

## Testimonials

*For me, DaCo was the exact opportunity that myself, as well as so many other dancers needed in Toronto. By having the opportunity to work and create with new choreographers, I gained experience and knowledge, and was able to make new connections within the dance community. As a newly working professional in the city, I was able to enter the DaCo space with a willingness to learn and an excitement to create. DaCo provided professional experience that I will be able to use in future projects, as well as a safe and inclusive environment for all dancers to feel important and valued. Being the first of its kind in Toronto, DaCo was an incredibly valuable and fulfilling experience that I think would be beneficial for all dancers. Angela has created a wonderful foundation for a meaningful process in Toronto and more opportunities like these are certainly needed in the city.*

**Karly Benson**  
DaCo dancer 2022

*Working with likeminded people, especially those who are at similar points in their careers demonstrates how tangible dance and art making truly is. Through this residency, Angela has built a community for such people; those who are still in the process of finding their scream as artists of all kinds.*

**Taylor Collis**  
DaCo dancer 2022

*I am extremely impressed by the organization and professionalism of DaCo. Angela created an opportunity for Toronto artists that is otherwise lacking in the community. We need more residency's like this one that help uplift new artistic voices in the Toronto dance community.*

**Stephanie Harkness**  
DaCo dancer 2022

*DaCo was an invaluable experience; a unique opportunity to research and create with mentorship and guidance throughout the process. I appreciated getting to be a part of something that was process-based, where we could work on creating and researching with guidance. There were outside eyes coming in, including the other choreographers as well as Angela, and it provided opportunities to offer perspectives and discuss thoughts throughout even the early stages of the creation phase. The work-in-progress showing at the end of the residency was very professional; it was in a proper presentation space and*

*even incorporated formal sound and lighting cues. As a dancer in the process, I could see Angela's mentorship with the choreographers opening new doors and methods of exploration for them as they created their work. DaCo really provided such a unique opportunity to connect with new dancers and artists, that other mentorship programs do not always offer. Too often I find dancers end up working with the same people, which will eventually have some limitations. It was wonderful to get to meet, dance with, and watch dancers that I hadn't met before; it allowed the opportunity to network with new people, as well as to experience the influences of different personal styles and qualities on the movement being created. DaCo was a treasured and innovative residency, and it was an honour to be a part of it this year.*

**Kelsey Elliott**  
DaCo dancer 2022

*I believe DaCo is a professional experience with great value and potential. It was such a unique experience where new dancers and choreographers are able to meet, and create new material and ideas in an environment that welcomes and supports emerging artists. DaCo provided artists with studio space, mentorship, and a performance opportunity; overall a valuable opportunity for emerging choreographers, especially those transitioning from education to the professional world. The Toronto dance community needs more accessible experiences like this.*

**Meghan McMartin**  
DaCo dancer 2022