Choreographing Our Future

IMC's Campaign to Dance Into a New Home
DANCING OUR WAY HOME

The Vision

For 36 years we’ve been at home in Newport, and proud to be part of a thriving city and community. Now, the City of Newport is recognizing our contributions, and is offering us a unique and timely opportunity to establish a permanent and welcoming space that we can call home.

After years of searching the island for a home of our own, we find ourselves on the threshold of an ideal opportunity—one that meets all our key criteria for furthering our mission and vision and enhances our involvement and integration with our neighborhood and our community. At the site of the former Triplett School, the city offers us an opportunity that will provide for all of IMC’s growing needs, while at the same time supporting the growth of the city and its centuries-old tradition of hospitality and graciousness.
In our new home, we can host and celebrate our recent joining with the Newport Academy of Ballet (NAB), and have room enough for a much-needed third dance studio to foster its growth. Most importantly, our home will include a modern ‘Black Box’. Two studio spaces will easily be converted to a contemporary performance space with capacity for nearly 150 patrons, or can be left as a pair of more intimate rooms for classes, rehearsals and engagement with our community.

In addition to the comforts and security of home, the new building will provide the Company with office space, a conference room, a common area for NAB dancers and their families, a reception area for our patrons, and much needed storage capacity. Our research has shown the additional space will mean new revenue possibilities for IMC through sharing our home with the community and with other artists and performers. This will create a positive economic impact within the city of Newport, further securing our bond with our neighbors and friends. In doing so, we will build a strong foundation for the future financial stability of the company. After 36 years of being hosted by site-specific venues around our wonderful and generous city, we can now show ourselves to be good hosts. We will invite our friends and neighbors into our home, entertain them and share our hospitality.

I think it means a lot to have a permanent home with the black box studio for IMC. The dancers and artistic staff would be able to work more productively and more extensively. Newport is a center for culture and tourism, and IMC has a chance to be not only a community ballet company but also a worldwide ballet company.

Azamat Asangul
Dancer
Island Moving Company is proud to host and house the most talented dancers available. It is their artistry and passion that moves our audiences, and connects our company to our community. Attracting and retaining these dancers means offering them more frequent performance opportunities, which they desire and deserve. Our new home would guarantee that opportunity for our dancers, still provide the intimate performance experiences our audiences love about IMC, and generate additional revenue for the company.

**THE CONCEPT**

A key design feature of our new home is flexible use space. Two of the three studios can be easily converted into a performance space with a full-size stage, state-of-the-art lighting and sound, and a significantly more comfortable guest experience. We present images of several representative venues at right for a clearer picture of what a Black Box performance space might look like in our new home.

Island Moving Company wants to continue recruiting and retaining the most talented dancers available. Attracting artists of that caliber means offering them the theater-based performance opportunities they are seeking and deserve, while ensuring the comfort and intimate performance experience our audiences value.

While IMC will maintain its tradition of performing in unique sites and will produce a short season twice a year in the Opera House when it opens, the future health and vibrancy of the Company depend on an expanded ability to perform in a contemporary theater on a regular basis.

*Top to Bottom:*
*Black Box Theater, Oslo, Norway*
*University of Dubuque*
*Houston Center for Dance*
*Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, Hong Kong*
PERFORMANCES
BY IMC AND OTHERS
A key advantage of this opportunity resides in the idea that the performance space itself will become a revenue center for the Company. We anticipate not only expanded performances by IMC, but we anticipate attracting performances by other groups or individuals who find the more intimate performance space of our Black Box more suitable to their needs.

While we ourselves do anticipate annual performances in the new Opera House Theater upon its completion, in our new home we will be better able to offer performances of our own works, and host those of guest choreographers and visiting companies on a more frequent basis. IMC is always looking for new opportunities, new collaborations and new partnerships. Having the flexibility of a home performance space in which to host such collaborations significantly expands the possibility of making the most of each of them. We will continue our tradition of site-specific works, like the Nutcracker at Rosecliff, but it will be wonderful to have a place we call home that gives us the flexibility to create, collaborate and perform great dance whenever we want to.

EXPANDED STUDIO SPACE
MEETING AN IMMEDIATE NEED
Greater community engagement is key to our growth, and as such, the ability to offer an expanded schedule of classes for children and adults is not only essential to IMC’s vision, but a base for our future financial sustainability. In our current space on Charles Street, we cannot meet community demand, nor offer classes to all the children who qualify for our scholarship program. Plans for our new home provide for three studios, each of which is larger than what we can currently offer our friends and neighbors. Increased community access to the arts and sharing in the joy of movement with our community is central to IMC’s mission.
CONCEPTUAL RENDERING OF THE STUDIOS, THEATER, LOBBY/PARENT LOUNGE, DRESSING ROOMS AND PATRON AMENITIES
The conceptual renderings included in this prospectus were created by Newport architect Michael Abbott using the Triplett School property as the model site.
Teaching for NAB is an honor and a privilege. During the three years I’ve taught at the school, I have seen so much excellent work put forth by all of the staff members, and the level of professionalism at NAB continues to grow. Our students are incredibly fortunate to have IMC dance artists as their teachers and role models; they even have the opportunity to dance alongside the company in some of our larger productions. The company, in turn, benefits from the inspiring energy of the young dancers at the academy. Going forward, NAB will appeal to prospective students and their families because of its official affiliation with IMC.

— TARA GRAGG, COMPANY MEMBER SINCE 2014

THE TRIPLETT SCHOOL
OUR NEW HOME

The IMC Board and leadership and the City of Newport have reached an agreement that will give us a place of our own on the former Triplett School property, located on the historic entryway to Newport’s center. This option will settle us in the heart of the community we serve and represent, and will serve to strengthen the relationship between IMC and the City of Newport. Importantly, it will provide a financing structure that is within the means and resources of the Company, and as such it will allow us to be at home, further support our goal of growth and outreach, and most importantly, allow us to host and entertain current and new friends and family, and return the hospitality the city, the island and the world has shown us over our 36 years of moving bodies, hearts and minds.

The Triplett School facility graciously meets all of our established criteria for a new home giving the Company:

New Performance Space
The site will have a space that will serve as our own black box theater for IMC’s signature works, with their intimate nature and scale, with seating for about 150 guests. It will also be able to serve as a venue for other performers and performances, artists, and community events.

Additional Studio Space
It will have three studios, two of which will be large scale. This will have an immediate impact on the number of children and adults we can host, entertain and teach, as well as building and bolstering the nature and scope of the creative work we can produce.

Improved Amenities
It will allow us to provide amenities such as concessions, comfortable common areas for dancers, audiences, and parents of Academy students. It will also have ample parking—a rare luxury in our old city—and it will be handicapped accessible; all this in a location that increases community awareness of IMC and our mission to the public.
AT HOME IN THE COMMUNITY

It is commonplace that the performing arts are an important register of the overall vitality and health of any community. Aquidneck Island and its communities are no exception. The arts offer us all a means of expression and connection, and an outlet for creativity. These provide opportunities to share a common experience with our families, friends, and neighbors. In these times of reduced school budgets, organizations like ours also serve the families and children of our community through educational programs and activities in schools and in our studios.

The presence of a new, expanded home for IMC will provide a foundation and platform for small-and mid-sized arts and culture organizations throughout the region while actively helping to fuel economic growth in the City of Newport. The location and amenities of our prospective new home fit neatly into Newport’s centuries-old tradition of hospitality, civic engagement, and support of the arts and culture.

I think IMC having a home would bring a great sense of pride to not only the company dancers, but to the academy students—that they are part of a professional company’s academy. In a bigger perspective I think it would show Newport that we are, even more so, their contemporary ballet company; it would boost the growing awareness (of IMC) in Newport, what we do, that we are serious about what we do, and are continuing to grow. In an even bigger way, it would boost IMC’s reputation in the dance world!

— LAUREN DIFEDE, DANCER
WE HAVE GROWN UP TOGETHER IN NEWPORT, but only in 2017 has the Newport Academy of Ballet (NAB) joined Island Moving Company in a formal, lasting partnership. We know that many in our community think of IMC and NAB as interchangeable entities, though only now are we formalizing our union. In taking this big step, not only do we make this common assumption a reality, but we also ensure the future of the Company and the Academy.

The benefits of this union are manifold and wide-ranging. We’ve now made space for continuity, sustainability and growth for both entities. Our own IMC dancers teach, train and inspire succeeding generations of dancers. In doing so, NAB guarantees income we can count on for the future growth and development of our Company. Part of our efforts in this campaign will be put toward raising the final $100,000 to complete this partnership.

Through early gifts from a number of friends and 100% of the IMC Board in response to a challenge gift from the Watkins Burnham Fund, we have completed the purchase and made a substantial down payment.

FINANCIAL RESERVE
Like every home and household, the Company would be wise to be prepared for unexpected expenses. Establishing a minimum $100,000 financial reserve for home and facility maintenance and special projects is prudent fiscal responsibility. Without asking for a formal endowment, we are looking at a modest sum as an element of this campaign to have cash on hand for emergencies, opportunities and the various expenses of running a home.
A BRIGHTENED OUTLOOK

Our home, our mission, our community engagement and leadership will be bolstered through the increased revenue we can fairly expect from an expanded and upgraded teaching program; from increased capacity of our own performances, as well as through sharing our space with others.

We are enthusiastic and excited about this, our greatest move yet. Anticipating a new home for Island Moving Company and the Newport Academy of Ballet is exciting on so many levels: the comfort and security that comes with having a home of our own, the artistic possibilities, the educational opportunities, and the positive economic impact for the broader community – it’s wonderful to dream about these things, and to have them so close at hand.

We are eminently grateful for your consideration and support of IMC’s dream of 36 years. We believe you recognize the inherent value in our creative work and our educational efforts, and we look forward to continuing to share those with you as we launch this campaign to elevate ourselves, the arts, and the community at large. As we plan for this outstanding opportunity, we will continue to rely on your generous annual support. We are fortunate to have you as part of our family and our foundation.

We know we’ve moved you over the decades. Can we now count on you to help us move?

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEN CARTER, CLINT CLEMENS, THOMAS PALMER