

# NBS' Collaborative Leadership in Action

## The Pathway Project: Opening New Doors for Talent

### **In Toronto's Regent Park neighbourhood, NBS Sharing Dance and Citadel + Compagnie collaborate to help kids pursue their potential through dance.**

Too many kids face barriers to dancing. The cost of training, the lack of nearby classes, and the challenge of finding programs appropriate for their skills and aspirations all prevent kids from exploring the wide range of opportunities that dance offers. That's why NBS created the Pathway Project with partners across Canada, building clear and accessible pathways for kids to discover and pursue every opportunity through dance.

A key Pathway Project partner is Citadel + Compagnie (C+C), an acclaimed contemporary dance company located in Toronto's Regent Park neighbourhood. C+C has long offered free dance classes through its outreach program, removing cost as a barrier for kids to be active and artistically engaged close to home. Together, NBS and C+C developed a method of identifying outreach program participants who displayed unique talent and a love for movement, and offered them scholarships to audition for and attend NBS' Associates Program. The partnership also created opportunities for more young dancers to observe rehearsals and performances by students in NBS' Professional Ballet-Academic Program.

The partnership between NBS and C+C builds a clear and accessible path that takes young dancers from discovering dance, to building a love for the art form and uncovering their talent, to advancing their abilities in world-class conditions. It sets an example for Pathway Project collaborations nation-wide, and represents only the beginning of a movement that has the potential to transform the breadth and depth of talent in Canada.

### **Meet Michelle: dance lover and Pathway Project participant**

Michelle loves to dance. At Citadel + Compagnie's free ballet classes, it quickly became clear that she had enormous energy, passion and talent, but the high cost of additional training was an obstacle for her family. Her mother was passionate about Michelle's dancing but unsure how to help her pursue her potential.

Through NBS' collaborative partnership with C+C, Michelle was offered a scholarship to audition for NBS' Associates Program. When she was accepted, NBS – with the help of generous donors – underwrote her tuition, letting her hone her natural abilities, experience a new training environment, and decide how she wanted to pursue her love for dance without financial barriers.

Whether it's to shoot for the spotlight or do it for fun, every kid should have the opportunity to dance. Michelle's story is just one example of how collaborations formed through the Pathway Project open doors for kids and their families.

