

The Oxford Dictionary describes the word community as, “a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.” The word community can be easily connected back to the creative process of dance. Dancers have to have a tight knit community to succeed in creating their art form. They have the common interest of creating something important and or enjoyable, which pushes them to come together and work collaboratively to execute choreography well. While the word community can describe the aspect of dancers having a common goal, it lacks in describing the importance of unique talents. This is where the word mosaic comes into play.

The Oxford Dictionary describes the word mosaic as, “A picture or pattern produced by arranging together small colored pieces of hard material, such as stone, tile, or glass.” At first glance the word mosaic seems to not relate to the word community or dance in any way, but one of the lower, less prevalent definitions of mosaic made a perfect connection. Mosaic was described as “ a combination of diverse elements forming a more or less coherent whole.” This definition is even more applicable to the creative process of dance than community is. A community implies that the creative process is pushed and is successful because of commonality. While this is true in the sense that dancers have the common goal of creating something meaningful, it falls short to acknowledge the importance of individuality. The reason choreography is successful is often times because of diverse dancers who fit together in making a beautiful dance. While individually dancers may seem very different, when they come together they make a coherent piece of work that is much more powerful than if they had danced alone.