

Name: Susan Turley

Board Position: Member-at-large, Chair of the Governance Committee, Member of the Showcase Committee

Hometown: Born in Winnipeg, spent two years in Grand Forks, North Dakota for university, ten years living and working in Perth-Andover, New Brunswick, then returned to Winnipeg.

How are you involved in Manitoba's Dance Community? By being an audience member for as many performances as I can take in. I serve on the Board of Directors of Dance Manitoba (I was President of the Board for several years). I have been volunteering at the Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival since 1997 and became the Dance Festival Emcee (aka "The Voice") in 1998.

How long have you been involved with Dance Manitoba? I first attending the Dance Festival in 1996 to see a "Mickey Mouse" jazz performance that received an adjudication of "You're as cute as a button". The next year, since I was spending so much time at Dance Festival, I took some vacation time and volunteered at the Festival. The next year, I wound up back stage with a microphone in front of me...and the rest is history.

Favourite thing about Dance Manitoba? The diversity...there is some of everything you could want (or imaging) happening in dance.

Favourite thing you've ever seen on stage? I have three...Anne of Green Gables at the Centennial Concert Hall for my tenth birthday – September 1967. I saw the production several times in later years at the Charlottetown Festival but the first time was still the best. Come From Away at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre - January 2018. The most deserved standing ovation that I have been at part of. Mickey Mouse at the Manitoba Provincial Dance Festival – May 1996.

Favourite song to dance to? I do not really have one but if I have to choose...Soul Man by the Blues Brothers, I took dance class for the first time when I was forty (it was tap). Kristen Downey (dance teacher at Oak Park High School) was the teacher and Bernadette Shum (owner of the Manitoba Institute for Dance) was the studio owner.

If you had one piece of advice for young dancers, what would it be? Even if you do not pursue dance as a career, keep on dancing for the love of it.

Any family/pets you'd like to acknowledge? I am auntie to Jellybean (a black 21-year old male) who lives here in Winnipeg and Winkworth (a 10-year old female tabby) who lives in Toronto.

Favourite pastime other than dance? Reading and puzzles.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Japan, Israel, Ireland.

Who inspires you? I have had many people inspire me. The top two that come to mind are Peggy (Boldt) Walecki, my fifth grade teacher, who taught me how wonderful learning was and Angela Moodie, a mentor and someone I am honour to call friend.