



2019-2020



Feel the Beat

501c3 nonprofit

ACCESSIBILITY * COMMUNITY * INCLUSION

Our Mission

Feel the Beat's mission is to make the experience of music possible for those who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and with Special Needs. We use bone-conduction dance floors that allow students to feel sound through vibrational energy.



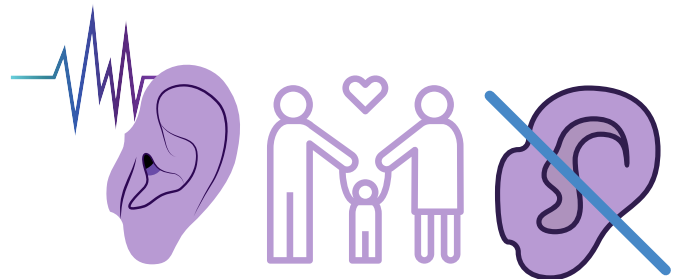
Getting Started

Established in 2017, our founders, Jari Majewski and Julia Faliano, decided to invent new ways to make dance and music education accessible to all.



Our Students

90% of children born with a hearing loss have hearing parents who do not share their identity, culture, or sign language with them



Special Thanks

Each and every accomplishment made by Feel the Beat would simply not have been possible without our network of partnerships and supporters. You are the reason we push forward to innovate sound accessibility and bring smiles to children.



Our studio

Our dance studio provides programming to day programs, respite care facilities, schools, therapy groups, and weekly classes all made to be completely accessible!

Our floor

Our one-of-a-kind dance floor uses specially tailored vibrations technology to make music a tactile experience.



Our community

Our innovative community is constantly engineering and designing new solutions to making sound accessible environments nationwide!

Who we are



JARI MAJEWSKI

Executive Director, Founder

In 2016, Jari Majewski and Julia Faliano, two Denver special needs teachers found that incorporating music and dance into their curriculum positively impacted their students. From this experience, their dance and yoga backgrounds, and their passion of serving the deaf, hard of hearing, and special needs community of children, they founded Feel the Beat.

This revolutionary program has successfully fostered an inclusive community for special needs populations to experience the art of dance. Feel the Beat is leading the charge to bridge the disparity gap by further increasing the availability of cultural and arts programming, and ensuring that all young people, regardless of physical ability, race, gender, or socio-economic status, are given an opportunity to participate in the expressive world of dance and music.



JULIA FALIANO

Vice President



Board of Directors



RICHARD PARKER
Treasurer, Head of Finance Committee



MICHAEL SOBOTA
Technology Director



RICHARD MALLOW
Board Development



WHITNEY SWALES
Marketing and Outreach



FIGARO LORESTO
Research and Grants



LISA WHITE
Marketing



RAIJA GERSHBERG
Marketing

What we do



OUR STUDIO

Our studio and curriculum are designed to engage all types of students. We have served students with hearing loss, cerebral palsy, memory deficits, autism spectrum disorder, speech and language disorders, and several other motor and cognitive delays.

THE CURRICULUM

Further, our curriculum has evolved to include the following components: a warm-up sequence to get bodies ready to move, a body percussion section where students learn the fundamentals of music and rhythm using drumsticks, an across-the-floor series of leaps, jumps, and turns, dance choreography while counting and feeling the beats through the vibrating dance floor, and a cool-down stretch and breathing sequence.

PARENT

*Ballet Student
Age 7*

"Feel the Beat has done wonders for our child. She has some disabilities that affect her motor skills and coordination and we noticed a big difference after the classes were over. We recommend Feel the Beat to anyone who asks us!"



Our Programs



GROUP CLASSES

FTB offers daytime private classes for groups of adults & children such as; respite care facilities, therapy groups, adults with disabilities day programs & other nonprofits.

DANCE CLASSES

Feel the Beat has weekly evening classes for dancers ages 2-adult. Class dance styles include hip hop, ballet, jazz, lyrical, creative movement, yoga and more!

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Feel the Beat hosts school field trips at the studio as well as conducts on-location programming in schools.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Feel the Beat partners with our community to serve and teach at events, festivals, street fairs, and more.

POP UP CLASSES

Feel the Beat partners with local businesses to serve, teach and provide music access at events, activities, and more.

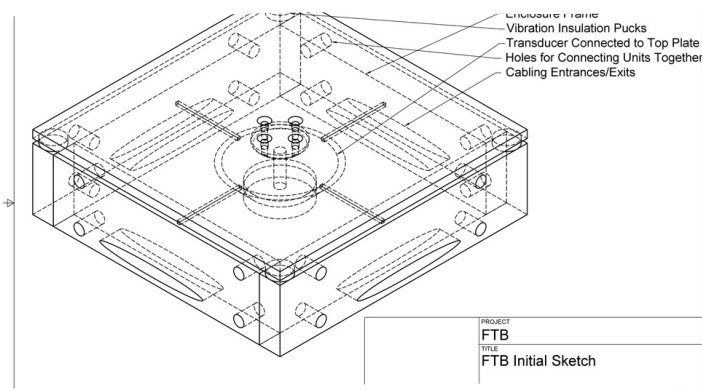
VIRTUAL CLASSES

Feel the Beat offers weekly virtual options for classes for both children and adults during the pandemic.

The Technology

To best serve the target demographic, students must literally feel the beat. To achieve this, we utilize a special dance floor that combines vibrations from transducers and pliable material that reverberates with the beat—creating tactile sound.

With transducers embedded in the dance floor, musical elements are transformed from auditory signals into tactile vibration, making music accessible through physical sensations.



"I will forever remember the very first time my daughter stepped out onto the dance floor at Feel the Beat. I have never seen a more genuine smile on a child in my life."

- Parent of a Jazz and Ballet Student



Accomplishments



pop-up classes

Our students have loved having a COVID safe in-person space to start taking dance classes again!

coloring books

Our board and volunteers teamed up with local artists to send a special coloring book to all of our students during our state COVID lockdown.



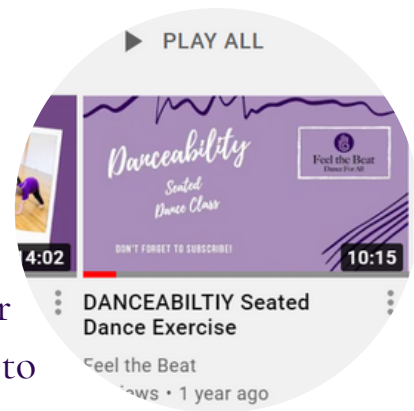
mobile floor

Our team worked with a group of product developers, engineers & architects to enhance and construct our tactile mobile floor!



virtual programming

Our families, community, and neighborhood partners engaged in our accessible online classes to bring movement, language, and expression to students across the nation during quarantine



Our Numbers

\$14,865

revenue from classes

\$45,621

income from grants

\$62,018

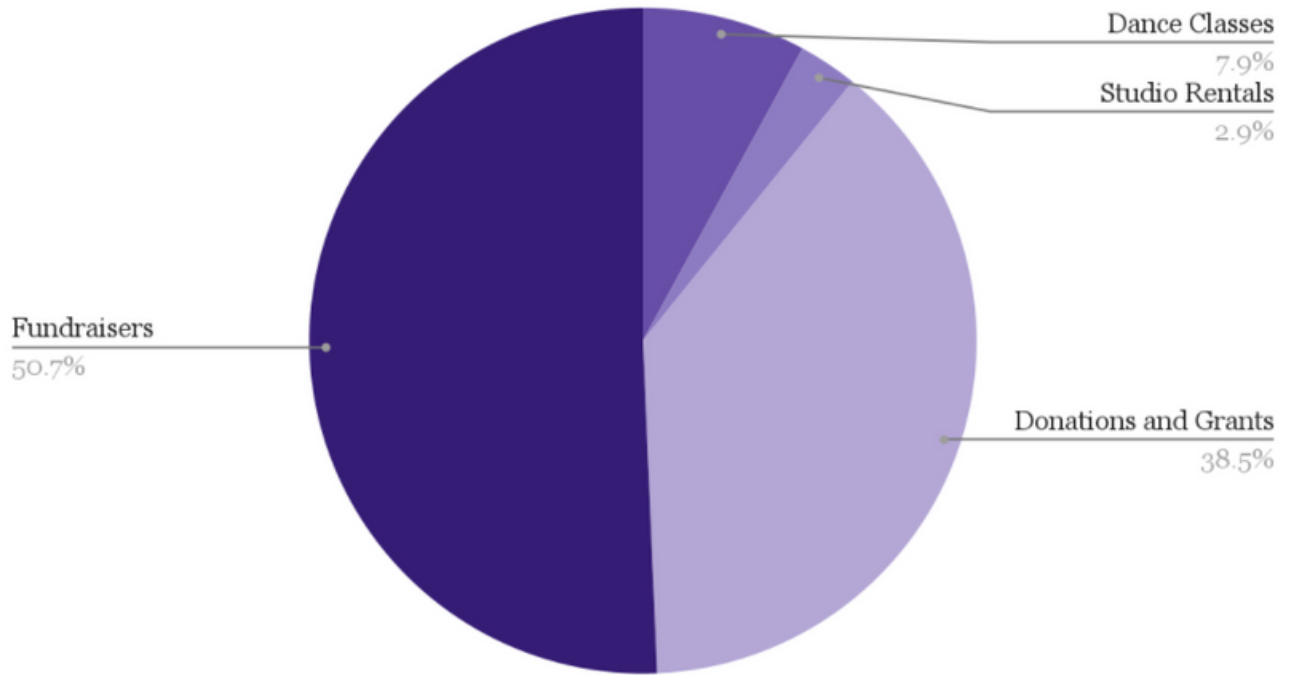
income from fundraising events

\$26,700

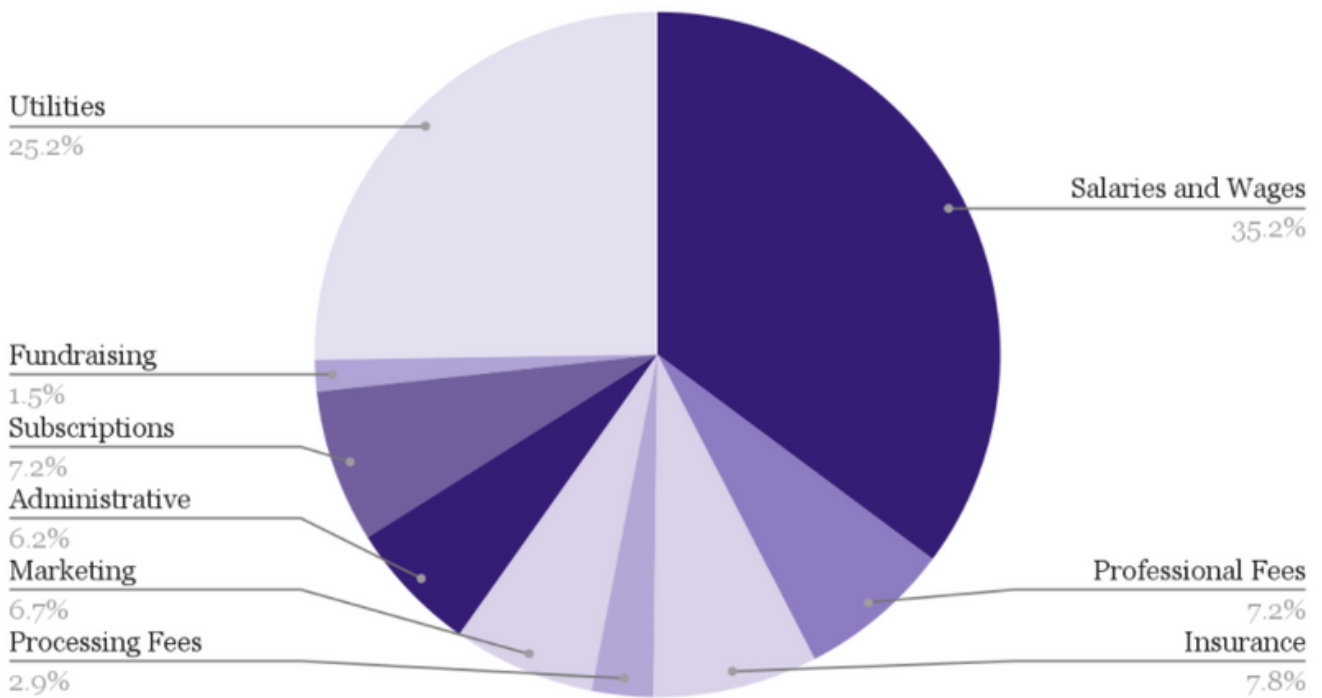
income from individual donations

Financials

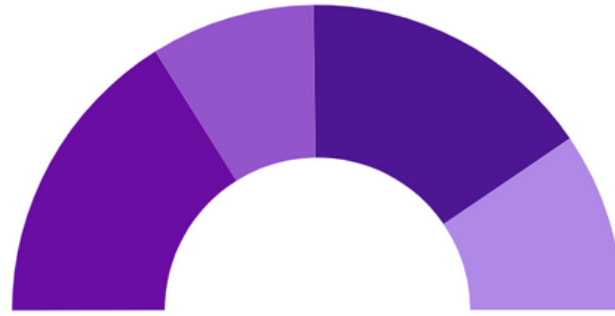
2020 Revenue



2020 Expenses



Our Students

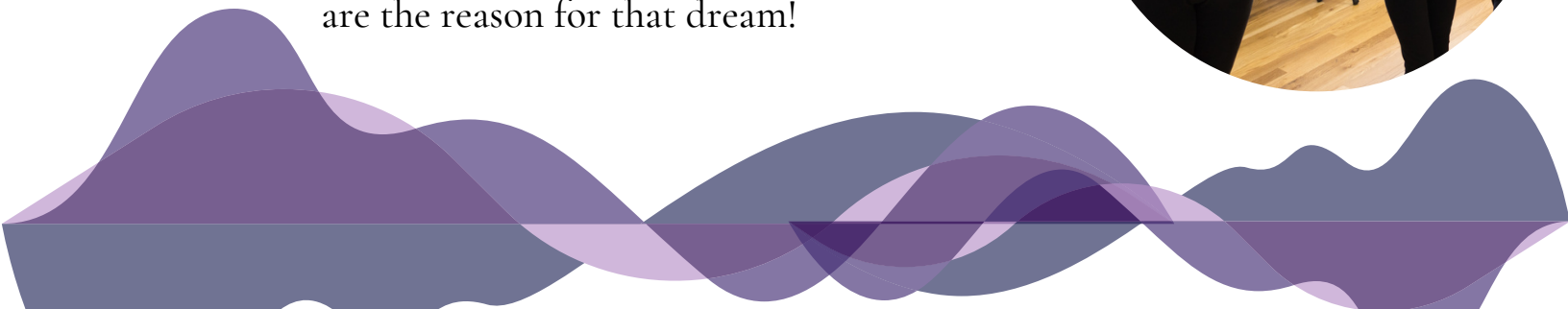


- With a hearing loss (32.23%)
- With an additional disability (17.36%)
- From low income households (31.4%)
- Identify as a racial minority (19.01%)



Madison "Madi" W., a beautiful 11-year-old deaf girl with additional disabilities, had a life altering experience after attending Feel the Beat classes. When she began her first class she had low body awareness and muscle tone, and had little to no confidence in her abilities to dance and move with the instructor. She soon discovered that Feel the Beat was the perfect place to take chances and grow as a dancer.

Madi looks forward to class each week, and the confidence it has brought to her is unsurpassed by anything else. The compassion and desire of this team to help students with all aspects of learning through dance is life-changing for kids like Madison. She has dreams of growing up and helping other kids learn to dance, and the amazing people at Feel the Beat are the reason for that dream!



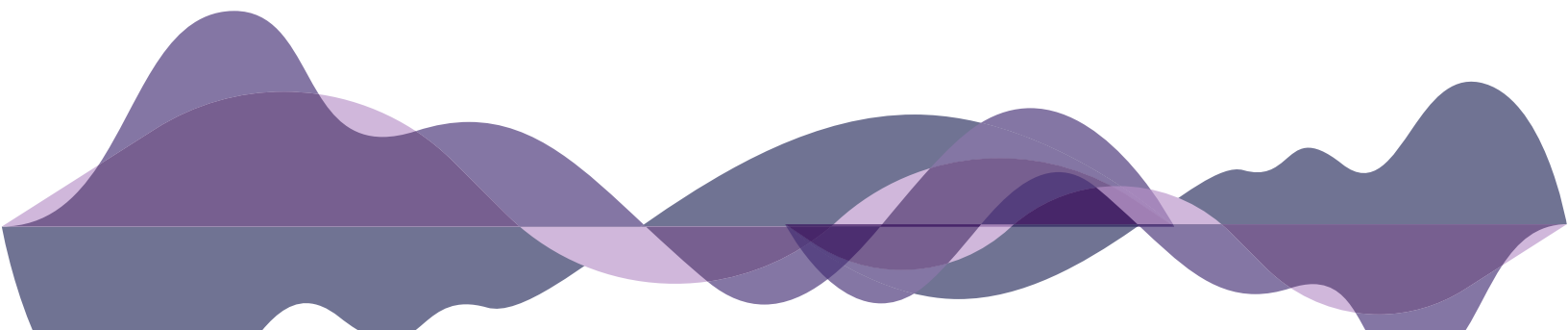
Amy's Story

Our daughter Amy started attending classes with Feel The Beat about two and a half years ago. Amy has multiple disabilities including being deaf, autistic, gross motor delays and sensory processing delays which impacts balance and vestibular abilities. This results in her having social and communication challenges as well as being physically unstable while standing and walking. We never thought dance classes were something she would be able to participate in with her communication and physical challenges.



From the first class, she attended we could tell this was going to have an amazing influence on her. When she first felt the music through the floor she just lit up! Since she started attending classes, we have seen her grow physically stronger and have seen amazing improvements in her social skills. It has been amazing to see her interact with other deaf children, children with other special needs, and typically developing children in an open and accepting environment around music and dance. Most importantly it has reminded us to stay open to the possibilities of what Amy can achieve.

-Amy's Mother, Jenny Watson



Sponsors



Developmental
Pathways



Wheat Ridge
Chamber
of Commerce



COLORADO

Department of Human Services

Colorado Commission for the Deaf,
Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind

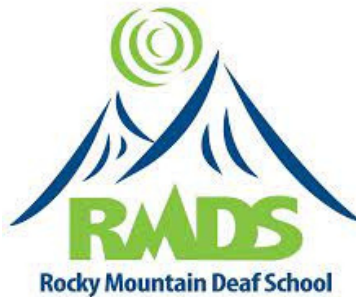


EDWARD AND MICHELLE

MOODY

FOUNDATION

Partners



What's Next



Feel the Beat is dedicated to creating sound accessible environments.



Through use of our mobile dance floor, we hope to keep bringing the beat to people. Look for us at music festivals, block parties, concert venues, and so much more!

