

What Dance Can Do

Annual Report 2023

Dance changes lives.



"Alice" programme London, © Ben Phillips



"Alice" programme London, © Ben Phillips



"Ora" programme London, © Cindy Voituz



"Alice" programme London, © Ben Phillips



"Alice" programme London, © Ben Phillips

Table of Contents

- 3.** Letter from the Founder
- 4.** Beneficiaries
- 5.** Hospital Work
- 7.** Ora
- 9.** New Zealand
- 10.** The Alice Programme
- 13.** Awards
- 14.** Fundraising and Partnerships
- 15.** Donor & Team Appreciation
- 16.** Financial Highlights



"au chevet", Hôpital Necker Paris © Dorothee Blacher



"Up for humanness" trophy ceremony, Théâtre de l'Atelier, Paris
© Camilla Greenwell

Dear Friends,

2023 has brought much movement and expansion to What Dance Can Do.

Over this last school year calendar and into the 2023/24 school year, the growth and diversity in our partners, schools and hospitals has grown, integrating What Dance Can Do more deeply, seeing a significant increase in our beneficiaries.

Integration played a large role in our work over 2023. We wrapped up our first year of the long-term programme, 'Alice', which ran throughout the 2022/2023 school year. 'Alice' played a vital part in allowing us the opportunity to expand and integrate our work into school curriculums throughout Belgium, England, France and Morocco with the ambition of integrating deeper into the school curriculum. Our aim is to have our programmes and teams working with teachers and the school systems to be able to make a long term impact.

Simultaneously, through our hospital work, we have seen great growth in the number of partner hospitals throughout France, Belgium and Switzerland as well as a raise of professional dancers working and volunteering alongside WDCD. Through the growth in this initiative, we had the honour to take the dance troupe '7 Circles' and tour their creation 'Club Origami' into Italy. An extraordinary accomplishment made possible by our dear friend Emilie Fouilloux.

We expanded our work into Porirua, New Zealand, and to finish this year our most recent project, 'Ora' launched working with dancers Jade Vergnes and Pauline Robert from Collectif Minuit Douze. 'Ora' is our second long-term programme beginning in the Ecole Primaire Manin in Paris, France, working with 35 children integrating dance with biodiversity.

I want to take this chance to highlight Ludivine Louboutin, our new Executive Director. She accepted the role in June 2023 and is an incredible addition to our team. We are so happy to have her with us. Lastly, we welcomed volunteers to support our programmes in France, England, New Zealand, Tunisia and Morocco, and we are truly grateful to each and every person who made these accomplishments achievable, giving their time and resources. What Dance Can Do would not be possible without you. With a growing team, we look forward to what 2024 will bring.

Aurelia Sellier

Beneficiaries

What Dance Can Do works with two main beneficiaries.

Hospitalised children

Since its renewal in late spring 2022, our work with this group of beneficiaries has grown throughout 2023. We are honoured to add to our partners **CHU Hautepierre** (Strasbourg), **iHope** (Lyon), **CHUV** (Lausanne) and **University Hospital of Geneva**.

For hospitalised children, to see a dance performance, in addition to the pleasure it brings, allows young patients, hospital staff and families to gather and witness something together. Through these interactions with musicians and dancers, not only is here joy but movement and sensory stimulation are also highly encouraged.

In 2023 we worked with an estimated total of **300 young and 200 adult beneficiaries** (i.e. families and staff).

Children and teenagers facing challenging socio-economic conditions

A difficult general socio-economic context makes it increasingly difficult for youth to access artistic education (and any extracurricular activity, in many cases). We offer weekly interactive sessions which work on the development and the creation of performances by our young participants. Our work encourages creativity, concentration and teamwork, with an impact on general behaviour, social skills and concentration. This work is run by professional dancers and choreographers, who lead sessions in schools and welfare homes.

Dance promotes inclusion. For young foreigners who recently migrated to France participating in a choreographic creation, this opens up opportunities i.e. development of a community around the program, meeting “locals” and getting to learn about the culture and institutions. The artistic achievement shines a positive light on people who are often stigmatized.

Furthermore, many of the young people who experienced migration have suffered trauma. Dance and movement allow them to be externalised without resorting to words.

In 2023 we have worked with an estimated **50 beneficiaries** in **4 countries**, holding **25 - 35 sessions per country**. There have been **12 participating professional artists** who developed **4 shows** with an overall total of **6 performances**.

Alongside these achievements, a documentary was shot by Hippolyte Pérès (to come out in 2024) and a short video clip produced by Constant Vigier.

Hospital Work

In 2023 , through our work with children and youth in hospitals and wards, we brought **43 professional artists** to **9 hospitals** located in France, Belgium, and Switzerland, throughout **9 different cities** .

Our partner hospitals include:

- Necker Hospital, Paris (since 2018)
- GHRMSA Hospital, Mulhouse (since 2022)
- Pasteur Hospital, Colmar (since 2023)
- CHU Hautepierre, Strasbourg (since 2023)
- iHope, Lyon (since 2023)
- Kinderspital, Zurich (since 2018),
- CHUV, Lausanne and University Hospitals of Geneva (since 2023)
- HUDERF, Brussels (since 2022)

We offer professional performances by recognised artists. We aim to work alongside the hospitals setting up rooms and spaces for our performers. When a child can not make the journey to the ‘performance space’ we make **room visits** to perform and interact with those children and youth, so none are left out.

We are proud to share that the company ‘7 Circles’ toured with its show "Club Origami" throughout France, Italy and Switzerland. The production is an absolute hit among children, hospitals staff and families.



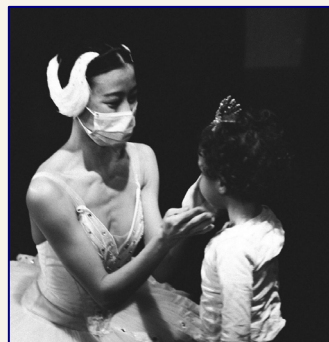
Takeshi Matsumoto of '7 Circles' in Club Origami

Hospital Work

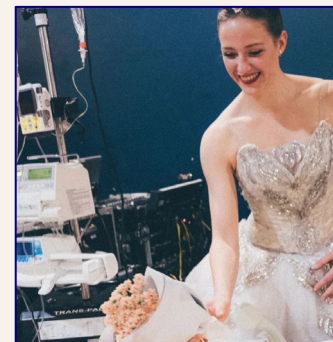
Alongside our partners at Ballet de l'Opéra national du Rhin , we organised 2 performances at the Hôpital Hautepierre in Strasbourg and the Groupe Hospitalier Régional de Mulhouse . Thank you to Bruno Bouché the Artistic Director of Ballet de l'Opéra national du Rhin , Pasquale Nocera in charge of missions of the CNN, Patricia Debrosses makeup artist and the dancers Céline Nunigé and Hénoc Waysenson, who made this possible. They performed along the theme of Charlie Chaplin. **Artists and children created dialogue** through art to discover this great figure of cinema.



Artists from *Les Ballets du Rhin* l'Hôpital Hautepierre de Strasbourg and le Groupe Hospitalier Régional de Mulhouse © Klara Beck



Artists from the *Ballet de l'Opéra National de Paris* Necker Hospital, Paris © Laura Gilli



The dancers who take part in our hospital work are artists from Paris Opera Ballet, Opera du Rhin Ballet, a range of Freelancers and the company '7 Circles'.

Thank you to our 2023 volunteers;

Adèle Borde, Josephine Meunier, Emilia Sambor, Sanaa Wang, Ana Guillermain, Dora Princ, Alexia Barré , Ayla Pidoux , Ysée Bretigniere, Marius Rubio, Athina Klironimou, Madeleine Bell, Suzanne Meyer, Etay Axelroad, Coline Omasson, Yanina, Line Branchereau, Denys Cherevychko, Céline Nunigé, Manon Bastardie, Henoc Waysenson, '7 circles' group: Takeshi Matsumoto, Makiko Aoyama, Rob Howat (musician)

We are so thankful to have you volunteering and working alongside WDCD.

For a glimpse at our hospital performance work you can visit our instagram page [HERE](#)

‘Ora’

Meaning “life” in Maori. ‘Ora’ is both a nod to our team in New Zealand, and a tribute to the wisdom of the first people. ~~ec~~ultares are consubstantial symbiosis with nature.

Our new multi -disciplinary project “Ora” mobilises imagination while encouraging us to reclaim our belonging to nature. It combines **dance, scientific education and awareness of the ecosystem** . Aimed at children living in a city, **ages 8-11**, allowing them to build their relationship with nature through knowledge of the **diversity of life** and movement.

Foundations of ‘Ora’

10 to 12 sessions structured around **4 areas**:

- **Regular dance sessions:** children participate in creative sessions every week lasting 1.5h. Led by two professional dancers from different disciplines addressing the theme of biodiversity from the perspective of movement.
- **The creation of an original choreographic piece:** the sessions give rise to a creation participatory between children and dancers, on the theme of biodiversity.
- **Restitutions:** children present their work within their schools and/or other establishments. The performances are followed by discussions with teachers, students and scientists.
- **Active participation in an action in favour of biodiversity or interaction with scientist/activist**

Operational partners

‘Le Collectif Minuit 12’ brings together dancers and **multidisciplinary artists** around creations using dance, images and bodies to create **sensory experiences** on the themes of **climate and biodiversity**. They work with the beneficiaries and in close collaboration with the teaching team at the schools to achieve an **integrated approach** to the programme.

Beneficiaries

- **8-to-11-years-old students** educated in primary schools located in priority districts of the city policy (QPPV) or REP+ referenced.
- Pilot Project (November 2023 to February 2024): **35 students** from the Ecole Elementaire Manin in Paris 19.

We consider **dance and science** as two powerful vectors of self-knowledge and we are convinced that dance and science can enter into symbiosis. Beyond providing access to dance to socially disadvantaged children, this program brings together **artists, scientists and activists** to serve the education of new generations. Landing **biodiversity through dance** and movement allows children knowledge when confronted with ecological issues coming closer to nature and better understanding its importance through imagination. 'Ora' will bring more relevance to this subject through dance and choreographic creation by **stimulating the beneficiaries senses**, their singularity and developing their confidence to take a stance "themselves". In turn avoiding a passive/defeatist posture in the face of this issue, by becoming a movement of **"actors" of change**. Children lead the way, setting an example for adults.

Over the course of a quarter, based on a fun and participatory approach, we aim to address:

- **Animality** : work on the movement of animals based off of videos or images of animal photographers.
- **The human and the non -human** : place the human at the heart of the category of "animals"; watch their movements and compare it to others.
- **Insects** : one of the key issues of biodiversity is the collapse of insect populations. In dance, the insect can translate into work on the swarming movements, the small, the lively and the group.
- **Plants** : the roots under the earth, immobility, the communication of trees/plants, learning to feel what cannot be seen.
- **Aquatic environment** : moving in the water with slower movements, lightness, etc.
- **Sounds**: for example, students will be able to dance to the sounds of animals, forests, oceans, and imitate the animals they recognize.
- **Encounters with others** : "the law of the strongest is always the best" is a myth. Relationships within an environment are relationships of collaboration and subsistence.
- A mid-term dance session in nature.



Dance session with 'Le Collectif Minuit 12' dancers, Jade and Pauline in Paris

The sessions give rise to actions for audiences of both children and adults. The final show of 'Ora's pilot project has been filmed and will be edited under the form of a mini documentary.

New Zealand Programme

We began the pilot programme in New Zealand at the end of the COVID -19 lockdown period in 2020. In 2023, What Dance Can Do New Zealand was fully launched in Porirua, New Zealand. Our incredible New Zealand **Team is run by** : Alina Kulikova (Programme designer and teacher), Raina Ng (Programme leader), Paula B.A. Westerby (Treasurer and Secretary) and Neil Ieremia (Trustee). Our biggest thanks go out to this team, making it possible to bring What Dance Can Do to New Zealand.

Running from **2020 -2022, we worked with children aged 8 to 10,** in collaboration with the [Black Grace Dance Company](#) led by Neil Leremia. In 2020 and 2021, we ran two programmes at the Kahurangi Primary School. In 2020, children in the programme came together to create a video for Akram Khan's *Animal Kingdom* project. In 2022, students in the Porirua community worked alongside company dancers **Demi -Jo Manalo, Rodney Tyrell and Faith Schuster** in creating a performance based off of [Elephantic](#), a story written by Neil Leremia.

What Dance Can Do New Zealand is committed to supporting the New Zealand dance scene, and dancer community (locally and internationally) by collating and telling stories about dancers, performances and dancing in the community. What Dance Can Do New Zealand also believes dance is a tool to bridging gaps. We actively encourage the sharing of dance techniques and styles from different cultures and identity through dance workshops and performances. Driven by the belief that dance and dance education are useful tools in assisting children with their growth, learning and development, we aim to build effective programmes accessible to children of all ages and backgrounds.



© Jenny Siaoosi



© Jenny Siaoosi



© Jenny Siaoosi

The Alice Programme

What Dance Can Do started “Alice” in September 2022. It is currently our **largest launched initiative to date** .

The ‘Alice Programme’ is the brainchild of Aurélia Sellier. She was inspired by the Continuing Professional Development Program (CPD) offered by the Royal Ballet of London. CPD is a free online programme available to teachers, with or without a dance background, around the world to utilise a range of different Royal Ballet Repertoire through their teachings.

What Dance Can Do uses the *Royal Ballet’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* choreographed by Christopher Wheeldon, as a **common ground** for the ‘Alice Programme’. The dancers who worked on the ‘Alice Programme’ took part in a live session with the ‘Learning and Participation” Team from the Royal Ballet who shared their experience with our local teachers and volunteers. What Dance Can Do utilised this platform as a **source of framework** and common ground in our collaboration with associations and programmes working with children around the globe.

Throughout the 2022/2023 school year, What Dance Can Do brought the ‘Alice Programme’ to **4 different countries** in collaborative formats to; Association La Maison Bleue in Marrakech Morocco, Falconbrook Primary School in London England, Collège Romain Rolland in Clichy-Sous-Bois France and La Maison d’Enfants Reine Marie-Henriette in Brussels Belgium. Approximately **50 children and teenagers** benefited from weekly creative dance sessions led by local teachers, choreographers and dancers. Throughout the year some of these programmes benefited as well from volunteers who are both local or are coming from abroad for workshops.

Each local team used the framework and inspiration of the ‘Alice Programme’ whilst adapting to the children, their culture and their interests. Allowing the **children to create narratives** within the characters inspired by ‘Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland’ or in some cases, leaning more metaphorically on the theme of the transition between childhood and adulthood. These decisions were guided by the collaboration of the artists with the children.

The second school year of the ‘Alice Programme’ officially launched in fall 2023. We are excited for its continuation and immersing new students into the programme.

What Dance Can Do developed local teams on a year long basis allowing a stronger **local impact on both sustainability and cost** .

Falconbrook Primary School

London, England

Our partnership with **Falconbrook Primary School** began in 2022 and a large thank you to our Project manager, Tuli Litvak, it has continued growing in 2023. The programme now has **2 groups of children** and has grown from **15 children to 25 children between the ages of 5 and 11**. Excitingly WDCD has had the honour to collaborate with **Chanel and bioMérieux's Endowment Fund for Education**. We thank you deeply for your support.

The children finished the 22/23 school year with the UK 'Alice Programme's new lead and freelance dancer and teacher Emily Yong.

At the end of the 22/23 school year the children performed their rendition of 'Alice in Wonderland' at the Royal Academy of Dance.

At the beginning of the **2023/24 school year** the children have restarted their work with Shevelle Dynott, a UK-based freelance dancer and teacher since his retirement from the English National Ballet.

Alongside bringing the two wonderful dancers above to work with the children of Falconbrook Primary School, WDCD continued the collaboration with 'The Place London'. They brought a one off dance production called 'The Album: Skool Addition' to introduce to the children a variety of dance styles. 'The Album: Skool Addition' is an interactive dance created specifically for kids and their families. This was created by SAY; Sarah Golding and Yukiko Masui with music by Naomi Banks, MC Zani and Ezra Collective.

You can watch the parts of the performance [HERE](#)



Performance at the Royal Academy of Dance, London

La Maison d'Enfants Reine Marie -Henriette & Ecole de l'Héliport

Brussels, Belgium

WDCD began its work in Brussels working alongside foster home, **La Maison d'Enfants Reine Marie -Henriette**, in February 2022.

We worked weekly with **2 groups of 6 children between the ages of 6 and 10**, led by the wonderful professional freelance dancer Camille di Fiore until the end of the programme in June 2023.

We are excited to announce that at the end of 2023 a new partnership was developed with the Primary School, **Ecole de l'Héliport**, in Brussels, Belgium. The first dance sessions launched in January 2024 with a group of **20 children aged 8 to 9**.



Performance in Marrakech, Morocco

Association La Maison Bleue Marrakech Ouled Hassoune, Morocco

What Dance Can Do partnered with **Association La Maison Bleue** Marrakech in Fall 2022. This partnership led to the collaboration with Marrakech-based **M'Art Studio** led by Néma Lardy. Néma Lardy is the local teacher who worked on a weekly basis with the children at La Maison Bleue located in the village of Ouled Hassoune.

This group consisted of **9 boys and 5 girls** between the **ages of 10 and 12**. We were thrilled about the level of male students in this group. Although these children come from struggling economic backgrounds and speak no French or English, their engagement, attendance and most importantly, parental support in discovering dance and movement was beautiful and inspiring.

The children of La Maison Bleue embraced the framework of the 'Alice Project' and adapted it into their own version; 'Ali in Wonderland' developing their own narrative. In Morocco, where the network of artists is fewer, What Dance Can Do finds **importance in bringing volunteers** to work alongside the local teams to bring added value. The children at La Maison Bleue had the opportunity to work with two volunteers in 2023, Etay Axelroad (Israel) and Sally Cowdin (American/Italian) who spent 10 days with them this past April, 2023.

The children **performed** 'Ali in Wonderland' on the **12th of June, 2023** hosted by Institut Français de Marrakech with costumes by Akéwa Tribes and makeup by Nouha Chaouqi. Thank you to everyone who made this even possible.

Due to current events the programme did not pick up again in 2023 although we are working towards its relaunch this 2024.

College Romain Rolland Clichy -Sous-Bois, France

Led by our France based project manager, Dorothée Blacher, our collaboration with **College Romain Rolland** has been developed into 2023.

During the school year 2022/2023, this group consisted of **15 teenagers** aged **12 - 16**, who migrated to France and did not speak French upon their arrival. These students were in transition and so we created a programme specifically for them. This was possible thanks to their wonderful teacher, Rachida Gil, the school team and to the Fonds de Dotation Francis Kurkdjian and Ministère de la Culture (FR), our main sponsors on this program.

Choreographer Rodolphe Fouillot and assistant choreographer Emmanuelle Huybrechts have been working with these students since Autumn 2022. They worked metaphorically with the 'Alice Project' focusing on the **topics of migration and travel**, and held **performances in February and June of 2023** at the renewed Conservatoire de Danse of Clichy-sous-Bois. As of fall 2023 the programme has returned, now with **two groups**, still working with teenagers who have recently arrived in France.

We also want to thank Saaya Ikeda and translator Beatriz Simonsohn who collected data throughout each session for the development of an impact study. This study is measuring the impact of the participating students and how they interact with each other, school results and the capacity to transition and integrate.



© Vincent Boisoit

Awards

United Persons for Humanness

Our founder, Aurélia Sellier, won the prestigious [United Persons for Humanness Artisans d'un Monde Plus Humain Award](#) . The award honours individuals making a **positive impact on society** . Aurélia's inspirational work and contributions done through the Work Dance Can Do Project, has been recognised and we could not be more proud. You can watch the acceptance speech [HERE](#)

'Danser Ailleurs'

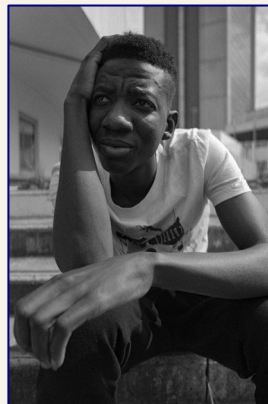
'Danser Ailleurs' came to life during the 21/22 school year.

The programme was led by WDCD choreographer and team member Rodolphe Fouillot **working weekly with teenagers** who recently migrated to France from Sub-Saharan Africa in creative dance sessions. During these sessions they created a short performance piece, which was presented at the **Conservatoire de Musique et de Danse in Gennevilliers** .

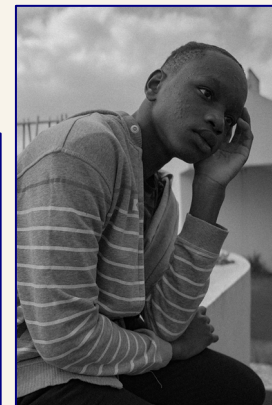
Through the inspiration of this performance, a stunning **short film** named 'Danser Ailleurs' was made with filmmaker Gabriel Mokayed, performed by the beneficiaries, Gagny, Roman and Mohamed alongside Rodolphe Fouillot. We are proud to share that 'Danser Ailleurs' won the **Silver Trophy** at the 12th edition of the **Deauville Green Awards** . This award recognize the best and honour the finest advertising, institutional and documentary films that focus on ecological and social transition. Congratulations to everyone involved.

This programme was supported by the Fonds de Dotation Francis Kurkdjian. Thank you to the Conservatoire de Musique et de Danse de Gennevilliers for hosting the dance sessions and shooting of the film.

You can watch it here: ["Danser Ailleurs"](#)



© Gabriel Mokayed



© Gabriel Mokayed



© Gabriel Mokayed

Collaborations and support

This past year we have collaborated with wonderful public and private institutions. We are incredibly grateful for their trust.

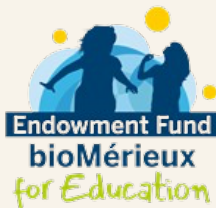
Programmes in Switzerland

Fondation
Sakae Stünzi

Programmes in the UK



You, me & us
CHANEL
SOCIAL COMMITMENT



Programmes in France



Donor and Team Appreciation

In 2023 the What Dance Can Do team has integrated and grown greatly.

We are pleased to present our **newest team members** ; Christine Garnier, Laure Kretz and Joséphine Sauvage. We are so pleased to have you on board with us at What Dance Can Do.

Alongside our newest team members we had new and recurring volunteers and freelancers. All of our **volunteers** and freelancers **range in diversity and skill** and carry an immense amount of motivation spurring our work through What Dance Can Do. We thank each and every one of you.

We also want to thank our **photographers** who captured beautiful moments throughout the year; Vincent Boisot, Laura Gilli, Camilla Greenwell, Simon Oldani, Ben Phillips, Jenny Siasoi, Kalra Beck and Cindy Voituz.

As a non-profit association working with children we know how important it is to have in place a **safeguarding policy**. We have begun implementing this throughout our staff and volunteers who have regular contact with the children. Thank you to Nolwenn Guibert as **Chief Safeguarding Officer** who has developed our safeguarding policy. You can find the entire safeguarding policy [HERE](#)

A huge **thank you** to every person who has helped lift What Dance Can Do expanding our initiatives.



Wellington, NZ © Jenny Siasoi



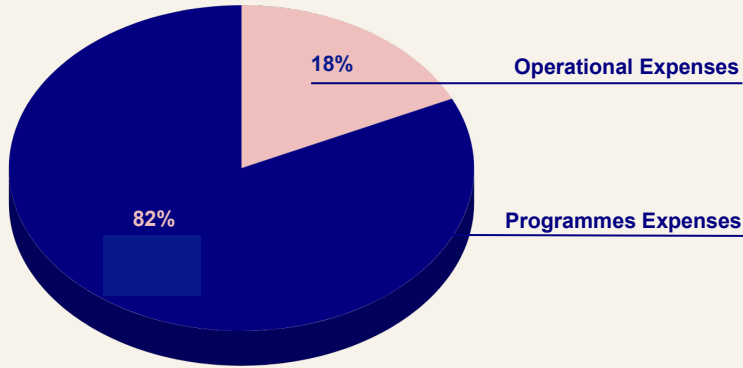
Wellington, NZ



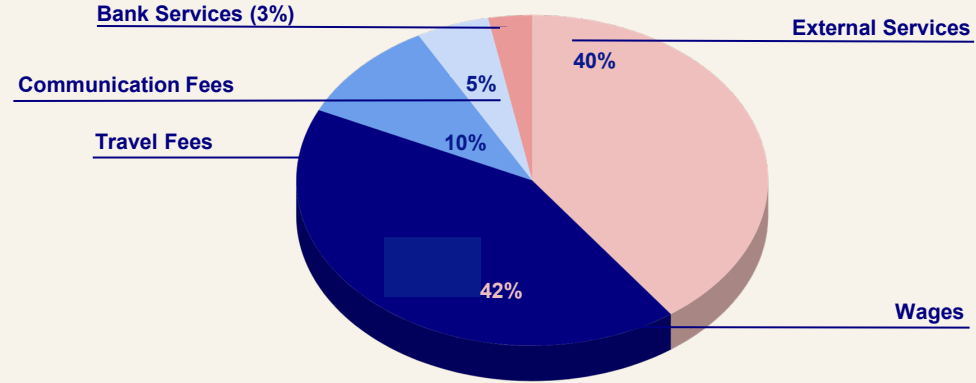
Clichy-sous-Bois, France © Vincent Boisot

Financial Report

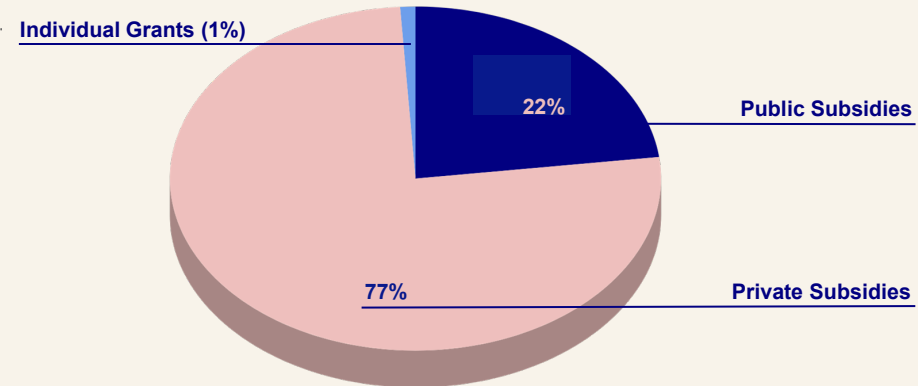
Expenses Split



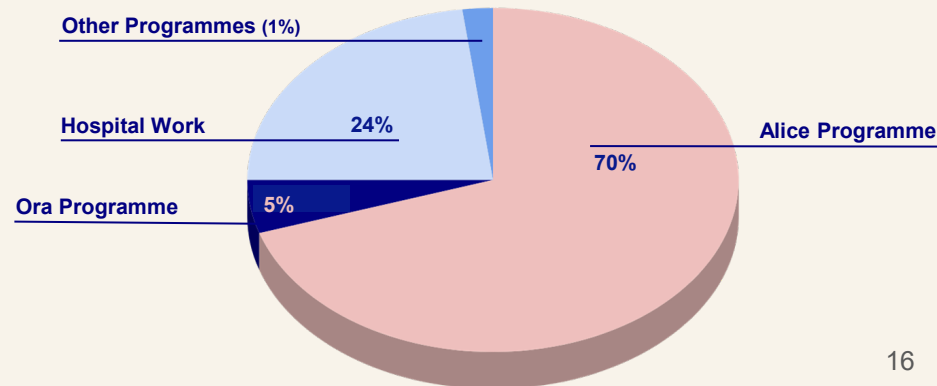
Principal Operational Expenses



Products Split



Expenses Split by Projects



WHAT DANCE CAN DO

