

ODC/DANCE PRESENTS









ACTI(43 MINUTES)

SCENE I - Winter SCENE II - Christmas Morning SCENE III - Nursery SCENE IV - Slumber SCENE V - Spring SCENE VI - The Real Rabbits



Intermission

ACT II (22 MINUTES)

SCENE I - Summer SCENE II - Sickness SCENE III - Back of the Garden SCENE IV - Night Forest SCENE V - Seasons Passing



Director and Choreographer

KT Nelson

Based on the story by

Margery Williams

Music

Benjamin Britten





Recorded Narration Geoff Hoyle

Use of the works by Benjamin Britten was made possible by: Boosey and Hawkes, Inc. Publisher and Copywright Owner: variations on a theme of Frank Bridge, Canadian Carnival, Matinees Musicals, Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes, Scottish Ballad, Prince of the Pagodas, and Simple Symphony. Playful Pizzicato from Simple Symphony performed by arrangement with Oxford University Press, Inc., New York.

PROGRAM NOTE

I created *The Velveteen Rabbit* production with a generation of dancers from the 1980's. At the time, I made it for my 2-year old son and his friends. Offering them a shared experience that harnesses the power of play, love and Margery William's sustaining notion of "becoming real."

Today my son is a father and I a grandmother. To this new generation of young families, I want to share that navigating love, joy, illness, bullying and the unknown are very much a part of our present lives. What ways of being and what values do we want to carry forward together as individuals, as families and as communities? The gift of art is a gift of the imagination. Like play and love, it is exploratory and expansive.

Our individual and collective imaginations are a force that can feed the spirit, manifest new possibilities and lay down the stepping stones for a new day.

- KT Nelson
Director and Choreographer of *The Velveteen Rabbit*







CAST

The Velveteen Rabbit

Rachel Furst/Allie Papazian

The Boy

Colton Wall/Christian Squires

Nana

Rachel Furst/Allie Papazian Justin O'Neil*

Skin Horse

Ryan Rouland Smith

Fairy

Rachel Furst/Allie Papazian

Adult Chorus

Brandon "Private" Freeman Jeremy Bannon-Neches Allie Papazian Miche Wong Ryan Rouland Smith Jenna Marie Áine Dorman Mia J. Chong* Joanne Kim*

CHILDREN'S CAST

Nina Delos Reyes-Webb Jasper Glow Hyonia Kottas Maya Lau Zuri Laub Nina Liang Biwa Mainen Jeweletta Mitchell Francesca Oram Olivia Parra

All Children's Cast attend the ODC Youth & Teen Program. To learn more, please visit odc.dance/youth&teen



odc.dance/youth&teen

A very special thank you to the parents of our Children's Cast whose tireless attendance at rehearsals and volunteer work for ODC is a testament to their belief in the importance of art in their children's lives.

^{*}Guest Artist



DESIGN AND PRODUCTION



ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ARTISTIC PLANNING

Joseph Copley-Venturo Díaz

DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Jack Beuttler

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Thomas Bowersox

LIGHTING SUPERVISOR

David Robertson

WARDROBE SUPERVISORS

Kyo Yohena Jamielyn Duggan

REHEARSAL DIRECTORS

Brenda Way

Brandon "Private" Freeman

MOVEMENT COACH

Brandon "Private" Freeman

CHILDREN'S CHORUS REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Jeremy Bannon-Neches

KID WRANGLER

Joanne Kim

CHILDREN'S CHORUS REHEARSAL ASSISTANTS

Joanne Kim Miche Wong

COMPANY CLASS TEACHERS

Christopher Lam Mark Foehringer Sandra Chinn Amy Seiwert Jennifer Polyocan Kaori Ogasawara

SET & ORIGINAL COSTUME DESIGN

Brian Wildsmith

RECORDED NARRATION

Geoff Hoyle

SONG COMPOSITION

Bob Franke Gina Leishman

LIGHTING AND VIDEO DESIGN

David Robertson

INITIAL DESIGN & SCENIC REALIZATION

David K. H. Elliott Sandra Woodall

ADDITIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS

Sarah Horner

ORIGINAL DESIGN CONSULTANT

Susan Tuohy

ORIGINAL COSTUME REALIZATION

Jennifer Craig

PRESENT COSTUME REALIZATION

Kyo Yohena Jamielyn Duggan Natalie Barshow

DIGITAL EDITING AND MASTERING

Mike Bemesderfer

SINGER

Rinde Eckert

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Karah Charette, DPT Devon Chen, DPT Oriana Hua, DPT Vincent Leddy, DPT Emily Noe, DPT

MASSAGE THERAPIST

Nick Wagner, CMT

VOLUNTEER SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST

Dr. Monica Horowitz

ASL INTERPRETERS

Susan Gonzalez (Deaf Performance Interpreter) Pilar Marsh (Interpreter) Zahna Simon (Coordination) Deaf Consultant courtesy of: Urban Jazz Dance

Company Access Services

SPECIAL THANKS

Carlos Venturo Díaz-Copley Mindz4ward Mental Skills







ODC ARTISTIC TEAM



BRENDA WAY (Founder and Artistic Director) received her early training at The School of American Ballet and Ballet Arts in New York City. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of ODC/Dance and creator of the ODC Theater and ODC Dance Commons, community performance and training venues in San Francisco's Mission District. Way was instrumental in forming an inter-arts department at Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music in the late 1960's before relocating to the Bay Area in 1976.

She has choreographed more than 90 pieces over the last 48 years. Among her commissions are Unintended Consequences: A Meditation (2008) Equal Justice Society; Life is a House (2008) San Francisco Girls Chorus; On a Train Heading South (2005) CSU Monterey Bay; Remnants of Song (2002) Stanford Lively Arts; Scissors Paper Stone (1994) Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; Western Women (1993) Cal Performances, Rutgers University and Jacob's Pillow; Ghosts of an Old Ceremony (1991) Walker Art Center and The Minnesota Orchestra; Krazy Kat (1990) San Francisco Ballet; This Point in Time (1987) Oakland Ballet; Tamina (1986) San Francisco Performances; Invisible Cities (1985) Stanford Lively Arts and the Robotics Research Laboratory. Her work Investigating Grace was named an NEA American Masterpiece in 2011.

Way's work was selected by the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2010 to represent the US in a tour of Southeast Asia, as part of the inaugural DanceMotion touring program sponsored by the US Department of State. She is a national spokesperson for dance, has been published widely, has received numerous awards including Isadora Duncan Dance Awards for both choreography and sustained achievement, and 40 years of support from the National Endowment for the Arts. She is a 2000 recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. In 2009, she was the first choreographer to be a Resident of the Arts at the American Academy in Rome, and in 2012, she received the Helen Crocker Russell Award for Community Leadership from the SF Foundation. Way holds a Ph.D. in aesthetics and is the mother of four children.



KT NELSON (ODC Fellow) joined ODC/Dance in 1976 and partnered with Brenda Way in directing the ODC/Dance Company until 2020. KT choreographed the Company's first full-length family ballet in 1986, *The Velveteen Rabbit*. The production has become a holiday tradition in the Bay Area engaging generations of dance goers.

KT has been awarded the Isadora Duncan Dance Award four times: in 1987 for Outstanding Performance, in 1996 and 2012 for Outstanding Choreography, and in 2001 for Sustained Achievement. Her collaborators

have included Bobby McFerrin, Geoff Hoyle, Amy Seiwert, Shinichi Iova-Koga, Kate Weare, Zap Mama, and Joan Jeanrenaud. Her work *RingRounRozi*, in collaboration with French-Canadian composer Linda Bouchard, was selected to be performed at the Tanzmesse International Dance Festival. *boulders and bones*, in collaboration with Brenda Way, was part of BAM's Next Wave Festival. Her *One Long Breath* collaboration with Na Hoon Park was selected for the MODAFE festival in Seoul, Korea. *Path of Miracles*, created in collaboration with Volti Vocal Ensemble, is her third evening length work and is touring across the country.

In 1996, Nelson founded the ODC Dance Jam (ages 6-13). As ODC's first director of Educational Outreach, Nelson did extensive community work including partnerships with the Kohler Arts Center, University of Florida at Gainesville, Everett Middle School, San Francisco Mime Troupe, San Francisco's Writers Union, Thunder Road Drug Rehabilitation and more. From 2004 to 2007, she ran the dance department for the summer program Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan University. She has mentored with the Margaret Jenkin's Chime Project, co-founded RoundAntennae and continues to mentor emerging artists in the Bay Area and abroad.



KIMI OKADA (Associate Choreographer, Director of ODC School) is a founding member of ODC. Her work includes more than 30 choreographies for ODC/Dance, as well as commissions and collaborations with Geoff Hoyle, Bill Irwin, Julie Taymor, and Robin Williams. She has choreographed productions for the American Conservatory Theater of San Francisco, Yale Repertory Theater, the New Victory Theater in New York, the Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis, Theatre for a New Audience in New York, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, the American Music Theater Festival, the Santa

Fe Opera, Los Angeles Music Center Opera, Los Angeles Theatre Center, the Pickle Family Circus, and the San Francisco Mime Troupe.

She was nominated for a Tony Award for the Broadway production of *Largely New York*, which she co-choreographed with Bill Irwin. She received a 2014 Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Choreography for ODC's *Two If by Sea*.

Since 1996, Kimi has served as director of the ODC School, which she has brought to the forefront of international and national dance education for youth and adults. She has been honored with a California State Legislature Assembly Resolution for choreographic and community contributions. She also directs one of ODC's two teen companies, the ODC Dance Jam.

ODC/DANCE COMPANY MEMBERS



BRANDON "PRIVATE" FREEMAN, (Assistant to the Artistic Director) better known as "Private," hails from Colorado. He is an ODC veteran having first joined the company in 1996. He has also been a guest artist, collaborator, and choreographer for many other Colorado and Bay Area companies and schools, and was a Principal Dancer in the movie, The Matrix 2: Reloaded. Mr. Freeman received Isadora Duncan Dance Awards for Ensemble Performance in 2002 with Brian Fisher (Sonya Delwaide), 2012 with Katie Faulkner (Little Seismic Dance), and 2014 with Katherine

Wells (Imagery). Notably, Private received a nomination for Individual Performance in 2004 for his role, which he helped to create, in Brenda Way's masterpiece, *Investigating Grace*. Private is a woodworker, oil painter, voice actor, a poet, and a pilot...and served honorably as a Sergeant in the Army National Guard for 11 years. He gratefully acknowledges all who have influenced his career; specifically Brenda, KT, Sonya, and Randy.



JEREMY BANNON-NECHES was born in Brooklyn, NY, and grew up in Augusta, GA, where he received his initial training at the Augusta Ballet School. In 2005, he graduated with honors from the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he performed leading roles in *The Nutcracker, Don Quixote*, and Lynn Tailor Corbett's *Lost and Found*. Jeremy then danced with Nevada Ballet Theater, performing principal roles in George Balanchine's *Rubies* and *Serenade*, Mathew Neenan's *At the Border*, along with works by Twyla Tharp, Fredrick Ashton, Val Caniporoli, and James Canfield. Since

moving to San Francisco in 2012, he has worked with Robert Moses Kin, Post:Ballet, Zhukov Dance, DawsonDanceSF, and Hope Mohr Dance. He joined ODC/Dance in 2015.



RACHEL FURST is from Baltimore, MD, where she began her dance training in competitive dance and then formally trained at the Baltimore School for the Arts. She graduated summa cum laude in 2013 from the Alonzo King LINES Ballet BFA program at Dominican University of California. In 2012, she was awarded the Dizzy Feet Foundation Award. Rachel began her professional dance career with Amy Seiwert's Imagery under the expert mentorship of Ms. Seiwert. She has also had the opportunity to be a guest artist with DawsonDanceSF and Smuin Contemporary Ballet, where she eventually

joined as a full company member in 2015. She joined ODC/Dance in 2016.



ALLIE PAPAZIAN is from Los Angeles, CA. She trained at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan and was a member of the inaugural class in the Alonzo King LINES Ballet BFA program at Dominican University of California, where she graduated summa cum laude in 2010. While in college, she danced professionally with Mark Foehringer Dance Project SF, and performed with Zhukov Dance Theatre for their 2010 and 2011 seasons. Upon graduation she joined the Compañía Nacional de Danza in Madrid, Spain. In her five years with the CND she had the privilege of performing works by Nacho

Duato, Mats Ek, Ohad Naharin, Jiri Kylian, Johan Inger, and Alexander Ekman among others. She joined ODC/Dance for their 2015/2016 season. After freelancing and working with numerous Bay Area companies including Post:ballet, Kambara+Dancers and Dance Theatre of San Francisco, she returned to ODC/Dance as a company member in 2019.



JAIME GARCIA CASTILLA was born in Madrid, Spain, and studied at the Royal Conservatory of Professional Dance. He was named an apprentice with the San Francisco Ballet in 2001 and joined the Company as a member of the corps de ballet the following year. He was promoted to soloist in 2006 and to principal dancer in 2008. He created roles in Elo's Double Evil; McGregor's Borderlands; Morris' Beaux, Joyride, and Sylvia; Page's Guide to Strange Places; Possokhov's Classical Symphony and Fusion; and Wheeldon's Within the Golden Hour. As a guest artist, Jaime performed at "Ballet Stars From San

Francisco," the Lively Arts Foundation Gala in Fresno, California, in 2012, and at the Pas de Deux Gala in Valladolid, Spain, in 2011 and 2012. He danced *Flames of Paris* and *The Ocean and Two Pearls* from The Humpbacked Horse in Osaka, Japan, in 2006. He joined ODC/Dance in 2019.



MICHE WONG, born and raised in the Bay Area, is a dancer, educator, and choreographer. Seasoned in that order, it's led her to dance with Guangdong Modern Dance Company, Garret + Moulton Productions, Santa Barbara Dance Theater, Ziru Dance, LevyDance, Capacitor, and Flyaway Productions. Living and working across cultures and borders has influenced her experience-based practice that comes forward when she dances and teaches. She works with a swath of energy and levity influenced by the ups and downs of the human process. Miche's choreographic work has been

shown at the Beijing International Dance Festival, Silicon Valley Dance Festival, Asian Art Museum, amongst other local museums and theaters. She joined ODC/Dance in 2019.



CHRISTIAN SQUIRES, originally from Charleston, South Carolina, has danced with Boston Ballet, Oregon Ballet Theater, Smuin Ballet, Diablo Ballet, and Post:ballet. He has restaged works by Amy Seiwert, Adam Hougland, and Robert Dekkers. In addition to his work as a dancer and repetiteur, he has created original costumes for evening-length productions including Romeo and Juliet (Louisville Ballet), Firebird (Quixotic Cirque Nouveau), Lyra (Post:ballet), Carmina Burana (Kansas City Ballet) and Nutcracker (Berkeley Ballet).

In 2016 he was appointed Creative Director of Post:ballet, where he collaborated intimately with the artistic team to bring the company's repertoire and evening-length programming to life. He is also a core collaborator with Art Haus, a Playa-based performance ensemble that presents live music, dance, and structural art collaborations at Burning Man. He joined ODC/Dance in 2019.





RYAN ROULAND SMITH hails from Colorado where he graduated from the Denver School of the Arts. In 2013, Smith graduated cum laude from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BFA in Dance and Choreography. Smith received additional training at the American Dance Festival, where he had the pleasure of working with John Jasperse, Reggie Wilson and performed in the first reconstruction of Bill T. Jones' Love Redefined. In 2014, Smith became a member of Kate Weare Company, performing in and originating roles in such works as Dark Lark, Unstruck, Marksman and Praise. In 2019 while dancing

in New York, Smith had the pleasure of working with Stefanie Batten Bland, *Look Who is Coming to Dinner* and Nicole Vaughn Diaz, *A Portrait of Them.* Following the collaborative process between Kate Weare Company and ODC, *Decameron/Up For Air*; Smith joined ODC/Dance in 2021.



JENNA MARIE, originally from Philadelphia PA, began her dance training at Olga Kresin's Ballet School and later attended The Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts. As a scholarship student at The Ailey School, Jenna became a member of Ailey II. Jenna has been a member of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Nai Ni Chen Dance Company, MOMIX, The Metropolitan Opera, and Ballet Hispanico. She has participated in Amy Seiwart's Imagery SKETCH 11 and 12 and has been a guest artist with The Black Iris Project, Mark Foehringer Dance and San Jose Dance

Theatre's Sleeping Beauty Production. Jenna has worked for artists such as Beyoncé, Romeo Santos, Nile Rodgers, and Betsey Johnson. Since moving to the Bay Area in 2019, she has danced with Post:ballet, Robert Moses' Kin, Marika Brussel, Christy Funsch, and Garrett+Moulton Productions. Jenna joined ODC/Dance in 2022.



COLTON WALL, originally from Florida, began his dance training in 2013 at Santa Fe College after years of gymnastics and martial arts. In 2015 he received his BFA in Dance at Florida State University and in 2016 he joined the company of Diavolo: Architecture in Motion and performed *L'espace Du Temps*. In 2017, he joined the cast of *VIVA* by MOMIX. He was part of the original cast and dance captain for the creation of *ALICE* by MOMIX. Colton has toured *ALICE* internationally from 2018-2022. Colton joined ODC/Dance in 2022.



ÁINE DORMAN was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She began her professional dance training at the San Francisco Ballet School and Westlake School for the Performing Arts before moving on to graduate from the University of California, Irvine in 2019 with a Bachelor's in both Dance and Public Health Sciences. She then completed postgraduate studies at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's Professional Program under the direction of Alexandra Wells. Upon graduation, she danced with Eisenhower Dance Detroit for two seasons where she performed original works by

choreographers including Hope Boykin, Norbert de la Cruz III, and Maleek Washington. Áine has also performed as a dance soloist with the Detroit Opera, and danced in works by Lar Lubovitch, Peter Chu, and Rena Butler. Ms. Dorman has supplemented her dance training with workshops including b12 (Berlin) and Post:ballet.

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JUSTIN O' NEIL (Guest Artist) hails from Brooklyn, NY and is a graduate of The Theater School at DePaul University. He works as a personal trainer and group fitness instructor in San Francisco and spent four years performing with CHEER SF. Justin has most recently performed as a principle performer and top fundraiser in Broadway Bares SF.

COLLABORATOR PROFILES

BENJAMIN BRITTEN (composer), the leading British composer of his generation, started writing music at the age of five and went on to study as a teenager with Frank Bridges at the Royal Academy of Music. His work is both prolific and varied in genre, ranging from large-scale statements such as the opera Billy Budd to the intimacy of chamber music and songs.

BRIAN WILDSMITH (costume and set designer) grew up in a small mining town in Yorkshire, England, that he remembers as predominately gray. "There wasn't any color," he says, "It was all up to my imagination." In the years since then, he has created more than 50 picture books, all published by Oxford University Press and all still in print. He is the winner of the Kate Greenaway Medal, Britain's highest honor for a distinguished picture book. Wildsmith spent the second half of his life living in the south of France where he died in 2016.

GEOFF HOYLE (narrator) clowned with Cirque du Soleil, The Pickle Family Circus and Circus Flora. He has performed his solos Feast of Fools and The Convict's Return in New York, San Francisco, London, Paris and Russia and at various regional theatres in the US and in England. Hoyle has appeared in comic roles at Berkelev Rep. A.C.T., Eureka Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, and Arena Stage A recipient of five NEA grants and an Arts Link grant to visit circuses in Latvia and Russia, Hoyle appeared as Zazu (Drama Desk Award nomination, Best Featured Actor in a Musical) in the original Broadway cast of the Tony Award®-winning musical The Lion King.

GINA LEISHMAN (songwriter) is a composer and multi-instrumentalist who has written music for the theater, opera, dance, film, TV and concert stage, garnering numerous awards. In dance, she has worked with Bebe Miller and Jerome Robbins; in theater with Robert Woodruff, Joseph Chaikin,



Ellen McLaughlin as well as many regional theaters and New York venues both on and off Broadway. Leishman co-leads her own ensemble, Kamikaze Ground Crew, which began life as the stage band for the Flying Karamazov Brothers. Their music is available on Koch Jazz and New World Records.

RINDE ECKERT (singer) is a writer, composer, singer, actor and director whose music/dance theater pieces have been performed throughout the US and abroad. His collaborations with composer Paul Dresher include Slow Fire, Shelf Life (with Margaret Jenkins Dance Co.) and Pioneer (with Robert Woodruff, Tery Alle, and Jo Harvey Allen). Rinde has worked with Michael Palmer, John Sanborn, Joanne Akalaitis, Bruce Nauman, Jerry Granelli, Bill Frisell, Lynn Hershman, Sara Shelton Mann, Contraband, ODC and Ohad Naharin.

DAVID K. H. ELLIOTT (set realization) has designed for ODC, American Ballet Theater, San Francisco Ballet, Ballet San Jose, Joe Goode Performance Group, Robert Moses' Kin, Jess Curtis/Gravity and has toured with the Bolshoi, the Kirov, Paris Opera Ballet, and the White Oak Dance Project. His work includes designs for Keith Terry, Della Davidson, Joe Goode, Robert Moses, John Fisher, Linda Ronstadt, Playwright's Horizons, California Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Teatro Zinzanni and others. He is the recipient of the Dancer's Group Lighting Designer in Dance Award, an Isadora Duncan Award, two Drama-Logue Critics Awards and Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Award. He retired after 24 years as a Lecturer at UC Berkeley in the Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies.

DAVID ROBERTSON (lighting supervisor) has been designing in the Bay Area since 1998. He has worked with many local companies including ODC/Dance, Chitresh Das Dance Company, Post:ballet, Traveling Jewish Theatre (TJT), Word for Word, The Magic Theatre, The Courage Dance Group, Theatre Rhinoceros, Killing My Lobster, ACT's Young Conservatory (ACT-YC), and Dell'Arte International. Select Design credits include: the Theatre Rhinoceros productions of *Missives* and *Bent*, the TJT / Epic Arts co-production of *The Bright River*, ACT-YC's world premier production of *Nightingales*, Dell'Arte's *Paradise Lost: The Clone of God*, and Chitresh Das Dance Company's *Shiva*. As ODC/Dance's lighting director, he has toured with them extensively as well as created a number of original designs, including *I Look Vacantly at the Pacific ... Though Regret* (2011), and the premiere iteration of *Transit* (2012). He is a 2014 recipient of the Lighting Artists in Dance Award for his collaboration with Katharine Hawthorne's production of *Clockwork* at ODC Theater.





Registration is open now! Youth & Teen Program

Ages 2 - 18

Spring Session
January 8 - May 5, 2024

Summer Session
June 8 - July 28, 2024

To register, contact: registration@odc.dance







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ODC Winter 2024 Season



odc.dance/winterseasor

Kayla Farrish / Decent Structures Arts: **Put Away the Fire, dear** March 8-10, 2024



Rachael Lincoln & Leslie Seiters: Long Playing February 16 - 18, 2024



Fanny Ara: *Lilith* February 23-25, 2024



ODC/Dance presents: Unplugged March 1, 2024

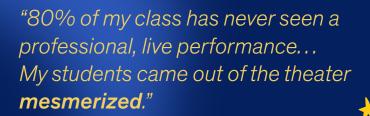




Degenerate Art Ensemble: **Skeleton Flower** March 15-17, 2024



ODC/Dance presents: **Dance Downtown Gala** March 29, 2024



Since 2005, ODC's **Buddies for Bunnies** outreach program has brought nearly 23,000 Bay Area students from Title 1 schools to experience the magic of ODC/Dance's *The Velveteen Rabbit* for free.

This year's **Buddies for Bunnies** program is made possible with support from:

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ODC's artistic, education, wellness, and community programs are made possible through the generous contributions of our dynamic donor community. Together, we leverage that investment into impact for many – providing the community with opportunities to convene with others and connect with their own creativity, inspiration, and well-being. The following list recognizes donors who made contributions between November 9, 2022 and November 8, 2023.

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