



MILE ZERO DANCE XL SEASON #40 2025–2026

Organizational Profile

Mile Zero Dance (MZD) is a thriving dance-based arts non-profit organization located in Edmonton. The company is devoted to the creation, training, and presentation of dance, and has produced a complete artistic season for twenty years.

Since 1985, MZD has also been sharing dance education programming available to schools, community organizations and inner-city schools. MZD works in response to community needs while focusing on dance and inter-disciplinary activity. The company has three employees, several contract employees, and hires numerous artists, dancers and instructors on a project-to-project basis, with an annual operating budget of around half a million dollars.

The season runs from Sep 1– Aug 31st annually. The current season, "FIELD/S" includes a summer film festival, Connections//Collisions – a cabaret series, The ZERO Labs, devoted to production residencies for artists, national dance presentations, local choreographers, and a double bill series.

MZD's previous location *Spazio Performativo* received the Spirit of McCauley award for work in that community, before moving to a new warehouse venue in Ritchie in 2022, built to suit dance performance, rehearsal, workshops and community use.

In addition to being an active regional, local and national voice, MZD is a member of the CanDance Network, Alberta Dance Alliance, Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance, and Theatre Alberta.

Artistic Director Gerry Morita is a choreographer/ dancer/instructor who joined the company in 2005. She was awarded The Spirit of Edmonton, Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund, PACE Innovation in Artistic Direction, and is one of Alberta's 25 Most Influential Artist Awards. She brings to the company a collaborative, site-specific, and interdisciplinary perspective.

MISSION

Mile Zero Dance develops contemporary dance practices and audiences, through education, collaborative partnerships, and the presentation of original, dynamic, interdisciplinary performances.

VISION

Mile Zero Dance's vision is that we are:

A responsive hub for contemporary dance practices in local, national, and international communities.

A grassroots proposition that allows people to see and use their bodies in the modern world.

Participants in a community of care, cultivating safety and decolonial practices.

VALUES

We Value Justice

Dance is a tool for justice and reconciliation, and the body is an expressive means of resistance.

We Value Artists' Quality of Life

The safety, well-being, and fair compensation of artists are crucial to our purpose.

We Value the Creative Process

From a first dance class to the presentation of acclaimed work, we meet artists/arts professionals and audiences where they are in their creative inquiries and development.

We Value Innovation

The ideas we generate, and foster are transformative to the dance ecosystem across the prairies, country and internationally.

We Value Humanity

We believe in the collective body and the individual Dancer. We understand dance as an embodiment of the human condition.

We Value Sustainable Growth

Our journey is regenerative and responds to the needs of our communities. Our growth does not sacrifice any other value.