

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Fall!

Even though the road to our move Downtown has been lengthy, it has been exciting to see how quickly progress has been made inside the old Vermeulen's Furniture building.

Over just the last couple of months, we've had drywall, electrical (including most of the lighting fixtures) and a large amount of the flooring, doors and bathroom fixtures installed.

There has also been a great deal of progress made on the new elevator, which is a major benefit of moving into this new space.

With the progress made so far, it's much easier to visualize the possibilities and appreciate the impressive architectural decisions made along the way. The lobby and hall area outside of the dance studios features beautiful curved walls and accents. The walls and ceilings are frequently a juxtaposition of vintage exposed brick and modern lines.

One of the more interesting rooms to check out so far is our new dedicated theater space. It's designed to be not only a classroom, but a place for putting on productions for family and friends at the conclusion of each session.

We will also have a dedicated preschool classroom in the new space. Our staff will be able to customize the room for our Kids Create program. Before we had to change it back into standard art class and parent waiting space after each session. With dedicated pre-school space, we should also be able to explore every-day/full-day daycare solutions while continuing to foster creativity for Mid-Michigan's children.

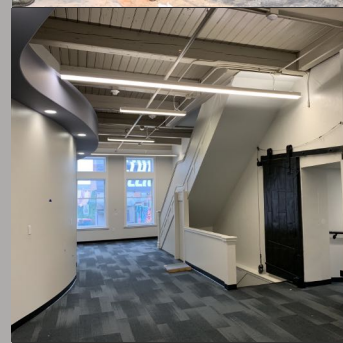
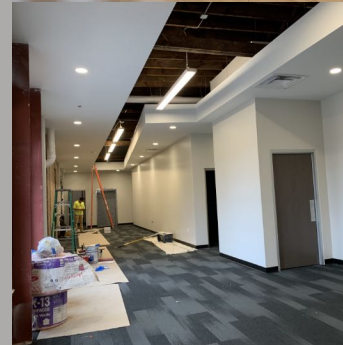
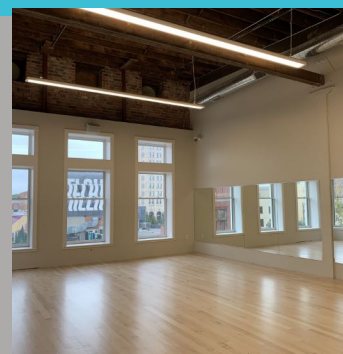
While we will be starting Fall classes in our current location on Mechanic St., we are looking to transition into this new Downtown location in November. We have already begun moving a lot of items over to the new space, still a journey ahead of us.

Once we are in the new space, we will have more room to offer more types of classes. We already have plans for a handful of new adult dance classes and we have the chance to expand into things like gymnastics and more sessions of our new Tae Kwon Do.

We appreciate your continued support and patience through this adventure. We can't wait to share it with you all.

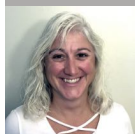
If you have any questions, concerns or just want to say "hi", let me know! Please feel free to email - [carolyn@jacksonarts.org](mailto:carolyn@jacksonarts.org) or call me at 517-784-2389 and we can set up a time to talk!

**Stay safe and I hope to see you soon!**



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Executive Director

# DANCE CLASSES AT MLK CENTER

NEW OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY IN FRESH FACILITIES



At Jackson School of the Arts, we are always looking for new opportunities to bring the Arts to more places and spaces in our local community and we're excited to start a new partnership with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center. The Center was recently updated and is known for providing great recreational facilities in our city. We are excited to be able to help them expand their options for their members.

This partnership is designed to bring access to dance classes onsite at MLK in hopes of reaching new students who may not be interested in other physical activities such as recreational sports. Our instructor will teach different forms of classic dance and provide an education in the history of dance as well.

We recently had an introductory parent/family night on September 13, in which we spoke to the families about the program and the importance of dance. Our team also brought dancewear to the orientation to get potential students sized and outfitted for classes.

We also anticipate providing two parent nights to showcase student dances. The projected dates will be Dec 17 and April 15.

We want to share a special thanks to Level One Bank for being the generous sponsor that made this program possible.



## NEW THEATER INSTRUCTORS AND SPACES!

PLUS A NEW PRODUCTION CLASS IN THE WORKS!



We're excited to have started our Fall Theater Classes (you can still join us! A few open spots left!) but we're REALLY excited to move our classes into our Downtown space this November. Above are some fresh photos of the work-in-progress renovations of our dedicated theater studio and the architect's rendering of the space.

We can still use YOUR help to get us to our goal of renovating and moving in though... due to rising costs, we still need to finish up our fundraising to meet our budget. Every dollar helps us get closer!

This Fall, we're taking a new step in our Theater program – a musical theater production that ages 5 to 18 can participate in and learn a great deal of experience along the way.

Auditions for this production, Ronald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr.,

are on October 7 and the class sessions will start the following week. In this production, everyone gets to play a part. Our auditions are simply to place everyone in a role that is best suited for them. The class will conclude with a group performance on December 3rd.

This musical will feature children of all ages, with ages 5-8 performing in the ensemble, and ages 9-18 auditioning for the lead roles. Through song and dance, the young actors will learn how to portray different characters and grow in confidence as they perform (perhaps for the very first time!) on stage.

As you can see, between our new instructors, our growing class and production options, and our new space becoming a reality, there is a lot of positive momentum building for our Theater program.



# TAE KWON DO

DEVELOPMENTS ARE PROGRESSING IN OUR FUTURE DOWNTOWN HOME



You may have seen that Jackson School of the Arts has been hosting Tae Kwon Do classes in our facilities in recent months.

As an alternative to dance as a physical activity, training in this classic Martial Art helps students develop a disciplined character, improve their overall fitness, and improve their confidence and focus. And in tradition of JSA's cost-effectiveness, we also have a very affordable monthly cost of only \$35 or less based on our sliding scale.

We've expanded this opportunity for Fall and we have had a great response so far. We initially were only planning on having a single class, but that filled up very quickly.

We then split the class into two experience levels, promoting most of the existing students to Intermediate level.

However, with the dedicated beginner's class continuing to fill quickly, we added a second beginners session... which also promptly filled up as well. Needless to say, it's encouraging to see the interest – especially in a time when our upcoming facilities will allow for further growth.

For those interested, you can learn more and register at [jacksonarts.org/taekwondo](http://jacksonarts.org/taekwondo)

## KIDS CREATE BOOKED SOLID & READY TO EXPAND!

WE'RE READY FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD SOLID CREATIVE FOUNDATIONS



Our Kids Create Preschool Experience has had one of our best starts ever. Not only have we filled to our current capacity, but we had a wonderful first week with our kids.

We had an amazing time exploring the materials in the classroom, getting to know new friends, and establish our daily routine. We worked on some colorful collages in Open Art Studio, had some fun with the September calendar and read "Shake your Sillies Out" in morning greeting. We also had some delicious snacks with friends, and enjoyed playing out in the sunshine!

For those unfamiliar with the program, Kids Create is a class for children ages 3 1/2-5 and is ideal for a child's first class away from home or as a supplement or substitute to traditional preschool programs. This class runs for the full school year two mornings a week for 2 1/2 hours.

Our instructors engage students through a variety of creative experiences including sculpture, painting, drawing, creative movement and music. This program provides social, motor, and creative experiences that excite love for learning through the arts. Through rich and varied experiences with the arts in combination with a sound preschool education, children grow in both self-esteem and intellectual ability.

Once we move into our new facilities Downtown this November, we will be able to provide a better experience for our children, simplify some logistics for our staff, and we are looking into expanding our Kids Create program to be integrated with all-day daycare.

We're excited to see this program growing and excited for what the future holds!



## 3 NEW ADULT DANCE CLASSES

THREE NEW CLASSES TO BROADEN SKILLS  
AND TARGET THREE DIFFERENT  
EXPERIENCE / CHALLENGE LEVELS

CHALLENGE  
LEVEL

1

BEGINNER  
**TAP**  
DANCE FOR ADULTS

### TUESDAY 5:30-6:30 PM

Experience the under-appreciated joy of tap dancing – the satisfaction of essentially playing a musical instrument with your feet while dancing with the rest of your body.

This class is a fun way to learn rhythm, coordination, tap terminology and choreography. The dances and lessons are choreographed in a way that they can be done by a beginner. We will focus on the Al Gilbert Graded Tap Technique that emphasizes rhythm and repetition in the classical tap style. Clean and articulate footwork put to big band style music.

CHALLENGE  
LEVEL

2

**JAZZ**  
DANCE FOR ADULTS

### TUESDAY 6:30-7:30 PM

Jazz is a high energy, stamina-building class. We focus on classical jazz technique, with across the floor progressions. This class will pull from classical ballet technique with a focus on body isolations and rhythmic movements.

Music styles range from popular music to musical theater to decades from the 60s-80s. Jazz dance classes are a great opportunity to explore the world of dance as many of the techniques and moves are easy to learn.

CHALLENGE  
LEVEL

3

ADVANCED  
**TAP**  
DANCE FOR ADULTS

### TUESDAY 7:30-8:30 PM

For those students that have more tap experience, our Advanced Tap class offers the opportunity to hone your skills. There will be a focus on expanding tap vocabulary and learning different styles of tap.

**STARTING IN NOVEMBER IN OUR NEW DOWNTOWN STUDIO SPACE!**  
**JACKSONARTS.ORG/ADULT or call (517)-784-2389**

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and we will be glad to help.

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