

INSIDE THE PROCESS

A Choreographic Residency
*An Ensemble-Based Experience
for High School Students*



Inside the Process is a four week residency that introduces high school students to the choreographic process and the foundational skills needed to create and shape dance for the stage. Students learn how to generate movement, develop intent, make creative decisions, and work collaboratively as they build original group pieces.

Over the course of the residency, students explore ensemble staging, spatial design, and the practical considerations that go into producing dance, including space, costuming, and music choices.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Sessions meet three times per week for 60 to 75 minutes, giving students consistent time to rehearse, experiment, and refine their ideas. The residency concludes with an informal in-school sharing where students present works in progress for peers and faculty. Select pieces may continue developing their choreography with SMC DT teaching artists and will be featured in the Dance Hunger Action 2026 Youth Concert.

EXPLORE

Generate movement, explore creative ideas, and experiment with ensemble choreography.

CREATE

Develop original group work, make artistic decisions, and shape your choreographic vision.

SHARE

Present your work, receive feedback, and take the next step toward a professional performance opportunity.



WHAT MAKES THIS PROGRAM UNIQUE

Inside the Process invites students to step into the role of choreographer and producer. Instead of learning movement set by an instructor, students create their own ensemble works and learn what it means to bring a dance from idea to stage. The residency focuses on group works for eight or more dancers, giving students the chance to practice leadership, explore staging, and think about the bigger picture of producing dance.

RESIDENCY STRUCTURE

The program runs for four weeks, with three sessions each week lasting about 60 to 75 minutes. Over twelve sessions, students move through every stage of the choreographic process: generating movement, shaping it into group material, refining intent, and preparing for performance.

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- Experience leading and collaborating within an ensemble
- A stronger artistic voice and confidence in creative choices
- Problem solving skills through shaping and editing choreography
- Growth in empathy, resilience, and teamwork
- A direct connection between classroom learning and a professional performance opportunity

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

Inside the Process supports high school dance TEKS with a focus on choreography, performance, and production. Students also strengthen reflection, communication, and collaboration skills that connect to English Language Arts and Social and Emotional Learning.

BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS & SCHOOLS

- Complements existing technique classes by focusing on choreography and production
- Aligned with fine arts TEKS
- Provides new strategies teachers can bring into their own classrooms
- Enriches campus culture by celebrating student creativity and highlighting the importance of the arts

SKILLS STUDENTS BUILD

Ensemble direction • Creative problem solving • Critical thinking and editing • Collaboration and communication • Producing and staging for performance

Inside the Process turns the classroom into both a rehearsal space and a creative laboratory. Students learn what it means to move from dancer to choreographer, gaining the confidence and experience to carry their ideas from first spark to performance.

Interested in creating movement in your school community?