

OMAHA JITTERBUGS

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Omaha Jitterbugs' Mission

Enriching lives through participation in the dances and music of the American Swing Era.

1750

people attended JNO in 2021

179

dancers attended the Jingle Ball in December 2021



106

students attended weekly classes

5348

followers on Facebook & Instagram

86

dancers attended our Virtual Rhythm Weekends in January



Events and Classes in 2021



Nathan Bugh teaching on Zoom during Rhythm Weekends.

January 2021: Rhythm Weekends

Omaha Jitterbugs brought together 8 jazz and tap dancers to teach 86 advanced and beginner students virtually for 4 weekends. The final show was broadcast on Discord.

March - November 2021: Weekly In-Person Adult Classes

Lindsay taught Intro to Lindy and Brush Up Your Lindy every Wednesday from March through November. In May, Ben and Merinda began teaching swing, Charleston and Balboa classes on Monday nights.



April - September 2021: Lindy in the Park

Since we could dance outside without masks, we started Lindy in the Park in mid-April instead of waiting until Memorial Day weekend, with an average of 10 dancers every Sunday afternoon.

May 2021 - December 2021: Jitterbugs' Night Out

We re-launched Jitterbugs' Night Out on May 14, while Omaha was still under a mask mandate. The mandate ended May 31, but when COVID numbers began to rise again in September, Omaha Jitterbugs instated a mask requirement. We celebrated Jitterbugs' 21st birthday, Halloween, and Veterans Day at special JNO events



Beginner lesson at the Halloween dance.

Itsy Bitsy Jitterbugs

Lindsay taught Intro to Jazz to 25 students ages 6-8 at Peartree Performing Arts.



December 2021: Jingle Ball

Miss Jubilee and the Yas Yas Boys brought live music back to Omaha Jitterbugs at the Jingle Ball on December 18. A huge thank you to Joe Davis for underwriting the band! We sold 36 VIP tickets, pre-sold 117 General Admission tickets, and then sold another 60 tickets at the door.

Our raffle moved online and netted \$1000.

Access to Omaha Jitterbugs Events

All events and classes are advertised on our website -- jitterbugs.org -- and our Facebook page: @OmahaJitterbugs.

Jitterbugs' Night Out (JNO) and our weekly adult classes are held on the second floor of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #38 at 24th and Douglas, which is on the ORBT bus line. Itsy Bitsy Jitterbugs classes are held at Peartree Performing Arts at 4801 NW Radial Hwy.

Prices are kept low to encourage participation. JNO admission is \$5 and a four-week class series is \$50, with two or more series only \$60. Rhythm Weekends was partially funded through a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council, and because we did not have to pay the teachers' travel and lodging expenses, Omaha Jitterbugs offered full passes to all Rhythm Weekends workshops for only \$80 and gave partial scholarships to 10 participants.

Omaha Jitterbugs is dedicated to spreading the joy of swing music and dance to everyone. Just as jazz embodies the diversity of the American people, so too does Omaha Jitterbugs by welcoming all, without regard to age, gender, race, creed, color, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation, gender identity/expression, social class, physical attribute, or ability. We will take every reasonable measure to ensure a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for all humans.

Financial Highlights

\$15,316

Received from Direct and Indirect Public Support

\$6107

Dance Instruction Wages

\$11,178

Income from Classes & Jitterbugs Night Out

\$24,000

Directors' Wages

\$48,310

Federal Shuttered Venue Operators Grant

\$24,550

Rent to FOE Aerie #38, including unpaid 2020 rent

\$83,553

Total Revenue

\$71,700

Total Expenses

Current Board Members

Merinda Collins
President



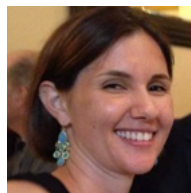
Ben Cass
Vice President & Secretary

Jacquelyn Baudhuin
Treasurer



Natasha Partridge
Board Member

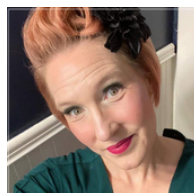
Mary Gronewold
Board Member



Sara Atkins-Rauwald
Board Member

Executive Directors

Lindsay Sobczyk
Artistic Director



Nancy Novotny
Operations Director

Volunteers

All 32 Jitterbugs' Night Out dances in 2021 were staffed entirely by a loyal group of 19 volunteers --as teachers, DJs, front desk staff, set up and tear down staff-- for a total of 320 volunteer hours.

Partners

Peartree Performing Arts
Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #38
Joslyn Art Museum
Stinson Park
Field Club Neighborhood Association

Large Donors

Billy Sobczyk
Kiewit Employee Charitable Match
Joe Davis
Ben Cass
Mutual of Omaha Employee Charitable Match
Cindy Heider, Heider Foundation



There are shortcuts to happiness and dancing is one of them.