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CONTACT: Mark Schulz, Senior Director of External Affairs

Mark@musicopia.net | 215-829-9522 x 115

Musicopia and Musicopia Dance Announce Official Merger, Unifying Under Musicopia

Philadelphia, PA - Musicopia announces the official merger of affiliates **Musicopia** and **Musicopia Dance** (formerly Dancing Classrooms Philly), with **Musicopia Inc.** as the surviving entity. Effective January 1, 2026, this merger strengthens the organization's commitment to providing equitable access to music and dance experiences for children and youth throughout Greater Philadelphia.

While the merger strengthens Musicopia's 52-year identity, all programs remain in place, including Musicopia Dance's core offering, [the Dancing Classrooms Social Ballroom program](#), offered in Philadelphia since Dancing Classroom Philly's founding in 2007.

Musicopia leadership emphasized that this merger reflects years of close collaboration and shared goals. "This merger deepens the alignment of our organizations' partnership since 2012, and opens new possibilities for collaboration, innovation, and impact," said Catherine M. Charlton, President & CEO of Musicopia, Inc.

"Across our organizations, over a third of our students in recent years have experienced the joy and benefits of dance, whether that through ballroom or hip-hop social dance residencies where they are learning mutual respect and teamwork, or whether through exploring cultures from around the globe, such as through our Bollywood Dance or Afro-Cuban Music and Dance residencies. I'm so excited that this merger is going to enable us to combine our dance program roster to better serve our students, families, and communities."

As both Musicopia's Board Chair and Assistant Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia, Richard Gordon highlighted the urgency of expanding arts access across city schools:

"In my work with the School District of Philadelphia, I have seen firsthand the challenges many of our students face—poverty, trauma, mental health struggles, and gun violence. While academic performance has improved, too many students remain disengaged. I believe the arts are a powerful catalyst for change. They re-engage students by igniting curiosity, restoring confidence, and reconnecting young people to a sense of purpose. This merger expands Musicopia's reach, bringing these transformative experiences to more schools and helping more students find their voices and grow into the next generation of leaders for our city."

As part of this transition, Musicopia is introducing an updated mission, vision, logo and refreshed brand identity that honor the legacy of both organizations while offering a clearer, more cohesive presence for students, families, educators, partners, and supporters:



MISSION: Musicopia's mission is to inspire, educate, and connect children, youth, and their extended communities through collaborative music and dance experiences.

VISION: Musicopia envisions shaping and empowering the next generation through equitable access to the arts: cultivating lifelong creative expression, confidence, collaboration, multicultural understanding, and joy.

As one organization, Musicopia now empowers **more than 25,000 students** each year to build confidence, creative expression, connection, and community through culturally rich, inclusive music and dance experiences. The organization extends its appreciation to the families, educators, partners, and supporters who continue to champion its mission as it enters this new chapter.

A newly redesigned website will launch soon, serving as the central home for all of Musicopia's music and dance programs.

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About Musicopia

Musicopia's mission is to inspire, educate, and connect children, youth, and their extended communities through collaborative music and dance experiences. Founded in 1974, Musicopia has helped nearly half a million young people experience the benefits of first-hand exposure to the arts and is a recognized leader in rebuilding and revitalizing arts programs across Greater Philadelphia. In 2026, Musicopia merged with Musicopia Dance (formerly Dancing Classrooms Philly). Musicopia serves over 25,000 students annually through school-based music and dance education, an afterschool string orchestra program, an afterschool drumlines program, the Walter R. Garrison Arts Leadership Academy, a ballroom dance academy, community arts programming, the Philadelphia Lullaby Project, and its Gift of Music Instrument Donation Program.

For more information, please visit www.musicopia.net.