls Rise Up is unlike any other STEM or arts summer program. Girls not only learn to write code, construct circuits, create movement, and think creatively, they also learn to collaborate with their peers from across the country and they begin to understand that their community of support is larger than what they ever thought possible.

"Being part of Girls Rise Up during the protests provided a safe space for not only myself but for my peers that persevered the same battle. There's a sense of inclusion, solidarity, and acceptance (that made the whole experience genuine, despite the irony of virtual things being anti-SOA."

- Girls Rise Up Student

Amidst a tumultuous summer of protests for racial justice, STEM From Dance allowed our girls to be in community with one another, and to process, create, and express their own response to the world around them. Our girls boldly and bravely declared - through original dance performances infused with their brilliant scientific skill - that their lives matter.

American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer, Misty Copeland, joined to celebrate our girls’ inspiring work:

"I think it's so incredibly important to see ourselves represented, to show and set an example for generations to come that you can be anything you want. And that by being a part of STEM, by being a part of dance, by being a part of the arts, it makes us whole people."

- Misty Copeland
ALUMNI INITIATIVES

STEM is a white, male-dominated field and we know STEM exposure is only a first step. To motivate girls of color to overcome the hurdles that will come their way in college or post-secondary careers, we must provide a community of like-minded women to support them every step of the way.

As part of our Strategic Plan, STEM From Dance is creating further opportunities for our alumnae to build community: we hosted alumnae events and opportunities, including a master class in African Dance with the Camille A. Brown Dance company and paid internship with New York University’s NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development; plans are underway to provide more engaging STEM opportunities for alumnae in the future.

Courage

IMPACT

EXCITING GROWTH

OUR GOALS

EASILY NAVIGATE THE DIFFERENT CHAPTERS OF OUR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRO INNOVATION POSSIBILITY

IMPACT

We have served over 600 girls, from more than 100 schools, across 11 states, and four countries.

84%

90%

92%

of parents noticed improvements in how their child thinks about their STEM potential compared to when they started STEM From Dance

of participants have a better understanding of STEM compared to when they started STEM From Dance

of girls logged in daily to Girls Rise Up, an extraordinary showing of engagement through virtual learning

INTERNATIONAL REACH

STEM From Dance utilized online program delivery to expand our geographic reach to girls across the country and internationally through a unique partnership with Vive Ballando in Colombia, all while maintaining our commitment to improve student outcomes.

“For the first time in basically all of my life, I felt as though I was actually able to pursue a career in the STEM fields. Learning how to create music gave me an extra boost and taught me that anyone can code if they put in both time and effort.”

- Girls Rise Up Student
EXCITING GROWTH

Over the past three years, STEM From Dance has:

- Increased budget by 330%
- Increased staff size by 250%
- More than doubled the number of girls served annually

OUR GOALS

Now in our second year of an ambitious three-year Strategic Plan, we are on track to accomplish four strategic goals by 2022:

GOAL 1: Strengthen and codify our model of dance and STEM integration to give minority

GOAL 2: Multiply our impact by tripling the number of underrepresented minority

GOAL 3: Provide further opportunities to deepen engagement in STEM and build community

GOAL 4: Build STEM From Dance’s capacity to execute its strategic plan and thrive.

Possibility

FINANCIALS

2020 saw increased support from long-time funders as well as new partnerships that resulted in an overall revenue increase of 276%. Our responsible financial oversight ensures funds received are used for maximum impact to empower girls and change the face of STEM.
BUDGET NOTE:

STEM From Dance had a significant surplus in FY20 due to increased funds from longtime supporters as well as new ones. A portion of the surplus will go to build a responsible cash reserve, while the remaining funds will be carried forward to FY21 to expand programs and prioritize capacity building, including curriculum development and the implementation of new internal systems and structures.
IN THE NEWS

2020 brought STEM From Dance further into focus for the world as our girls and programming were featured across multiple media outlets, including:

**Forbes**

Most coding courses don't end with a technology-driven dance performance, but that's exactly how some girls in New York City have been learning engineering, computer science and technology topics. Read more

**NOW THIS**

How do you beat bias in science and technology? This week on NowThis Kids, we're learning about STEM From Dance, a group that encourages young women of color to incorporate science into their love of dance. Watch more

**IF/THEN**

#IFThenSheCan - The Exhibit features 122 3-D printed statues of contemporary female STEM professionals and role models from a variety of industries including entertainment, sports, business and academia. One of which is our CEO Yamilée Toussaint Beach. Learn more about the IF/Then Ambassador program. Read

**GoldieBlox**

GoldieSquad member Nicole Laeno teams up with engineer and dancer Yamilée Toussaint Beach to build a piece of wearable tech that they then incorporate into a dance performance in our new season of Fast Forward Girls. Watch for more

COMMUNITY

STEM From Dance is grateful to the extraordinary individuals who supported us as well as the community of partners listed below, without whom, our work would simply not be possible.
Get Involved

DONATE

Thank you for choosing to support STEM From Dance. Your contribution, no matter the amount, will help us Light the Stage on Diversity in STEM. You can also contribute through Amazon Smile!

VOLUNTEER

We always have opportunities for professionals from the STEM and dance world to mentor and present to our students during a special event or as a part of a program. Reach out with our form below.

BECOME A CORPORATE SPONSOR

None of our programs are possible without the generous organizations that support STEM From Dance. Learn how you can join us in our mission.

SPREAD THE WORD!

Want to help in other ways? Share STEM From Dance with your family and friends – follow our channels for updates.