

Thursday, May 16th, 2024

Dear Members of the Carmel City Council:

Peace of Mind Dog Rescue (POMDR) and Carmel Dance Festival (CDF) have united in a collaborative effort to enrich and support the well-being of our community. This endeavor aims to benefit Carmel and its surrounding areas through an engaging, informative, uplifting, and impactful event.

Founded in 2009 by Carie Broecker and Monica Rua, POMDR is a 501C3 organization dedicated to aiding seniors who face challenges in keeping their beloved dogs at home. POMDR also facilitates the adoption of senior dogs in need of new homes. Carie's exceptional work with POMDR earned her recognition as a CNN Hero in 2022.

Similarly, CDF, established in 2021, operates as a 501C3. The organization's vision is to involve our diverse community in experiencing, performing, and embracing dance. Ballare Carmel, the professional dance company affiliated with CDF, has garnered acclaim for its performances at renowned venues such as Sunset Center, Hidden Valley Music Seminars, and Sand Box. Offering classes for all ages and abilities, CDF aims to promote the health and well-being of our community. Lillian Barbeito, a renowned dancer and director, partners with Grant Barbeito, an award-winning photographer and documentarian, in leading CDF.

Together, CDF and POMDR are collaborating on a performance titled "DANCE for the Love of Dogs," featuring professional dancers from Ballare Carmel in pieces dedicated to the canine companions we cherish. While dogs themselves won't perform, their admirable qualities, such as loyalty, playfulness, and humor, will be celebrated through the dances. Every shelter and rescue group in Carmel and neighboring communities will be invited to participate by hosting information booths and sending representatives for the lobby and post-performance gatherings.

The benefits of this event to Carmel and its neighboring communities are manifold: proceeds from ticket sales will provide scholarships to the CDF Dance & Choreography Fellowship Program. Fund-raising opportunities such as sponsorships and program advertising will be available to participating animal welfare organizations, and the event will spread awareness about pet adoption and inspire individuals to adopt or volunteer. Additionally, attendees will learn about dance classes and physical fitness opportunities, fostering community cohesion and overall well-being.

We kindly request your consideration for a free use day of the Sunset Center for our event in April 2025. Please inform us if you require further information.

Thank you for considering our request.

Respectfully,

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