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ODC MAKES A PROMISE TO THE FUTURE WITH THE EXPANSION OF ITS MISSION DISTRICT CAMPUS ALONG 17TH STREET

*\$6.7M acquisition to bolster ODC Theater operations and provide ample new
studio space to students and community groups*



Photo credit: Greg Meyers/ODC.

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA, November 28, 2022 – ODC has announced the purchase of 3175-3177 17th Street, a major expansion of its Mission District campus. The acquisition serves as a capstone to ODC's 50+ anniversary celebrations as the organization looks ahead to its next half century.

Under a deal worth \$6.7 million, ODC has secured the 14,400 square foot building adjacent to its Theater, with an eye toward providing more space for Theater operations and more studio and rehearsal space for students and community groups.

"At a time of multiple hardships on the region's arts ecosystem, the pandemic and housing affordability crisis chief among them, ODC is doubling down on its mission by offering much needed new space to the members of its community," said ODC Executive Director **Carma Zisman**. "This is a time for bold entrepreneurial action, the exact kind that has fueled our nonprofit's artistic and civic activities for more than five decades."

In 1979, ODC became the first modern dance company in America to build its own home facility. In 2005, the company expanded with the opening of ODC Dance Commons at 351 Shotwell Street, a building which houses five state-of-the-art dance studios, a health clinic, administrative offices and a 'Town Hall.' And in 2010, ODC completed major renovations on its Theater with technological upgrades to its main stage, three new studio classrooms, a gallery, café and a media lab.

Until the onset of the pandemic, these two buildings – both debt-free facilities totaling 36,000 square feet – served over 50,000 local residents annually, including 16,000 students at ODC's school.

ODC's newest building will immediately increase the size of its campus by 40 percent, with the possibility for further expansion in the years ahead. It will enable broader functionality of ODC Theater's stage while bolstering its ability to serve the needs of ODC School's inclusive and wide-ranging dance curriculum for adults, youth and teens. Across a half-century, ODC has embraced all forms of dance, and it has proven its commitment to cross-disciplinary exchange and community building, to serving as a home for dance artists, recreational movers, young people and audiences of all stripes.

"To dance is to inhabit space," said ODC Founder and Artistic Director **Brenda Way**. "We aspire to provide the canvas upon which not only our longstanding artists can continue to shine but a new generation can make its choreographic mark. ODC has focused much of its energy on creating a home for dance that can house a lively and disparate range of artistic appetites, that can allow us all to imagine without fear of eviction or rising rents. This expansion of our theater and campus is our promise to the future."

"For decades, ODC has dedicated itself to giving artists a space to showcase their incredible talents," said Mayor **London Breed**. "Expanding this performing arts center will provide artists with more performance and rehearsal space, give them the chance to start their careers and grow their talents, support our thriving arts economy, and keep artists here in San Francisco. Art has always been and will remain an important part of our City, not just to the visitors who travel from all over the world to watch performances at our theaters, but also to the residents who grew up here to become artists themselves or to watch friends and neighbors perform live on stage."

ABOUT ODC

Founded in 1971 by Artistic Director Brenda Way, ODC is a groundbreaking contemporary arts institution: a world-class dance company (ODC/Dance), a theater with year-round presenting and mentorship programs (ODC Theater), a training school for dancers and movers of all levels (ODC School), and a fee-free, educational Healthy Dancers' Clinic. Known nationally for its entrepreneurial savvy and artistic innovation, ODC is unique for its holistic vision, now including a robust digital platform. With its home in San Francisco's Mission District, ODC makes a dynamic contribution to the Bay Area's vibrant dance and arts ecosystem, cultivating artists, inspiring audiences, engaging the community, and fostering diversity and inclusion through dance performance, training and mentorship.