Choreographing Our Future
Presenting:

Island Moving Company (IMC) is a classically trained, uniquely accessible, contemporary ballet company based in Newport, RI that:

- delivers transformative experiences through high quality, intimate live performances,
- offers engaging educational programs to spark new ways of learning,
- hosts Newport County’s only professional dance school - Newport Academy of Ballet - offering classes for students age 3 to adult in ballet, contemporary, pointe, jazz and tap.

The cumulative result of all our efforts is a community that feels more alive, fulfilled, and connected to the arts and to each other.

Founded in 1982 by current Artistic Director Miki Ohlsen, we have a long history of enriching the cultural fabric of our communities. As a non-profit, we ensure our operating budget of approximately $1.3M is put to maximum effect. Our professional dance company is governed by a co-leadership model and consists of:

18 dancers
2 artistic producers
8 administrative staff

“The power and beauty of human spirits came through in beautiful dancing and effective usage of performance sites.”
- Kathryn Boland, Dance Informa, September 2017
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Transform!

Our Mission: build the cultural, educational and economic vitality of our community through performance and education; while expanding our role as a cultural attraction, a creative catalyst and an educational asset.

IMC:
- Discovers and promotes emerging choreography
- Creates and presents original works in collaborative manner
- Develops dance as a valuable art form for the entire community
- Collaborates with a diverse group of choreographers, musicians, poets and visual artists
- Presents work in unusual site-specific venues and in theaters that elicit a visceral reaction
- Provides dance education and pre-professional training to NAB students
- Designs and teaches curriculum-based kinesthetic learning programs in K-12 schools throughout RI and MA
- Creates an intimate, accessible cultural connection with our audience and community
- Employs a company of working artists
- Delivers a positive economic benefit to the area

“One boy in my class has some special needs and is very lethargic. I have been working to find ways to get him excited about school/learning. He came ALIVE during the IMC residency, asking each morning ‘do we get to dance again today?’ He is happy, thriving, and best of all, learning!”

- Teacher, Claiborne Pell Elementary School, Newport
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“I know nothing about dance and didn’t know what to expect— I LOVED IT!! The athleticism was eye opening. The emotion was moving. Thank you, I’m a new fan!” – Audience Member

Impact!
IMC’s budget is little in comparison with other Newport organizations*, but our impact is mighty. With our innovative approach to dance, IMC:

- Produced 8 unique productions and 40 individual performances
- Attracted 10,400 audience members regionwide
- Drew 44% of our Nutcracker audience from outside of Aquidneck Island
- Enrolled 220 unique students in NAB, including 35 scholarship students
- Opened the minds of 5,000 students who participated in IMC arts-learning programs
- Hosted 6 visiting dance companies and choreographers
- Employed 37 production workers and 14 guest artists
- Partnered with 12 community organizations and 8 educational institutions
- Created a total economic impact of approximately $1.5M**

* From IMC’s 2019 Annual Report
** According to the 2019 American’s for the Arts Economic Forecast Calculator
Why?

The need for IMC’s Campaign to Create a Center for Dance and Education.

After 40 years, Island Moving Company has outgrown our current rental space and we are currently limited in the number of audience members, students, and future dancers that we can reach. In our Charles Street location, we cannot meet community demand, nor offer classes to all the children who qualify for our scholarship program.

The ability to offer an expanded schedule of classes for children and adults is essential to IMC’s vision, and a base for our future financial health.

We are working toward a permanent home in Newport, a regional center for dance & education that can accommodate IMC’s growing needs and meet the area’s growing demand. Our new home will be located at 435 Broadway, in the heart of the community we serve. Through early gifts we were able to sign a purchase & sales agreement with the City of Newport.

Through the public phase of our Capital Campaign, we now seek the funds to help build on our plans. This site gives us an opportunity to serve more students, to be a lively, active part of Newport’s centuries-old tradition of hospitality and culture, and to create revenue possibilities through sharing our new home.

“Dance has prepared [my daughter] to be organized, considerate, dependable, deal with disappointment and see herself as a part of the greater whole. It was worth every sacrifice.” – Lisa Reimer, NAB student Mom
Vision!

IMC’s Center for Dance and Education will provide:

- **3 Larger Dance Studios**
- **2 studios convert to black box theaters**
- **180 guest seats for performances**
- **improved dressing rooms, restrooms, lobby**
- **Onsite parking, and handicapped accessible**

Our new home will give us the opportunity to:

- **Meet growing demand** for NAB by accommodating more students and offering more classes
- **Enable professional dancers and NAB students to train** and perform in our own state-of-the-art space
- **Achieve financial sustainability** for the company by generating more earned revenue
- **Attract and retain high-quality artistic staff and dancers** for the company.
- **Provide increased access** to programs for underserved populations
- **Provide needed rehearsal and performance space** rental for other local non-profit arts organizations
- **Increase economic impact** in our community
- **Add cultural arts value** in our community
- **Have more people in our community participate** in and be inspired by the art of dance
- **Host events and other dance groups** after decades of site-specific work

“The intimate setting in which the audience saw the dancers up close, helped humanize them and their challenging, but inspiring artform.”

- KCMetropolis, May 10, 2017, Great Friends Dance Festival
**Campaign**

Importantly, we have created a campaign financing structure that is within the means and resources of the Company, which will allow us to build our home and further support our goal of growth and outreach.

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“Thank you for all that you do for our kids ...when they run back out after performing as the Gingers I see the huge grins on their faces... I truly can’t imagine a more magical experience of childhood!”

- Aliki Cooper, Mom of NAB students

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**Contact**

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For more information regarding  
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*Conceptual renderings only*