



July 17, 2027

Dear Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA),

On behalf of the Sirovich Center for Balanced Living, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Dance Parade's 2026 SU-CASA program.

During Spring 2026, Dance Parade partnered with our center to present a Latin Rhythms dance residency led by teaching artist Ximena Salgado. Throughout the residency, our older adult participants discovered the joy of Latin dance while improving their physical wellness, expressing themselves creatively, and building meaningful connections with one another.

The program had a significant impact on our participants. Through movement, music, and shared experiences, they gained confidence, increased their physical activity, and strengthened their sense of community. Each class fostered an inclusive, welcoming environment where individuals of all abilities felt encouraged to participate, challenge themselves, and celebrate their accomplishments.

Working with Dance Parade was a pleasure. The organization was professional, collaborative, and responsive, while Ximena Salgado brought warmth, enthusiasm, and expertise to every session. Her ability to create a supportive atmosphere allowed participants to feel successful while experiencing the cultural richness and joy of Latin dance.

Two highlights of the residency were the class's participation in the CelebratEArts Mainstage Showcase at the 14Y Theater and their culminating performance at the Sirovich Center for Balanced Living. These events showcased the participants' growth, confidence, and joy while celebrating the strong sense of community developed throughout the residency. Inviting audience members to join in the dancing at the conclusion created a memorable shared experience for everyone involved.

We are grateful for our partnership with Dance Parade and appreciate its commitment to enriching the lives of older adults through the arts. We welcome the opportunity to continue working together in future SU-CASA residencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cory Michael Herman'.

Cory Michael Herman
Artistic Director
14th Street Y / Sirovich Center

You belong here.

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