

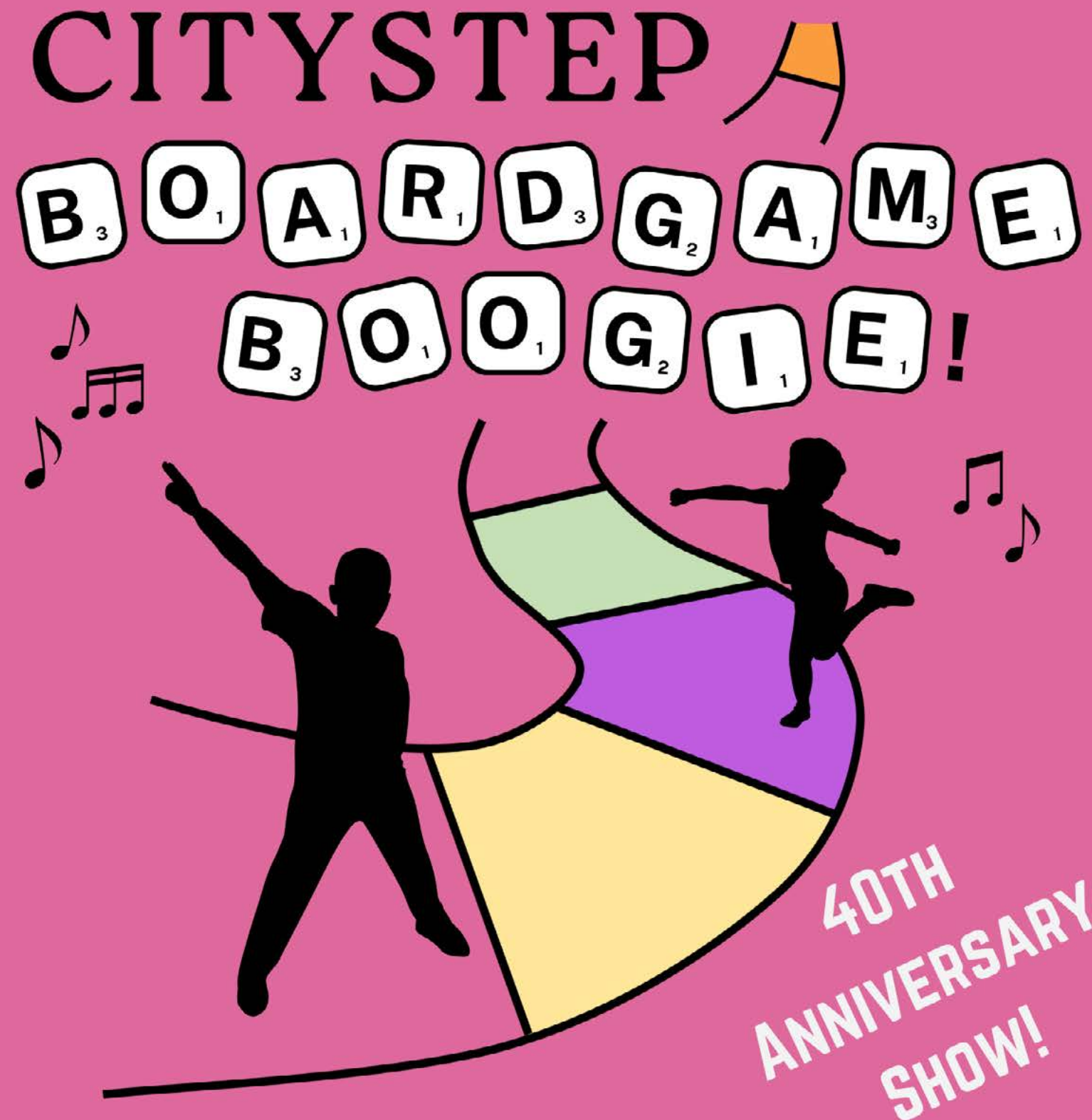
**How are we all going to get along?
CityStep has an answer.**

We start by supporting the creative self-expression of each child, strengthening their confidence and sense of self. We then bring kids together from different neighborhoods in a transformative experience of collaboration and connection through movement. All of this is facilitated by teams of committed, dynamic college students who work tirelessly all year as CityStep teachers and mentors. Each teaching year culminates in a thematically-unified performance the children help create. CityStep started at Harvard 40 years ago and has since spread to Penn, Princeton, Yale and Columbia--and counting. Cambridge is where it all began!

CityStep's special alchemy of creativity and relationships is a powerful bulwark against the challenges children increasingly face of depression, anxiety, isolation and discord. The entire CityStep community-building experience strengthens our social fabric. Learn more at CityStep.org

Special Thanks

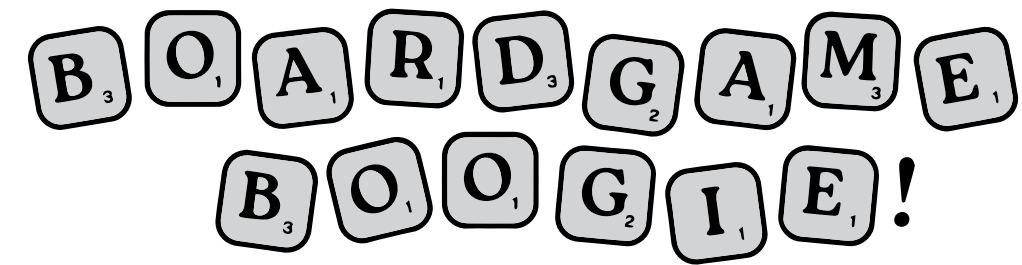
Uche Amaechi • Dara Badon • Safrya Browne-Cherisme • Varsha Gosh • Harvard Dance Center
Jack Megan • Lauren Morse • Office for the Arts • PBHA • Sam Pottash • Rachel Weinstein
• OFA Dance Program • Nuriel Vera-DeGraff • and all our CitySteppers and their families!



Featuring Harvard Students and Cambridge Kids
Friday, April 5, 2024 @ 7:15PM

Lowell Lecture Hall

17 Kirkland St, Cambridge, MA 02138



Friday, April 5, 2024

Lowell Lecture Hall

17 Kirkland Steet, Cambridge, MA

CityStep's 40th Anniversary Show

Featuring Cambridge schoolchildren and their CityStep Harvard teachers



The CityStep Harvard Company 2023-24:

Co-Executive Directors

Talia Kahan '26 and Joshua Peck '26

Co-Executive Producers

Evelyn Carr '25 and Sasha Peck '26

ABOUT TONIGHT:

OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!

Tonight we celebrate the 40th anniversary of CityStep at Harvard. It's 40 years since CityStep founder Sabrina Peck '84 led the first group of Harvard students into the Graham and Parks school to teach and inspire Cambridge kids. Since then, the program has continued to thrive at Harvard. 40 years of creative self-expression and community-building through dance. 40 years of Harvard students teaching and mentoring every week in the Cambridge Public Schools. 40 years of Cambridge kids performing a thematically-integrated show they helped create, for family, friends and the community, strengthening their self-confidence and connections to each other. 40 years of miracles and magic.

We are so excited to share this milestone with you!

—**The CityStep Harvard Company 2023-24**



CityStep Teachers

Omenma Abengowe '26
Nadia Borja '27
Edona Cosovic '25
Rebecca Janfaza '26
Lilly Lee '27
Isadora Millay '27
Lara Okyay '27
Soeun (Sonya) Park '26
Josh Peck '26
Arya Prasad '27
Cy Schwalbe '27
Heleah Soulati '26
Inseo Yeo '26
Melinda Wang '27
Evelyn Zhou '27

CityStep Producers

Omenma Abengowe '26
Isabella Goudros '25
Liam Taylor '26
Darren Seto '27

Musicians

Sam Pottash '16, *Music Director, Arranger, and Keyboard*
Dries Rooryck '26, *Guitar*
George Roggie '26, *Tenor Saxophone*

Designers

Sound Designer: Sahana Thayagabalu '27
Lighting Designer: Jackson Moody '26
Poster and T-Shirt Designer: Michelle Bulin '26

CityStep Harvard Liaison

Dara Badon '22

RUN OF SHOW

Introduction

The Execs

Game Night

CityStep Harvard Teachers

The CityStep teachers come together for an ordinary game night until they get enlivened by the world of Chess.

Jumanji

Fletcher Maynard Academy

The students at FMA are happily playing UNO until a wildcard transports them into the board game of Jumanji. How will they adapt to this new environment?

Tightrope

Guest Performer: Harvard Undergraduate Tap Company

Clue: Night at the Museum

King Open School

The King Open Museum, without a break-in in 54 years, is protected by two front guards. But if you get past them, there's no telling what mayhem could ensue...

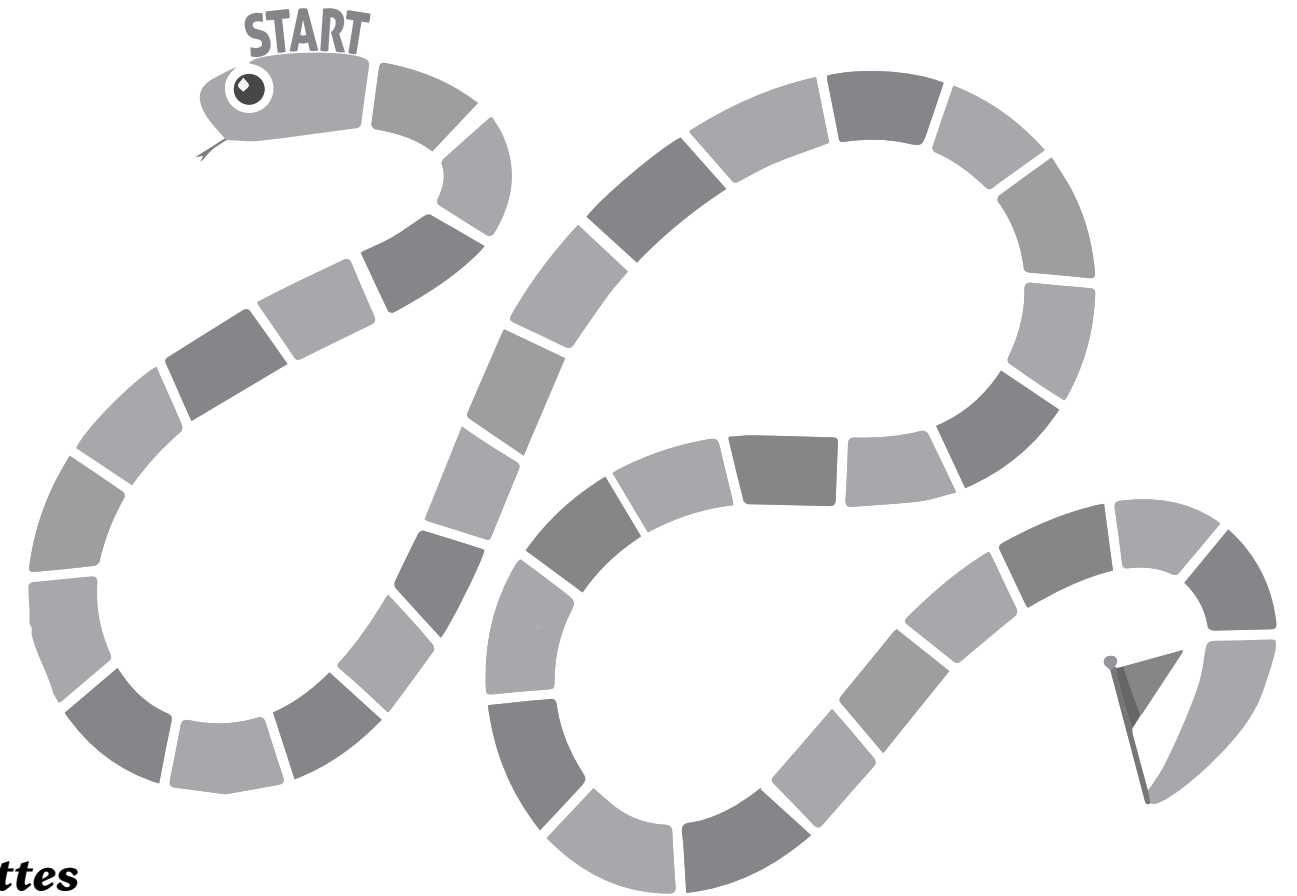
Bored Games

Afterschool Duet

Miyuki Kirby, a three-year veteran of CityStep's afterschool program, joins Heleah Soulati '26, her CityStep teacher, in a duet that celebrates the power of imagination. Directed by Sabrina Peck '84.

Resurgence

Guest Performer: Harvard EXP, a subset of Harvard Expressions Dance Company



Vignettes

Graham and Parks School

Dance 1: The Three Labours of Catan

The fields, quarries and grazing lands of Catan are full of exciting potential and dangers. How will our heroes navigate this land? Can you identify the three sections of the dance that correspond with the three labours?

Dance 2: Clue: A Murder Mystery

Ah, finally, an ordinary day reading an ordinary book. I hope that nothing disturbs us...

Dance 3: The Game of Life: Dance Party

Life is about dance...and parties. And dancing is full of life and...parties. And what are parties without life and dance!

Let's Play!

CityStep Harvard Alumni

Music: *CityStep Comes Together*, produced by Sam Pottash '16 and John Tournas '16 and performed by alumni musicians

Featuring: Dr. Mukesh Prasad '93 and daughter Arya Prasad '27; Trisha Perez Kennealy '92 and daughter Gabriella Kennealy '23; Mike Kalin '05 and Dara Badon '22.

In honor of the 40th anniversary, alumni CityStep Harvard Co-Exec Directors join the company under the direction of Sabrina Peck '84, based on the CityStep exercise, "Make a Greeting."

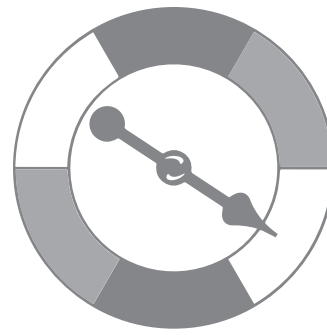
Finale and Signature!

The CityStep Company

Finale Choreographed by Joshua Peck '26. Can you spot the dances that are referenced? The Signature is 32 counts of choreography that every CityStepper has learned for 40 years! All alumni are invited to join.



PARTNER SCHOOLS



Fletcher Maynard Academy

Class piece: *Jumanji*

CityStep Teachers: Edona Cosovic, Lilly Lee, Lara Okyay, Josh Peck, Inseo Yeo

CitySteppers: Colton Mazanec, Oluwapamilerin Balogun, Lailanee David, Mahteb Deleta, Jerrell Dottin-Carter, Brielle Elias, Naomi Mauro, Laila Riley, Muna Samanter, Emery Smart

Liaison: Uche Amaechi, FMA Extended Learning Time Coordinator

Graham and Parks

Class piece: *Vignettes*

CityStep Teachers: Josh Peck, Arya Prasad, Cy Schwalbe, Melinda Wang, Evelyn Zhou

CitySteppers: Maddie Black, Aili Callahan, Ramona Barrett, Mika Elsner, Lincoln Kelsey, An Dat Nguyen-Vu, Kian Wakelin, KK, Eliot Hudson, Katie Felicity Soroka, Helen Lepionka, Maria Unanian, Avigile Danieli

Liaison: Lauren Morse, Graham and Parks School Liaison

King Open

Class piece: *Clue: Night at the Museum*

CityStep Teachers: Nadia Borja, Isadora Millay, Sonya Park, Josh Peck

CitySteppers: Bezawit Arega, Kasimir Berry, Sophie Canelas, Sara Ghiorgis, Maleah Hicks, Salsabiel Hoda, Roodensky Louis, Aasani Passley, Caiden Stultz, Eleanor Tighe

Liaison: Safrya Browne-Cherisme, King Open Extended Day Director



GUEST PERFORMERS

Harvard Undergraduate Tap Company

Harvard Undergraduate Tap Company, Harvard's premier tap company, is dedicated to telling dynamic stories through rhythm and sound.

Performers:

Maggie Chiffer '24, Sarah Erickson '25, Maddie Eagan '24, Emma Stirling '25, Brynn Jacobs '24, Maddy McKenzie '26, JaKayla Harris '27, Helena Jackson '27

Harvard EXP

Harvard EXP is a subset of Harvard Expressions Dance Company (EDC), a student-run company showcasing hip hop dance and its variations. EDC's guiding principles: Creativity, Confidence, and Community.

Performers:

Sabiha Amin '27, Ailie Johnson '24, Nahla Owens '25, Rachele Estinvil '27, Sofia Icke '25, Richael Saka '27, Laurinne Eugenio '26, Layla Chaaoui '26, Izzy Guillaume '24, Della Williams '27

CityStep Harvard Alumni

In honor of the 40th Anniversary, former CityStep Co-Exec directors joined the company for *Let's Play!* under the direction of CityStep Founder Sabrina Peck '84, developed from the exercise, Make a Greeting.

Alumni Performers:

Dara Badon '22, Co-Exec Director 2020-21

Mike Kalin '05, Co-Exec Director 2003-04

Trisha Perez Kennealy '92, Co-Exec Director 1989-90 and 1990-91

Gabriella Kennealy, Co-Exec Director 2021-22 and 2022-23

Dr. Mukesh Prasad '93, Co-Exec Director 1991-92

Alumni Musicians (recorded):

Music: *CityStep Comes Together*

Sam Pottash '16, *guitar and keyboard*

Dr. Ted Schwartz '87, *bass*

Norman Yamada '84, *percussion*

Adam Gorgoni '86, *lead guitar/percussion*

Miles Ehrlich '87, *trumpet*

Don Braden '85, *tenor saxophone*

Eunice Lee '19, *flute*

Joh Tournas '16, *electronic percussion*



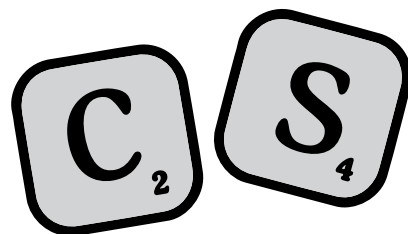
REFLECTIONS

“I love CityStep for the amazing opportunity it has given me to meet so many unique and incredible people at Harvard. I always look forward to company dinners where I share meals with all my new CityStep friends!”

~Izzy Goudros

“What drew me to CityStep was ultimately its mission: to **transform lives through creativity** and connection. By sharing my love and passion for dance with children, it allowed me to give back to my community, which was a positive and fulfilling experience.”

~ SoEun Park



“Working with young kids who want to try dance for the first time and seeing their growth throughout the program has been the most fulfilling aspect of City-Step. I wish I had the opportunity to join CityStep at my school growing up!” ~Edona Cosovic

“I joined because I love the organization’s mission to encourage children’s creativity and self-expression through dance!”

~ Omenma Abengowe

“CityStep is me.
I am CityStep.”

~Inseo Yeo

“I’ve been both a teacher and producer for CityStep Harvard, and it has been such a **rewarding experience** for me. I love hanging out with the kids and dancing with them, as well as working behind the scenes to put together an amazing final show! I’m so excited to see it all come together.”

~ Liam Taylor

Talia Kahan

Co-Executive Director

“CityStep has been such a meaningful experience — it has been amazing watching both CitySteppers and company members grow over the course over the year.”

Josh Peck

Co-Executive Director

“CityStep is so important to me. I look forward to Citystep every time I teach. Each class we teach is a new experience for our teachers because each school has a different community. We also have a lot of fun at company meetings and weekly dinners.”

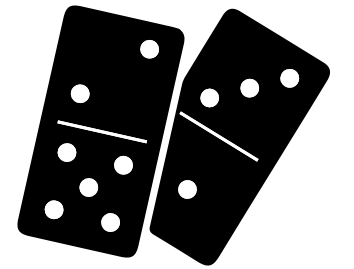
Evelyn Carr & Sasha Peck

Co-Executive Producers

“We have had an amazing time serving as Co-Executive Producers of CityStep this year! We met long before Harvard in our middle school’s production of Annie, and we’ve shared a love for the performing arts ever since. Our shared interest in the arts brought us both to CityStep at Harvard, where we work behind the scenes to produce the Final Show, manage the CityStep budget and organize the team of CityStep Producers. Some of our favorite memories as Exec Producers this year include organizing the CityStep Company Pizza Party and Fall Study Break, attending weekly CityStep dinners, and planning CityStep Dizzy Dancing, a fundraiser event that spread the love of dance to Harvard undergraduates. It has been an honor for us to contribute to the incredible CityStep community, and we are so excited to celebrate the hard work of our CityStep students and Harvard teachers at this year’s Final Show!”



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR CITYSTEP YEAR



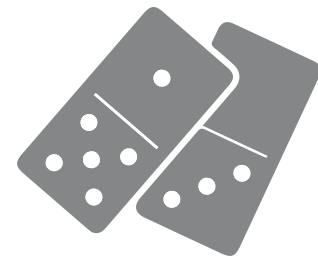
Recruitment

CityStep Execs represented CityStep at the Harvard Club Fair in August, letting new students know about the company and encouraging them to join as teachers and producers.



Company Dinners

Every week after our company meeting, CityStep members eat dinner together. This picture was taken at our company picnic in September!



Dizzy Dancing Event

In February, CityStep collaborated with Harvard Candela to host a fundraiser to raise money for our Final Show. Candela taught members of the Harvard community salsa and bachata, and all proceeds from the event went toward supporting tonight's performance!

Little Amal Event

CityStep helped welcome to Harvard Yard the 12-foot puppet of a Syrian refugee girl. CitySteppers and teachers performed a dance with her for a large outdoor audience of the Cambridge community to raise awareness about the plight of refugees.



On-Campus Workshops

CityStep Harvard teachers trained on campus this Fall in preparation for their in-school teaching. They explored the principles of the CityStep Method--how to use movement to foster creative self-expression and community-building among young people.



Teacher-Training Retreat

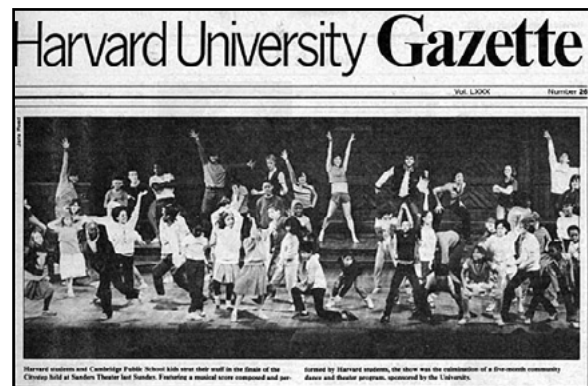
CityStep Harvard traveled to New York City to join teachers from CityStep Penn, Yale and Columbia for the annual two-day, All-Company Teacher-Training Retreat! They learned from guest artists, shared best practices and strengthened their confidence, connection and creativity. These new ideas energized classroom teaching back in Cambridge and other cities.



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

As a Harvard student, Sabrina Peck '84 took a troupe of performers into the Graham and Parks School to present pieces from an evening-length original dance theater piece she had choreographed on campus about 10 characters in a city, called CityStep. The children were so enthralled while watching the assembly, that Peck spontaneously invited them onstage to have their own experience of expression through dance. The result was...magic.

“It instantly became clear to me that expressing an emotion, an idea or a story through movement was not just appealing to children, it was necessary,” Peck recalls. “And physicality is a language that comes so naturally to kids. The program just sprang whole-cloth from my mind right then and there.”



Peck launched the CityStep Program at Harvard, bringing teams of college students with her each week to four Cambridge Public Schools to work with fifth-graders. And at the end of that school year, the first CityStep kids' show was born: a thematically-unified performance about growing up in the city told entirely through dance featuring 100 children and their college-student teachers. Parents, families and the Harvard and Cambridge communities came out to cheer on what the children had accomplished and the Mayor declared "CityStep Day" in Cambridge.



THE EARLY YEARS...



Now, 40 years later, CityStep is still igniting the imagination of college students who want to connect their creative impulses with social impact. And these dedicated teachers are still engaging and inspiring young people, encouraging them to express themselves through movement and come together in collaboration and shared enterprise.

Here's to 40 more!



40 YEARS OF SHOWS

