

# KANOPY DANCE

Kanopy Dance Theatre Inc  
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12/6/21

To All Alders

In reference to item #8, December 7, 2021, Common Council Meeting  
“Rezone properties located at 341 State Street, 317-321 West Gorham Street and 322 West Johnson Street”

I am Robert Cleary, co-artistic director of Kanopy Dance Company, a resident company of the Overture Center for the Arts. We have deep respect for ULI and its transformative role in shaping downtown Madison and some of its historic neighborhoods with iconic commercial and residential developments. And we regard ULI highly as a creative and highly responsive landlord from whom we chose to lease our Kanopy Studios housing our Kanopy Dance Academy for almost two decades before renovating a new home this summer.

ULI and Tom Neujahr remained pro-active even as we prepared to relocate our studios over the course of a year make way for the ambitious redevelopment before you tonight. Their support during Covid was significant and gave us the flexibility and help to continue connecting with our Kanopy family with performances via ZOOM and helped us to offer a comprehensive virtual Dance Academy program.

I'd like to share one example of an ULI initiative that really demonstrates its caring culture--- even knowing that Kanopy Dance Academy would be vacating its State Street studios within months, ULI invested in and installed a state- of- the art needle point ionization system on the rooftop of our building to enhance the ventilation and the air quality in our studio space so that our faculty team could safely teach its virtual classes. As you can imagine, it lifted a huge burden.

We have called downtown our home for decades, and in selecting our new studio space we renewed our commitment to the heart of our city and located around the corner from the Overture Center. We love the downtown because it is our cultural hub and because it is dynamic, and it must embrace constructive change. In the future, the skyline won't be the same, but we hope it is economically stronger and it is increasingly diverse-- a downtown for everybody.

Thank you.  
Robert Cleary  
Kanopy Dance