

State of the Lotus 2024

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Happy New Year! I am so blessed to have been on this journey with Lotus since 2007 and all the joys and lessons I have learned along the way. I am grateful for the people that I do it with and find it a joy to see them grow into better dancers (and teachers!). Below is a recap of 2024 and a look into what I would like to see happen with Lotus in 2025. As always, I appreciate your support and suggestions.

Looking Back

We started the year off strong as we prepared for our annual Spirit of the Dance recital. We were now in year two of hosting the show without any partnerships. We have always appreciated the ability of having partner studios join us, so not having them has been quite frankly, scary. But the studio has rallied with having enough to fill the show with the help of the local and regional dance community. I am grateful to the dance community for their desire to see Lotus host successful shows. In turn we all get to highlight each other throughout the year.

We are always working to increase visibility to those who are outside the community, and this year we did so with **four** multicultural festival performances! This is double the amount last year, and with the addition of our partnership with King Tutt Lounge and other hosted belly dance shows we increased overall performance visibility to a near dozen shows this year! I am thankful to our student troupe, Amani Lotus to help us spread the love of dance and help grow our city's visibility.

Our student base grew with 94 new students to have joined us in some sort of class (online or in person) this year, for a total of 414 active students throughout the year, up near 100 students from last year. This is due to the expansion of class types (more virtual class opportunities), video content, and times which allowed students to learn on their own schedule, increased dance opportunities for students to perform throughout the year

(Lotus increased its own opportunities to twice a year). We currently host classes in Ballantyne and Matthews, which is now in its second year.

As Lotus continues to grow so must its teacher base. We have brought in a bit of master instructors in previous years, and this year we started the teacher program to raise new teachers into the fold.

Looking Forward

This is the year of optimization of all the growth we have amassed in the last two years. We will continue our growth of class and dance opportunities while reviewing what we have achieved to make it better.

Lotus will continue focus to growing more teachers. As we expand the realization that I as lead simply cannot be in all places at the same time also expands. This is a great problem to have! I look forward to seeing even more teachers this year.

Lotus has started the journey of improving our hosted shows and will continue throughout the year. I look forward to seeing results as early as our next dance recital (April 29, 2025).

Lotus will continue focus of strengthening regional presence. Admittedly for years I worked as a “friendly island” meaning we welcomed all in, but we did not branch too far out. We have gotten better of course, and we need to continue.

I am again so grateful for all that has happened this year. Here’s to a great 2025!