



**Lisa Dietz (Studio Director)**—Lisa began dancing at the age of 3 and has been sharing her love of dance with her students for over 20 years. Teaching dance is her calling and she believes that teaching dance is a means to teaching life skills. Lisa is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a BFA in Dance Education. She has performed professionally with *Annex Dance Company*, *Charleston Characters Dance Company*, *Coalesce Dance Company*, and *Louisville Ballet* among others. Lisa's choreography has been presented at the North Charleston Arts Festival, Piccolo Spoleto Arts Festival, Jail Break Arts Festival, Charleston Dance Festival, and by the Dance Moves Youth Company, Charleston's only modern dance-based performance company for youth. Her dance improvisation-based work was selected to be a part of Enough Pie's community arts event, *Awakening II: Fieldwork*. She has had the opportunity to marry her passion for dance education with her belief in outreach and community service through her work with the Now & Next Dance Mentoring Project and BalletMet's education outreach program, Momentum. She has also helped create and run a series of empowering workshops for young girls called Girls Dancing. Lisa is excited to be a part of The Community House Dance Academy.



**Julie Bonathan**—Julie grew up dancing and competing with a Canton studio for 15 years. She performed in local, state, and national competitions and community holiday events. Julie graduated from Madonna University with a degree in language arts and elementary education and currently teaches second grade. At her school, she operates the afterschool dance program for kindergarten through second grade. Julie is very excited to start teaching at the studio and hopes to see you soon!



**Elisabeth Moore**—Starting out at Center Stage Dance Company, Elisabeth spent fifteen years studying Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Ballet, and Pointe. She spent her high school years as a teacher and choreographer for her studio and one of the first four-year members of Northville's Varsity Dance Company. Elisabeth's passion for dance inspired her to create and organize her own summer dance program at the Boys and Girls of Troy, a program that focused on bringing Jazz, Hip Hop, and Tap Rhythm classes to underprivileged kids. Amidst her dance training, Elisabeth developed a special appreciation, respect, and skill for both Broadway and rhythmic style tap dancing. Participating in the annual Motor City Tap Festival, she has had the opportunity to interact with and learn from legendary tappers including Gregg Russell, Sarah Reich, Avi Miller, and Ofer Ben as well as performing in the faculty-driven "Motor City Soles" show at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. While pursuing a dual degree in Social Policy and Criminal Justice at Michigan State University, Elisabeth felt determined to continue her dance involvements. During those four years, she participated in the Ballroom Dance Team, served as a member and choreographer of the MSU Showstoppers Dance Team, and spent multiple summers as a dance teacher,

choreographer, and counselor at Lake of the Woods and Greenwoods Camp. Having recently moved to the area to attend Wayne State Law School, Elisabeth is so excited to continue teaching dance! With over eight years of experience teaching and choreographing, Elisabeth strives to provide dancers with more than just technical training. She encourages an overall knowledge of each style, including an expansion of dance history, musicality, and originality that can best prepare dancers for whatever "next step" they set their sights on.



**Melanie Yost**—Melanie graduated from Alma College and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing and Dance. She currently works for IPG MediaBrands as a Programmatic Strategist. Melanie has been dancing since she was 3 years old at Academy of Performing Arts and was a member of the Francis Performing Arts Company at age 10. At the age of 7, Melanie was taking 2 ballet technique classes a week and by the time she was in high school she studied under the direction of Samantha Shelton twice a week on top of her schedule at APA. In conjunction with Samantha Shelton and Kathy Francis, Melanie has studied under Kathy Thibodeaux, Birute Barodicaite, Hazel Sabas, Lynn Bowman, Jenifer Sarver, Nic Gareiss, Ariane Dolan and many more that have made an impact on Melanie’s technique and dance pedagogy. Melanie has also attended summer ballet intensives at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, weekend-long classes with River North Dance Chicago and Lou Conte Dance Studio. This past year Melanie was able to take a weekend-long intensive with Surfscapes Contemporary Dance Theatre in Florida. Melanie was a part of the Alma College Dance Company where she had the opportunity to perform featured roles in ballets including *The Nutcracker*, *Paquita*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Raymonda*, *Giselle* and several contemporary ballet pieces. Melanie has also had the pleasure to dance in choreographic works by Yuka Oba from the Grand Rapids Ballet, David Campos of Escola Ballet in Spain and several more artists that Alma College Dance Company has hosted. During her studies at Alma College she had the chance to choreograph

tap pieces and direct their student-ran show. Her work has been presented at Alma College’s Honors Day, and featured in staff-directed shows. Melanie has past experiences teaching ballet, contemporary, jazz and lyrical with Academy of Performing Arts, and is honored to be a part of the teaching staff at The Community House Dance Academy.

**Lauren Vidak (Assistant Director, Programs & Enrichment)**—A native of Colorado, Lauren began her dance training at Dance Dimensions Studio where she studied for sixteen years and had the opportunity to compete regionally and nationally as a part of the Starbound Dance Team. Lauren was also able to receive training at the EDGE Performing Arts Complex, Hollywood Vibe, Boulder Jazz Dance Workshop, NUVO Dance Convention, and the Perry Mansfield Performing Arts School. She attended Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado and received dual BA’s in English and Theatre. While in college Lauren worked as the Artistic Director for the Dance Co-Motion company and the House Manager for the Durango Arts Center and spent summers teaching dance intensive and workshops across the state. Since graduating Lauren has had the opportunity to work in many different areas of dance and theatre in roles such as Assistant Choreographer for the Colorado Ballet, Choreographer and Director for Rocky Mountain Theatre for Kids, Competition Director for PCDC, and many more along the way! Lauren believes that the arts should be a part of every child’s life, and that by choosing to enroll in dance children are opening themselves up to learning life skills that will stay with them for years to come. The experiences that dance has given her are unparalleled, and she can’t wait to help young dancers on their own journey.