

# SHUMKA

UKRAINIAN SHUMKA DANCERS

2023-24 Annual Report

June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024



Canada Council  
for the Arts  
Conseil des arts  
du Canada





**E**stablished in Edmonton in 1959, the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers is Canada's only professional Ukrainian dance company. Shumka presents dance-theatre touring productions, as well as intimate concert repertoire across the country and around the world. Seen by millions on international television broadcasts, the company has presented command performances for Queens, Prime Ministers, and Presidents, and have performed alongside the likes of Andrea Bocelli and Julie Andrews. Along with Alberta Ballet and Edmonton Opera, Shumka is honoured to be a resident company of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

Over sixty years of performance history has shaped Shumka's signature music and dance style. While maintaining deep respect for their heritage, Shumka continually challenges conventional boundaries to define the experience of Ukrainian dance in the context of today's society.

## VISION

Our vision is to inspire the ongoing evolution of Canadian-Ukrainian dance.

## MISSION

Shumka promotes, develops and preserves Canadian-Ukrainian culture as professional artists and community leaders.

## MANDATE

Shumka creates a broad scope of original and collaborative interpretive works built upon the foundations of the Canadian and Ukrainian life experiences of its artists and the rich heritage of the Ukrainian folk culture.

Shumka achieves this mandate by:

- Respecting the origins of traditional Ukrainian culture, while integrating the Canadian experience and contemporary

expectations in order to make its programs relevant to today's audiences.

- Creating a centre of excellence in dance education to prepare the next generation of citizens, dancers and creators in the art form.
- Collaborating with other artists in Edmonton, in Canada and internationally.
- Creating a hub of arts and culture activity in the community.
- Presenting art and experiences for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.
- Engaging diverse communities through performance, education and opportunities for inclusive participation.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### Board Chair's Message



Throughout this past year Shumka has continued to evolve and grow, reaching new heights in our journey of storytelling through dance. In 2023-2024, Shumka staged a truly magical *Nutcracker* run in Edmonton, Camrose, and Victoria, and began preparations for the premiere of *UKRAINKA*. We developed relationships with international artistic collaborators, and performed at local Canadian-Ukrainian dance festivals. The Shumka School of Dance (SSD) continues to thrive and excel, providing an inviting and accessible dance community for dancers aged 3 to their 80's and beyond. The SSD began preparations for the first ever *Shumka Dance Festival* this year, which SSD will host in 2025. All this to say, Shumka continues to delight in being a hub of arts and culture activity in the community of Edmonton and beyond.

This year we also learned of the upcoming retirement of our long time Executive Director Darka Tarnawsky. Darka is one of the most widely respected figures in Edmonton's arts and culture scene, and has been instrumental in leading the company to where it is today. Thank you Darka, for all you have done and continue to do for Shumka. We would not be where we are today without you. We also learned of the upcoming retirement of Les Sereda, Shumka's Artistic Director of five years. Under Les' direction and artistic vision, Shumka evolved to new heights with productions such as *Mosquito's Wedding* (live dance as well as a 3D film) and *UKRAINKA* as well as a documentary on the journey to *Shumka's Ancestors & Elders*. Thank you Les, for your tireless dedication to Shumka and for sharing your artistic vision with the Edmonton community.

Through all the excitement and change this year the USD board has been busy implementing our new strategic plan that supports the organisation's governance, fund development and alumni engagement, and has been hard at work on succession planning to find the right leader for Shumka.

None of the exciting and groundbreaking work that Shumka has accomplished this year would have been possible without the tireless dedication of our administrative staff, artistic team, SSD staff and instructors, and our volunteers. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for all you do each day for this amazing organisation. I also thank our donors and stakeholders for your contributions and support – none of this would be possible without you, and thanks to your support Shumka celebrates another successful year of developing and preserving professional Canadian-Ukrainian dance as community leaders.

Sincerely,

*Diana Tayler,*  
*Chair, Ukrainian Shumka Dancers*

## Executive Director's Message

Over the last five years, Les and I have had many conversations about Shumka. "Let's not have such a crazy schedule," we pondered. "Let's make it an easier year." That's what we said after the challenging times of surviving the pandemic... as an art form and an organization. We all needed a calmer season, to rejuvenate and rebuild. But it turned out that we couldn't just rest.

Our pledge led to a Whirlwind Summer with performances at UFest, Pysanka Festival, Camrose, and Dauphin; the sold out premiere of the 3D version of *Mosquito's Wedding*; special appearances including a tribute show to Shumka Honorary Member and Music Director, Gene Zwozdesky, and a local guest spot in the National Ballet of Ukraine tour of Canada; plus a three-city, nine show tour of *Canada's Ukrainian Nutcracker* in Victoria, Camrose and Edmonton.

All the while, we were working on the creation of *UKRAINKA*, under the direction and dedication of Artistic Director Les Sereda, who gathered a talented team of collaborators to tell the story and inspiration of Ukrainian leader, artist and poet – Lesya Ukrainka.

Maybe not an "easier year." But a successful one.

In addition to the professional company, our School, bridging program Studia Shumka, Summer Camps and Seniors programs continued to forge ahead, grow and develop with quality training programs and the strengthening of the organization as a community... as the Shumka family.

As a "family," we work hard and demonstrate the results of our commitment. But we can't do it alone. We are thankful for our generous donors and funders who give us the opportunities to turn our dreams into reality. We are blessed with a team of hard-working and dedicated staff – from our artistic team to our production, administration and management personnel. We accomplish a lot with a little, especially compared to other large dance companies, making friends and original art along the way.

A year ago, my report talked about the war on Ukraine and hopes that it would soon be resolved. The conflict is still there today and we continue to be dedicated to promoting, preserving and developing our beautiful culture and art form as an inspiration to our friends in the homeland and as an education to our audiences. Ukrainian dance is not a museum piece, as John Pichlyk would say. It is a relevant art form that is not only entertaining but is a message through movement.

There is a place in my heart for Shumka and for what we do. There always will be. Ukrainian dance has a certain power... and Shumka has developed a special magic over its decades of existence. I will forever treasure being a part of that magic. Although it has often been challenging, it has been a privilege and a gift.

Thank you to Les, Tasha, Paul, Josh, Trinity, Wally, June, Peter, and the dancers – young and old – who have inspired me throughout the years. Your genuine love for Shumka has helped mine to grow. May you all enjoy the blessings of the whirlwind, and support each other as you do.

Respectfully,

*Darka Tarnawsky,*  
*Executive Director, Ukrainian Shumka Dancers*



## Artistic Director's Message



Shumka's willingness to take creative and organizational risks is what makes this company so incredible. These decisions are not always easy and often lead to difficult conversations and organizational stress, but it is this culture that has allowed Shumka to grow into the company it is today. This past year was again full of incredible opportunities and development.

We continued to work towards the premiere of *UKRAINKA*. This included:

- Music mixing and mastering work with Slau Halatyn in New York
- Filming the *UKRAINKA* films in and around Edmonton with the help of our amazing local film crew talent, including Lianna Makuch as our lead actress and Brett Manyluk as our Director of Photography
- Projection work with our partners at Northern Gateway Films
- The arrival of Anna Ipatieva's beautiful costumes from Ukraine
- Final choreographic touches within the studio with the help of Tasha Orysiuk, Paul Olijnyk, Rick Wacko, Alyssa Eugenio and Nic Pacholok

We have an amazing group of collaborators at home and abroad who firmly believe in Shumka's work. This team of people will be a crucial part of the journey going forward. We have built meaningful, committed relationships, and I've heard repeatedly this year about how Shumka is leading the world in finding new paths in Ukrainian dance. We must continue to foster these relationships and take new bold steps.

Succession planning has been a high priority for Darka and myself this season. We have worked to develop a creative team that can continue to build on the plans that have been set before them. Effective November 1st, the talented Tasha Orysiuk has taken on the role of Shumka's Artistic Director, supported by Paul Olijnyk and Alyssa Eugenio as company répartiteurs, and Margaret Dalwood joining as company Ballet Mistress. This core team will continue to lead the company and create beautiful art together into the future.

In February 2023, Shumka had the wonderful opportunity to dance with the National Ballet of Ukraine here in Edmonton during their Canadian national tour. This performance started a conversation about Shumka joining the ballet on a national tour of the United States in 2024. For Shumka to tour with such a prestigious company and build our brand south of the border is an important step for the future of the company and will continue to create new opportunities into the future.

We are at a unique spot in our history where our journey and reputation are granting us opportunities like never before. We can choose to step back from these opportunities or continue bravely forward as one of the world's leaders in Ukrainian dance. I sincerely hope that as an organization, we continue to bravely look to the future.

Being the Artistic Director of Shumka has been an absolute privilege. I want to thank John for his creative vision and for encouraging me to step up. I also need to thank Darka, Tasha, Paul, Wally, Josh, Alyssa, and Nic for your help and guidance over the years. Finally, to the dancers, it is always up to you to step on that stage and represent Shumka. Thank you for always doing that with as much pride and passion as you do.

Sincerely,  
*Les Sereda, Artistic Director, Ukrainian Shumka Dancers*

## FROM OUR STAKEHOLDERS



**Aara Matovu – Shumka School Dancer and Junior Instructor**  
Shumka has been like a second home to me. Being part of this community is more than just learning steps and movements – it's about embracing a beautiful tradition, building connections, and sharing joy with others. Teaching as a Junior Instructor has only deepened my appreciation for Ukrainian dance and the importance of passing it on. Shumka isn't just something I do; it's become a part of who I am.



**Andrea Moen and Terry Sulyma – Shumka School Grandparents, Donors, Alumni**  
Shumka – a whirlwind of dance, family, friends, and community. Thank you, Shumka for all of this and

much, much more. The joy of dance for our grandchildren warms our hearts and brightens our days. They are already making lifelong friends. We look forward to many more years with you.



**Melanie Turgeon – Shumka School Parent and Donor**  
Shumka means opportunity for our family. Shumka School was willing to accept our daughter Sophia with her abilities and disabilities. Her instructors have

guided and nurtured her with immense expertise, sincerity and compassion. Shumka School has allowed Sophia to experience concerts, competitions, group dances and more, granting her the same opportunities as other children. We have always felt welcomed, and this is truly a beautiful thing and something we are immensely grateful for.



**Terry Terlesky – Seniors Can Shumka**  
There are many positive aspects to being a part of Seniors Can Shumka. I have been with the group for the past six years and have found it to be a wonderful experience.

We have an exceptionally talented, positive and motivating instructor. This is especially true as she works with this group of seniors.

All levels of ability are welcomed, and modifications are made. Her patience and humour are appreciated as she guides us through. She truly understands the joy that dance brings and translates that to us each week.

Each Monday morning I have the opportunity to meet and share 'life' stories with people who enjoy dance, music and conversation. The comradery that exists is extraordinary. We get to know each other's interests, and share our experiences outside of dance. We also welcome and look forward to meeting new dancers.



Seniors Can Shumka class



**Jason Adams – Company Dancer**

Looking back on the days I didn't want to be in the studio, I realize that those are the days that make it all worth it. Every tear I have shed because of Shumka has drawn me closer to the friends who supported me through the hard times. Those struggles bring us together and add meaning to the work we are so proud to share with the world.



**Sheila Zane – Silver Swans**

I feel the benefits of attending the Shumka Silver Swans in balance, strength and agility. I love the perfection and artistic expression of ballet barre. The Swans are a great group of women

working on a common goal of performing at our very best to make it look beautiful. All possible because of great instructors who are knowledgeable and fun.



**Stefania Kostiuk – Shumka Board Member and Alumni**

The role of Shumka in my life has changed over the years, but the meaning of Shumka has not. As a little girl I watched Shumka perform numerous times and knew that Shumka was my goal. The storytelling, productions, and technique of the company enchanted me from an early age.



When I danced with Shumka it was such an awakening experience. You realize how much time, energy, and different people from different backgrounds come together to create something spectacular. The best part was doing what I love while also sharing and exploring my culture.

Now, as an alumni member and board member, it is clear my duty is to keep Shumka thriving and keep on the legacy for future artists. Shumka's commitment to supporting Ukraine and Ukrainian artists in all spheres is what inspires me most; from dancers, musicians, composers, to costume and set designers from Ukraine. Despite the invasion of Ukraine almost three years ago, Shumka continues to jump through obstacles to support relationships made before the invasion and invest in new ones since. Shumka will forever be a special place in my heart.



Seniors at the ballet barre

## THE COMPANY

Shumka's 2023/24 Season focused on the following activities: A Whirlwind Summer including performances at Edmonton's ever-growing UFest, the 50th Anniversary Pysanka Festival in Vegreville; the second tech-week and presentation of *Shumka Emerge* at the Lougheed Centre in Camrose; and Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba.

The Fall brought a special performance in tribute to alumnist and former Shumka Music Director, Gene Zwozdesky; and prestigious guest appearances in Alberta Ballet's *The Sleeping Beauty* in both Edmonton and Calgary.

November brought the sold-out screening of Shumka's *Mosquito's Wedding in 3D*, a creative collaboration with Northern Gateway Films. Filmed as part of Shumka-on-Tour performances in 2022, the 3D technology brought audience members into the colourful action of this popular Shumka production.

December brought a three-city, nine-performance tour of *Canada's Ukrainian Nutcracker* presented by Shumka, to thousands of dance fans. Although challenging due to the war on Ukraine, we were joined by our lead artists from the National Ballet of Ukraine: Tania Lozova, Yaroslav Tkachuk and Denys Turchak. A strong photography-based marketing campaign focused on the company dancers and was a notable success.

February brought the prestigious guest appearance in Edmonton with the National Ballet of Ukraine as part of their *Nadiya Ukraine* tour.

The company's community programming was substantial throughout the year with numerous performances by Shumka School and Senior classes. And Summer Dance Camps – as usual – were a huge success.

Throughout the season, the Shumka creative team and its collaborators were hard at work on the professional company's newest production, *UKRAINKA*. Based on the works



Volyn Dance at the Dauphin Festival



Shumka Emerge at the Lougheed Centre

and dreams of one of Ukraine's most notable artists, leaders and poets – Lesya Ukrainka – the production included choreography by Tania and Yaroslav; music by up and coming composer Alexander Rodin; costumes by Anna Ipatieva; and set design by Andrii Zliobin. Under the guidance of Shumka Artistic Director, Les Sereda, the production promises to be one of the most moving in Shumka's history.

In summary, 2023/24 was a busy and successful season for the many generations of the Shumka family... bringing the whirlwind to an exciting path through the remaining months of 2024.



Hopak at the Pysanka Festival



## THE SCHOOL

Throughout the 2023/24 Season, the Shumka School of Dance (SSD) continued its efforts on bolstering the school's long-established cornerstones of high-calibre technical training, exceptionally equipped teaching staff, and unparalleled performance opportunities.

In 2023/24, SSD welcomed 215 students with a total of 561 class registrations across 47 different classes. With core-class instruction following Shumka's Syllabus for Ukrainian Dance to ensure a proper progression of technique, strength, and dance vocabulary, students continued to show promising growth and capability. The SSD prepared a total of 38 dances for participation at three separate dance festivals including Camrose Culture Fuze,

PFE Dance Showcase Saskatoon, and the Manitoba Ukrainian Dance Festival, as well as performances at St. John's Malanka, St. Sophia's Malanka, Aster Gardens, Multicultural Festival at the Slovenian Hall, Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre, UFest, and two SSD concerts at the Jubilee Auditorium.

## STUDIA SHUMKA

Established in 2018, Studia Shumka proudly accepted eight dancers to the group in the 2023/2024 season. The junior training and performing ensemble of the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, the primary purpose of Studia Shumka is to build technique and provide performance experience to young Ukrainian dancers with the intention of preparing them to be accepted into Shumka's professional company.



Studia with Edmonton's Mayor Sohi

This past season, Studia Shumka Director Alyssa Eugenio was pleased to premiere two new dances, *Lemko* and a new mixed version of *Dec' Na Bukovyni*, further adding to a comprehensive Studia-exclusive repertoire. Near the end of Studia's 2023/24 season, two Studia dancers were offered apprenticeships with Shumka, further demonstrating Studia Shumka's effectiveness in preparing young dancers for the professional company.

## SHUMKA SYLLABUS

Shumka's Syllabus for Ukrainian Dance has grown its reach in recent years. Following a detailed refurbishment led by syllabus co-creator Doug Rachinski and SSD Principal Peter Eeles in 2021, the *Syllabus for Ukrainian Dance* remains the only syllabus of its kind and continues to provide the necessary educational structure to nurture the development of new generations of mature Ukrainian dancers. As of the end of the 2023/24 fiscal year, 214 instructors have attended syllabus training workshops, and the syllabus has been officially adopted by eight dance schools across Canada and the United States, most recently including Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Minneapolis and Ballet Academy of Silicon Valley.



Shumka School of Dance Year End Show

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS & SUMMER CAMPS

The heart of Shumka's outreach initiatives, Seniors Can Shumka and Silver Swans, continue to grow and attract new dancers curious to see what these classes are all about. In total, both programs saw a combined 157 registrants ranging in age from 55-88. Participants experienced the joy of performing to live music, as well as dancing in costumes designed especially for them. The opportunity to perform at the *Shumka School of Dance Year End Show* on the Jubilee Auditorium stage, as well as participate in several different interactive workshops at senior care facilities in the Edmonton area were goals dancers



worked towards during the dance season. Dancers in Shumka's Seniors and Swans programs have quickly become one of the most passionate, proud, and welcoming communities of dance-enthusiasts under the Shumka umbrella and have proven that age is no barrier to do what you love.



Shumka Summer Dance Camps (SSDC) continue to offer a variety of day-camps and overnight intensives, drawing in more than 300 dancers from across Canada and the USA. Whether you're a 3-year-old embarking on dance and summer camp for the very first time, or a seasoned Camp Oselia overnight camper, you experienced the skillful mix of high-calibre dance instruction and exhilarating summer-fun activities.

## UKRAINIAN SHUMKA DANCERS ACTIVITIES: JUNE 1, 2023 TO MAY 31, 2024

Shumka creates a broad scope of original and collaborative interpretive works built upon the foundations of the Canadian & Ukrainian life experiences of its artists & the rich heritage of the Ukrainian folk culture.

Date from dd/mm/yy	Date to dd/mm/yy	Name of Self-Produced Public Performance, Event, Tour, Workshop, Class or Exhibition	Venue	City/Town/Province	Artist, Participant (s)	Description
19/06/2023	23/06/2023	Silver Swans Summer Camp	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Outreach instructor	Dance/fitness summer camp for seniors studying <i>Coppelia</i>
03/07/2023	25/08/2023	Shumka Summer Dance Camps	Shumka Dance Centre & Camp Oselia	Edmonton & Lake Wabamun, AB	Shumka Summer Dance Camp campers & instructors	Week-long daytime and overnight camps for children ages 3-18. Dance combined with other Ukrainian/non-Ukrainian activities
08/07/2023	09/07/2023	50th Anniversary Pysanky Festival	Exhibition Grounds	Vegreville, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers & Shumka School of Dance students	Ukrainian festival celebrating the Ukrainian culture through music, song, dance, and food
17/07/2023	21/07/2023	Seniors Can Shumka Summer Camp	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Outreach instructor	Dance/fitness summer camp for seniors studying European dance
18/07/2023	21/07/2023	<i>Shumka Emerge</i> Artist in Residency Week	Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Centre for the Performing Arts	Camrose, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers	The public performance of <i>Shumka: Emerge 2023</i> features a brief workshop performance of Shumka's newest work followed by a presentation about the research, development and creative process behind-the-scenes
24/07/2023	24/07/2023	K Days Magic Mornings	Edmonton Exhibition Grounds	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers	Special time when children with disabilities are invited to enjoy the fair at their own speed, and interactive with local celebrities
27/07/2023	27/07/2023	K Days Pop-Up Market Vendor	Edmonton Exhibition Grounds	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers	Edmonton and area vendors showcasing their products
05/08/2023	05/08/2023	Canada's National Ukrainian Festival	Selo Ukraina	Dauphin, Manitoba	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers & Shumka School of Dance students	Annual national festival celebrating the Ukrainian culture through music, song, dance, and food
16/09/2023	31/05/2024	Shumka School of Dance	Shumka Dance Centre & St. Sophia's Parish	Edmonton & Sherwood Park, AB	Shumka Instructors & Shumka School of Dance students	Ukrainian dance training program for youth ages 3-18
17/09/2023	17/09/2023	Gene Zwodzesky Musical Tribute Show	Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and other guest artists	Musical tribute show honouring Gene and his music, with proceeds from the show going towards the Gene Zwodzesky Centre at Norwood
16/10/2023	04/12/2023	Seniors Can Shumka Outreach Program	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Outreach instructor	Dance/fitness program for seniors
16/10/2023	04/12/2023	Silver Swans – Ballet for 55+	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Outreach instructor	Dance/fitness program for seniors

Date from dd/mm/yy	Date to dd/mm/yy	Name of Self-Produced Public Performance, Event, Tour, Workshop, Class or Exhibition	Venue	City/Town/Province	Artist, Participant (s)	Description
21/10/2023	21/10/2023	Ukrainian Pioneers Association AGM Screening of <i>Promised Land</i>	Commerce Place	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers & Shumka School of Dance students	Film screening funded by the Ukrainian Pioneers Association
26/10/2023	28/10/2023	Alberta Ballet <i>The Sleeping Beauty</i>	Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Calgary, AB	Shumka Dancers as guest artists	Performance
03/11/2023	04/11/2023	Alberta Ballet <i>The Sleeping Beauty</i>	Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Dancers as guest artists	Performance
08/11/2023	08/1/2023	Seniors Interactive Workshop	Venta Care Centre	Edmonton, AB	Seniors Can Shumka & Silver Swans dancers	One hour dance workshop with the seniors living at a care centre
09/11/2023	09/11/2023	National Release of Shumka's <i>Mosquito's Wedding in 3-D</i>	City Centre Cinemas	Edmonton, AB	Virtual	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers
25/11/2023	25/11/2023	Warm up the Winter for Mustard Seed	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers partnering with Norquest College	Community collecting warm winter clothing for the Mustard Seed in conjunction with Shumka School of Dance Open House.
01/12/2023	03/12/2023	Dance Victoria presents <i>Shumka's Nutcracker</i>	Royal Theatre	Victoria, BC	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Shumka School of Dance students & guest artists	Performance
08/12/2023	09/12/2023	Camrose Live presents <i>Shumka's Nutcracker</i>	Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Centre for the Performing Arts	Camrose, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Shumka School of Dance students & guest artists	Performance
10/12/2023	10/12/2023	Alberta Ballet's <i>Nutcracker Storytime</i>	Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Edmonton, AB	One Shumka dancer	Outreach Contribution to a fellow resident company of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium
15/12/2023	16/12/2023	<i>Shumka's Nutcracker</i>	Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Shumka School of Dance students & guest artists	Performance
08/01/2024	04/03/2024	Seniors Can Shumka Outreach Program	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Outreach instructor	Dance/fitness program for seniors
08/01/2024	04/03/2024	Silver Swans – Ballet for 55+	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Outreach instructor	Dance/fitness program for seniors
12/01/2024	13/01/2024	St. John's Malanka	St. John's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Cultural Centr	Edmonton, AB	Shumka School of Dance students	Ukrainian New Year's Celebration
13/01/2024	13/01/2024	St. Sophia's Malanka	St. Sophia's Parish	Sherwood Park, AB	Shumka School of Dance students	Ukrainian New Year's Celebration

Date from dd/mm/yy	Date to dd/mm/yy	Name of Self-Produced Public Performance, Event, Tour, Workshop, Class or Exhibition	Venue	City/Town/Province	Artist, Participant (s)	Description
18/01/2024	20/01/2024	Ukrainian Week at Aster Gardens	Aster Gardens Retirement Living	Sherwood Park, AB	Shumka School of Dance students	Celebration of Ukrainian culture including song, dance, music, and activities all directed towards seniors
04/02/2024	04/02/2024	General Hospital Performance	General Hospital	Edmonton, AB	Shumka School of Dance students	Performance for continuing care residents
10/02/2024	10/02/2024	Shumka in National Ballet of Ukraine <i>Nadiya Ukraine</i> concert	Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers	Special guest appearance
11/02/2024	11/02/2024	Shumka School of Dance Winter Concert	Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Edmonton, AB	Shumka School of Dance students	Celebration of dance by students of Shumka School & Studia Shumka
22/02/2024	22/02/2024	Educational Performance	Forest Green School	Edmonton, AB	Studia Shumka	Performance for school children
02/03/2024	02/03/2024	BRAVO! 2024	University Theatre, University of Calgary	Calgary, AB	Studia Shumka	Joint project between the Vykrutas Ensemble and other junior or senior ensembles from Alberta and across the western provinces
18/03/2024	06/05/2024	Seniors Can Shumka Outreach Program	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Outreach instructor	Dance/fitness program for seniors
18/03/2024	06/05/2024	Silver Swans – Ballet for 55+	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Outreach instructor	Dance/fitness program for seniors
05/05/2024	05/05/2024	Callingwood Market 40th Anniversary Celebration	Callingwood Market	Edmonton, AB	Studia Shumka	Performance for market anniversary
09/05/2024	09/05/2024	Cuppa Corner at CLSA	Central Lions Seniors Centre	Edmonton, AB	Shumka Outreach instructor	Interactive dance workshop for seniors
09/05/2024	09/05/2024	Multicultural Day	Scott Robertson School	Edmonton, AB	Studia Shumka	Performance
11/05/2024	11/05/2024	Cultural Night	Shrine Centre	Edmonton, AB	Studia Shumka	Performance
12/05/2024	12/05/2024	<i>Shumka School of Dance Year End Show</i>	Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Shumka School students, Studia Shumka, Silver Swans, Seniors Can Shumka	Celebration of dance
17/05/2024	17/05/2024	Cultural Day	Tipasken School	Edmonton, AB	Studia Shumka	Performance
18/05/2024	18/05/2024	Shumka and Studia Auditions	Shumka Dance Centre	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers	Audition for entrance into the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers or Studia dance companies
24/05/2024	25/05/2024	UFest	Borden Park	Edmonton, AB	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Shumka School Students, Studia Shumka	Outdoor festival celebrating Ukrainian culture

# SHUMKA BY THE NUMBERS

June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024



**46**  
Dancers in company

**13**  
Apprentices in company

**8**  
Dancers in Studia Shumka

**42**  
Instructors –  
SSD: 13 Lead and 21 Junior, SSDC: 8



**303**  
Students in 2023 Shumka Summer Dance Camps (SSDC)

**28**  
Shumka Summer Dance Camp personnel – 26 Leaders-in-Training; 2 Camp Coordinators



**214**  
Active donors and funders

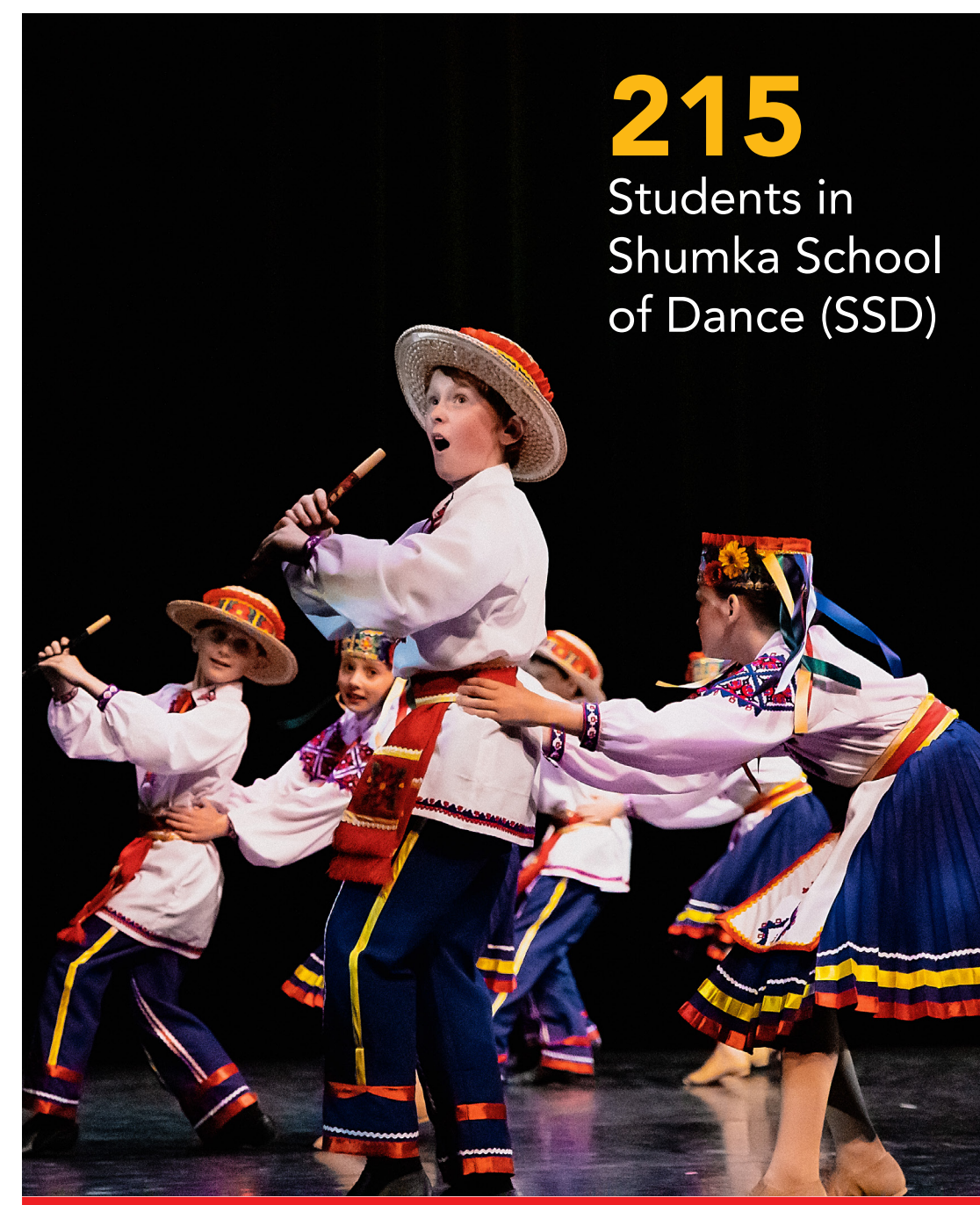
**68**  
New donors

**668**  
Gifts received

**37**  
GEMs (Donors who Give Every Month)

**768,736**

Online Engagement – Facebook: 500,100; Instagram: 29,136; YouTube: 214,000 impressions and 25,500 views



**215**  
Students in Shumka School of Dance (SSD)



**157**  
Seniors and Swans in outreach programs

**11**  
Board members

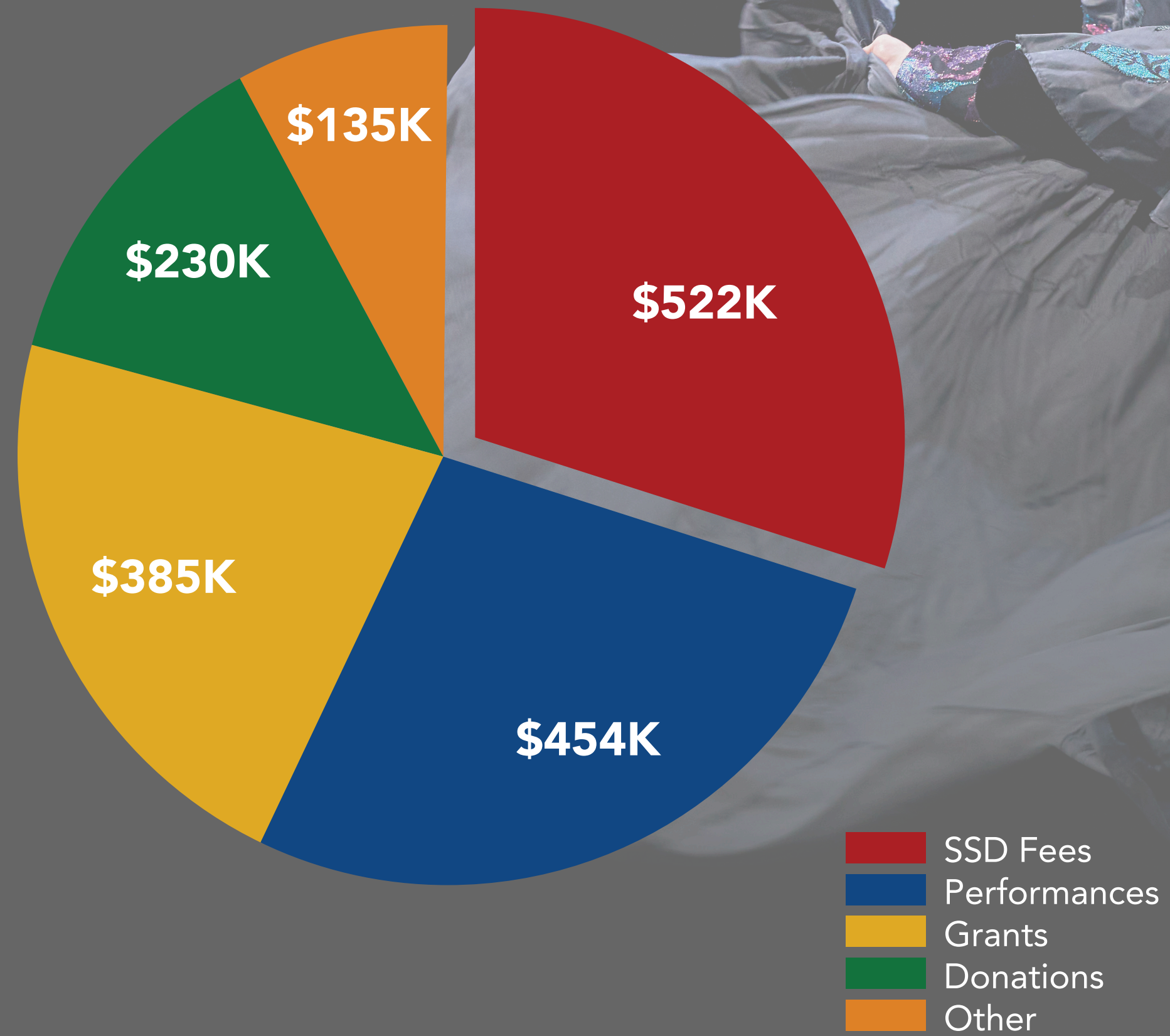
**7**  
Artistic team and committee members

**14**  
Staff – 4 full time; 4 artistic contracts; 5 production contracts; 1 admin contract

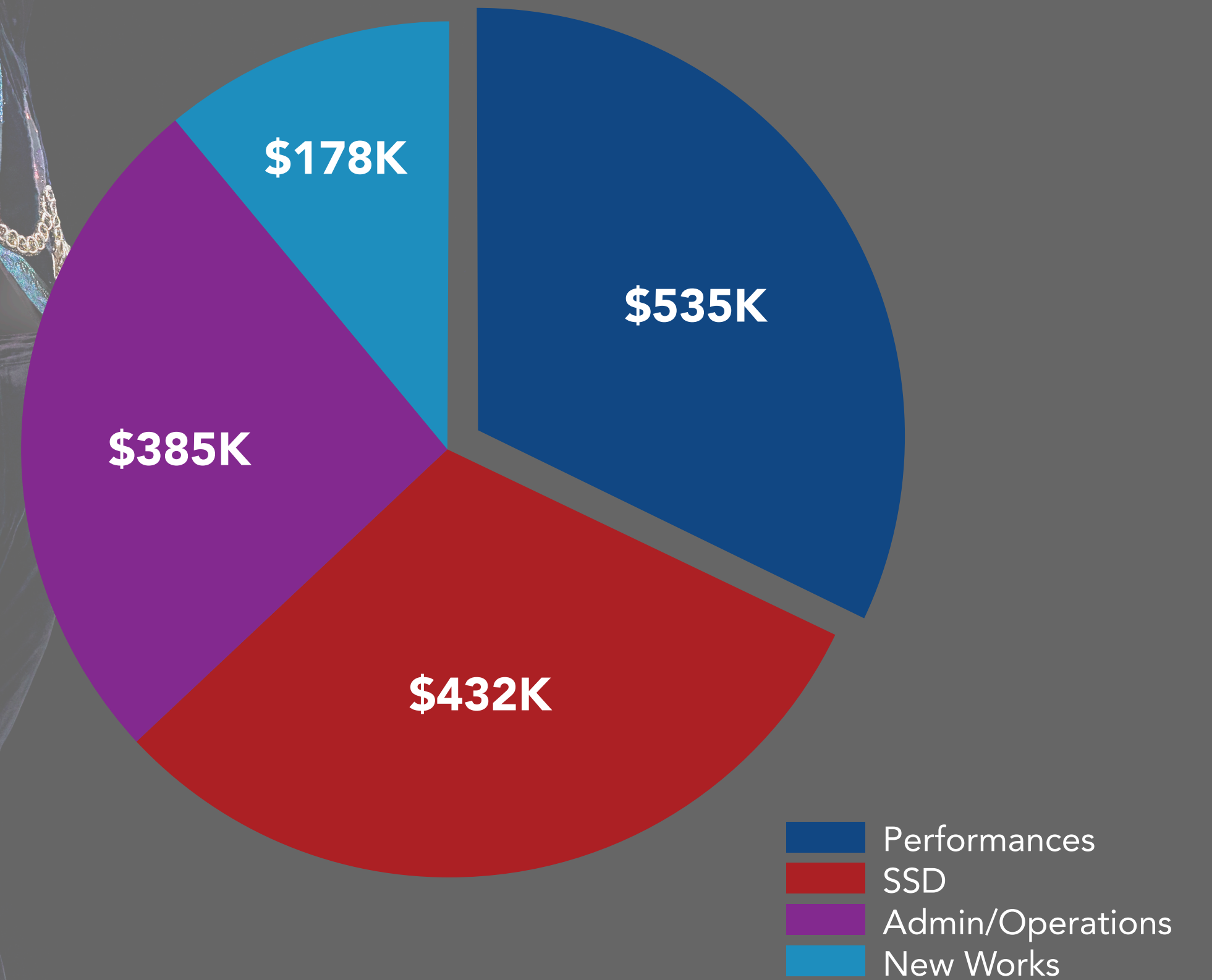
# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & NOTES

Click [here](#) to view our Financial Statements  
Year Ended May 31, 2024

## 2024 REVENUE OVERVIEW



## 2024 EXPENSE OVERVIEW



## ENDOWMENT FUND

Sustainability is key to Shumka's financial future. To mark the 60th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, an endowment fund through the Edmonton Community Foundation was established in 2019. An initial donation from the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers Alumni Association provided this legacy project a solid start. Thank you to our generous donors who continue to invest in Shumka's future by contributing to the Whirlwind Funds; your commitment to continuing Shumka's legacy for generations to come is inspiring.

An endowment is a pool of money that is invested, with investment returns provided to the charity to use for their operations. Donations are made into the fund and they are then held and invested in the endowment forever, with only the returns being pulled for the organization's operations. In the 2023/24 fiscal year, the endowment provided an unrestricted grant of \$2,418 to support Shumka's mission.

With support from the Canadian Cultural Investment Fund through the Department of Canadian Heritage, donations are partially matched by the Canadian government. These matching grants are invested alongside donations, leveraging the power of your contributions.

The Endowment Fund is instrumental in securing Shumka's long-term financial stability. In time, Shumka aspires to have the endowment returns act as one of our major annual revenue sources to help with the creation and presentation of new works.

By May 31, 2024, our endowment fund sits at over \$100,000. Leave your legacy with Shumka. See your funds make a difference by donating today or join our donors who have bequeathed funds to the endowment in their wills. For more information or to donate, contact [shumka@shumka.com](mailto:shumka@shumka.com).



## SHUMKA GEMS

In addition to regular performance fees, Shumka incurs a number of operational expenses throughout the year, from areas such as facility upkeep, rent, janitorial, utilities, accounting, and legal. With the help of monthly donor support, Shumka is able to continually cover these expenses, which becomes especially helpful in times between large performances and school tuition timelines when cash flow is decreased. In turn, this allows Shumka the financial stability to take on more performing opportunities and to reach wider audiences.

Shumka was proud to see its number of monthly supporters or GEMs (Give Every Month) maintain itself from the end of last fiscal year. We thank our Shumka GEMs for being the stable backbone of Shumka's day-to-day, and we encourage all our supporters to join them in their generosity which allows us to explore and create in a more predictable donorship environment.

For more information on becoming a Shumka GEM, visit the Shumka [website](#) or email [shumka@shumka.com](mailto:shumka@shumka.com).



## FUNDERS & DONORS

- 🍷 Shumka GEMs - **Give Every Month**
- 🌿 Shumka Whirlwind Endowment Fund  
Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF)

You make such a difference with your support and Shumka is grateful. As donors, you keep our boots dancing and our dreams alive!

Shumka is ever grateful and acknowledges the following individuals, families, companies, foundations, and funders for their generous help. This list recognizes monetary and in-kind donations received between June 1st, 2023 - May 31st, 2024.

There have also been a number of donations made since the start of our new fiscal year. To view the current donor list and benefits, please visit the Shumka [website](#).

### **Whirlwind Visionary (\$50,000+)**

- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- Canada Council for the Arts
- Edmonton Arts Council
- Northern Industrial Carriers Ltd.  
– Simon Sochatsky

### **Whirlwind Benefactor (\$10,000 - \$49,999)**

- Government of Canada  
– Canada Summer Jobs
- Temerty Foundation

### **Whirlwind Supporter (\$2,500 - \$9,999)**

- Anonymous 🌿
- Anonymous
- Bottom Line Productions Inc. 🍷
- Anne Dobbie & Dennis Ewasiuk 🌿
- Dave & Christina Ganert
- Lexus of Edmonton West
- Terry Mucha & Teo Bodnar 🍷
- Ed Paproski  
(In Honour of Annie Pastyszczak) 🍷
- Simon & Martina Sochatsky
- The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation  
of Taras Shevchenko
- The Turgeon Family
- Ukrainian Pioneers Association of Alberta

### **Whirlwind Partner (\$1,000 - \$2,499)**

- MaryAnn & Bill Baziuk 🍷 🌿
- Pinky Eugenio 🌿
- Government of Alberta
- Larissa & Paul Groch
- Donna Hastings (In Memory of  
John & Nancy [Stawnychy] Evanchuk)
- Sylvia & Walter Killick
- Victor & Christine Lirette
- Anne Metrunec (In Memory of Gerry Metrunec)
- Andrea Moen & Terry Sulyma 🍷
- Marilyn Mucha
- Rochelle Shukalek 🍷
- Norman & Kathie (Zarsky) St. Arnaud 🌿
- Michael H. Sulyma (In Memory of Lorrie Sulyma)
- Tom Syvenky 🍷
- Darka & Vlodko Tarnawsky 🍷
- Ukrainian Shumka Dancers Whirlwind Fund at  
Edmonton Community Foundation
- Evan Zukiwsky & Patty Tachynski 🍷
- Zwozdesky Family (In Memory of Gene) 🌿

### **Kozak Brotherhood (\$500 - \$999)**

- August Family 🍷
- Michael Batt  
(In Honour of Courtney Basaraba) 🍷
- The Beck Family
- Carol & Nestor Beztilyn
- Cherisse & Tim  
(In Honour of Elyse & Lauren) 🌿
- CIBC Employee Volunteer Program
- Mattison & Mathew Desfosses
- Pinky Eugenio  
(In Memory of Hernando Eugenio) 🌿
- Galyna & Roman Glozhyk  
(In Honour of Viktoriya Glozhyk) 🍷
- Oksana & Bruce Grant
- Rena Hanchuk  
(In Memory of Domka & Ed Hanchuk)
- Cecilia Laskoski
- Brett Loree & Laura Bradley
- Caitlin & Dan Loree 🍷
- Marilyn Mucha & Len Chanasyk  
(In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)
- Terry Mucha & Teo Bodnar  
(In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)
- Kelsey & Paul Olijnyk 🍷
- Katelyn & David Pierzchajlo
- Taras Z. Saranchuk 🌿
- Rod & Jackie Schur
- Warren Serink 🍷
- Michael V. Sulyma  
(In Memory of Lorrie Sulyma) 🍷
- Tayler Family 🍷
- Mariette & Michael Unger 🍷
- The Whitlow Family  
(In Memory of Gene Zwozdesky) 🍷
- In Memory of Loverne Wowk

### **Boots and Beads (\$200 - \$499)**

- Anonymous 🍷 🌿
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Helen Adhikari
- Baugh Family
- Bill & MaryAnn Baziuk  
(In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)
- Bill & MaryAnn Baziuk  
(In Memory of Mitch Makowsky)
- Julianna Bootsman 🍷
- Marie & Ken Bootsman 🍷
- Steven Brese & Stefka Lytwyn
- Natasha Chalmers
- Raymond Charuk
- DeRose Family
- Ava, Amanda & Marco Eugenio 🍷
- Tara Gaucher  
(In Memory of Tom Gushatthey) 🍷
- Barbara Gerlach
- Gordon & Cathie Gordey
- Joe Gulajec
- Murray Howell 🍷
- Cathy & Paul Johnson 🍷
- Stefania Kostiuik 🍷
- Lorna Kunyk (Salamandick)
- Julie & Brendan Kusiek
- Ashley & Stewart Kuzyk
- Lott Family
- Tim Lynn
- Helene Magus
- Marianne Makowsky  
(In Memory of Mitch Makowsky)
- David Makowsky & Brenda Manweiler
- Dr. James & Doris McElgunn  
(In Honour of Annikka Dobko)
- Terry Mucha  
(In Memory of Mitch Makowsky)
- Terry Mucha  
(In Memory of Gerald Metrunec)

**Boots and Beads** (cont'd)

NAV CANADA  
 Christa & Slavko Nohas  
 Nordstrom Family  
 Tara & Lukian Opyr 🍷  
 Nic Pacholok  
 Ruby Patrick 🌿  
 Taras & Larissa Podilsky  
 Very Rev. Patrick Powalinsky  
 Rivero Family  
 Diane Robinson  
 (In Honour of Viktoriya Glozhyk) 🌿  
 Rogers Communications -  
 Give Together Month  
 Maria & Jordan Rumohr 🍷  
 Nadine & Russ Samyca 🍷  
 Shelley & Chris Samyca  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Douglas & Vera Smeall  
 Ron & Diane Solowan 🍷  
 Lorraine Sorokan  
 Doug Spasiuk  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Stepnisky-Meagher Family  
 Michael Stuart & Sneha Patel 🍷 🌿  
 Stuffco Family  
 Jodie Wacko &  
 Lydia Talpash-Wacko 🍷  
 Ashlyn Waller  
 Jeffrey Williams  
 Lindsay Yakimyshyn  
 Sam Yakimishyn & Deanna Gupta  
 David Zayonce

**Dance Partner (Up to \$199)**

Abel Family  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Aster Gardens  
 Courtney Basaraba  
 Becky  
 (In Memory of Gene Zwozdesky) 🍷  
 Borowski Family  
 Kimberly Bosch  
 Larisa & Josh Boyer  
 Steven Brese & Stefka Lytwyn  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Brosius Family  
 Anastasiia Bulakh  
 Walter & Eleanor Busko  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Campbell Family  
 Chalifoux Family  
 Bernice Chanasyk & Family  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Robert Chanasyk  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Daintre Christensen  
 Patrick Desfosses & Rachelle Gladue  
 Dr. Rostyslaw & Janet Dmytruk  
 (In Memory of Ihor Dmytruk)  
 Duke Family  
 Lauren Dzenick  
 Michael Eeles  
 (In Honour of June Eeles) 🍷  
 Collin Elkow  
 Dennis, Halyna & Toma Elkow  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Carly & Brock Evanishen  
 Trish Gable  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 MaryAnn & Ralph Goetz  
 (In Memory of Betty Lysak)

Gordon & Cathie Gordey  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Cynthia Green  
 Roxanne & Jeff Howe (In Memory of  
 Oleh & Olga Cherkawsky)  
 Jack & Joyce Howell  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Jack & Joyce Howell  
 (In Memory of Mitch Makowsky)  
 Jerry Hutton  
 Jaros Family  
 Ken Kalynchuk  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Anna Kanevets  
 Iryna Kennedy  
 Lisa Klymenko  
 Igor Knyazevuch  
 Lorna Kunyk (Salamandick)  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Leliuk Family  
 Frances Lema  
 Anna Lilley & Adam Carleton  
 Victoria Lyasota  
 Lypovyk Family  
 Colin & Halia MacLean  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 McCormack Family  
 Kathy McCutcheon  
 Lyndsey McGill, & MaryAnn  
 & Ralph Goetz  
 JoLynn & Nolan McGregor  
 Melnyk Family  
 Charlene & Jason Michaud  
 Gayle Mischuk  
 Michelle & Ross Murray  
 Iryna Mykytiuk  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Cheryl Nekolaichuk  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Lori Neufeld

Dave, Angela & Ava Neufeld  
 Nichol Family  
 Michael & Tasha Orysiuk  
 Osinchuk Family  
 Olga Pacholok  
 Maureen Pankiw  
 Robert Pannenbecker  
 Lesia Perritt  
 Petrivskyy Family  
 Dr. Roman & Marusia Petryshyn 🌿  
 Tiffany & Ryan Philipenko  
 Alex & Linda Piasetsky  
 Very Rev. Patrick Powalinsky  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Very Rev. Patrick Powalinsky  
 (In Memory of Gerald Metrunc)  
 Darlene Pruden  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Pushie Family  
 Doug & Roxanne Rachinski  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Rammeloo Family  
 Rena & Yaroslav  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Al Robertson  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Robinson Family  
 Glen Roebuck  
 Louise E. Rogucki  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Don & Emily Roguski  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Matthew Romaniuk 🍷  
 Nicole Schimpf  
 Schinking Family  
 Semchuk Family  
 John Shalewa 🌿  
 Harrison Sheremeta  
 Nataliya Shevchenko  
 Alyssa Shukalek

Julianna Shukalek  
 A. Skorenki  
 Catherine Smith  
 Brittany Sorochan & Paul Horpyniuk  
 Stelmach Family  
 Samuel Stychyshyn  
 Sandi Sutherland  
 Wendy Thomson  
 Fraces Tkachyk  
 Bradley Walker  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Lynda Watson  
 (In Honour of Ella Sikora)  
 Lynda Watson  
 (In Honour of Lizzie Sikora)  
 Wood Family  
 Karen Woodman  
 Woychuk Family  
 Wujcik Family  
 Vanessa Wynnyk  
 Ted & Sonia Yarmuch  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)  
 Yost Family  
 Young Family  
 Michael G. Zukiwsky  
 Christine Zwozdesky  
 (In Memory of Elsie Chanasyk)

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Please accept our apologies and contact us at [shumka@shumka.com](mailto:shumka@shumka.com) if we inadvertently missed you or have erred in your listing.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diana Tayler, *Chair*  
 Ashlyn Grummett, *Vice-Chair*  
 Nicholas Pawluk, *Treasurer*  
 Stefania Kostiuk, *Secretary*

### Directors

Stephanie Bahniuk  
 Tesia Doblanko  
 Elyse Dzenick  
 Sneha Patel  
 Nadine Samycia  
 Devon Sereda Goldie  
 Kelly Shapka



## STAFF TEAM

Darka Tarnawsky,  
*Executive Director*  
 Leslie Sereda, *Artistic Director*  
 Paul Olijnyk, *Creative Director*  
 Tasha Orysiuk, *Creative Director*  
 Peter Eeles,  
*Shumka School Principal*  
 June Eeles, *Programs*  
 & *Outreach Administrator*  
 Nicolas Pacholok,  
*Fund Development Coordinator*  
 Alyssa Eugenio,  
*Artistic Administrator/*  
*Director of Studia Shumka*  
 Joshua Semchuk,  
*Production Stage Manager*  
 Vlodko Tarnawsky, *Facility/*  
*Transportation Manager*  
 Trinity Chopyk-Kenneth,  
*Wardrobe Director*  
 Trent Crosby, *Technical Director*  
 Tamsin Carreck, *Shumka School*  
*Ballet Mistress*  
 Erin Mihalcheon, *Shumka School*  
*Wardrobe Director*  
 Marnie Stretch, *Bookkeeper*

More information about our board, staff, dancers, Shumka School of Dance, artistic products and outreach programs can be found at [shumka.com](http://shumka.com).

## COMMITTEES

**Alumni Committee**  
 Elyse Dzenick, *Co-Chair*  
 Stephanie Bahniuk, *Co-Chair*  
 George Chronik  
 Murray Howell  
 Lukian Opyr  
 Katrusia Pohoreski  
 Matthew Romaniuk  
 Laura Stachniak

**Finance Committee**  
 Nick Pawluk, *Chair*  
 Sneha Patel  
 Tim Lynn  
 Michael Stuart

**Fund Development Committee**  
 Terry Mucha, *Co-Chair*  
 Nick Pawluk, *Co-Chair*  
 Devon Sereda Goldie  
 Larissa Groch  
 Stefania Kostiuk  
 Tim Lynn  
 Marilyn Mucha  
 Nic Pacholok  
 Daria Podilsky  
 Nadine Samycia  
 Michael Stuart

**Governance Committee**  
 Tesia Doblanko, *Chair*  
 Elyse Dzenick  
 Ashlyn Grummett  
 Diana Tayler



# SHUMKA

[www.shumka.com](http://www.shumka.com)

