
ANGKOR
DANCE
TROUPE
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF IMPACT
40th
ANNIVERSARY
1986 — 2026
A Legacy in Every Step
A
LEGACY
IN EVERY
STEP
40
YEARS
1986
—
2026
Angkor Dance Troupe, Inc.
OCTOBER 17, 2026

Donate



WELCOME LETTER FROM
ANGKOR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, welcome to Angkor Dance Troupe's 40th Anniversary Gala.

Angkor Dance Troupe began in 1986 with an extraordinary act of cultural preservation. Tim Thou and a small group of Cambodian refugees and survivors who had learned traditional dance in refugee camps along the Thai Cambodian border came together in Lowell to practice, perform, teach, and pass on what they had learned. At a time when so many Cambodian artists and tradition-bearers had been lost, passing this knowledge to another generation was both an artistic mission and an act of resilience.

Forty years later, the impact of that commitment is remarkable. ADT has educated more than 7,000 students, presented more than 2,000 performances, reached more than 50,000 audience members, and employed 150 young people through YouthReach and CDBG programs. Generations of dancers have grown up in the Troupe, and many have gone on to become teachers, nurses, community organizers, civic leaders, and mentors. What began as an effort to preserve Cambodian dance has become something larger: a place where young people learn their history, take pride in their culture, develop confidence and discipline, and prepare to carry these traditions forward.

This anniversary also comes during a period of artistic and organizational growth. In recent years, ADT has brought Cambodian master musicians and dancers to new audiences, deepened partnerships across Lowell, and created ambitious new work. Our collaboration with Merrimack Repertory Theatre on A Khmer Swan Lake brought Cambodian and Western dance traditions together in an ambitious new work. Our expanded home at Western Avenue Studios will give us more space to teach, rehearse, create, and gather. With support from the Barr Foundation's Powering Cultural Futures initiative, we are also planning boldly for ADT's next chapter as a center for Cambodian performing arts, culture, and history.

Tonight, we celebrate forty years of artists and teachers, dancers and families, partners and supporters who have made this work possible. We honor the people who carried these traditions through extraordinary circumstances, built ADT in Lowell, and ensured that new generations could continue to learn, teach, perform, and create.

Most of all, we celebrate what they have made possible: a living tradition that continues to grow.

Thank you for being part of Angkor Dance Troupe's first forty years, and for helping us carry this extraordinary legacy into the next forty.

Sincerely,



BOARD PRESIDENT
SUE J. KIM



EXCUTIVE DIRECTOR
BORA CHIEMRUOM

PROGRAM

6:00pm — **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

7:00pm — **DINNER BUFFET**

7:30pm - 8:30pm — **OPENING VIDEO**

A look back at 40 years of Angkor Dance Troupe and the generations of artists, students, families, and community members who have shaped our journey.

WELCOMING REMARKS
Bora Chiemruom
Executive Director, Angkor Dance Troupe

A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT
Sue J. Kim
President, Angkor Dance Troupe Board of Directors

A KHMER SWAN LAKE PERFORMANCE
A special presentation celebrating the artistry, creativity, and continued evolution of Cambodian performing arts.

COMMUNITY AWARDS PRESENTATION
Presented by Board President and Executive Director

AUCTION WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

8:30pm - 11:00pm — **MUSIC & DANCING**
DJ SKY HIGH

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GALA EMCEES



PETER VETH

Peter Veth is a Lowell-based multidisciplinary performer, psychic medium, and principal dancer with Angkor Dance Troupe. Creative Director of A Khmer Swan Lake and Khmer Urban Ballet, bridging contemporary movement with cultural lineage.



SOPHAN SOK SMITH

Sophan Sok Smith is the Director of Development at La Vida Scholars, former Executive Director of EforAll Merrimack Valley, and a community advocate dedicated to uplifting underrepresented voices.

PROUD PRESENTING SPONSOR

GREATER LOWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

CONGRATULATIONS
ANGKOR DANCE TROUPE

ON

40 YEARS

OF CULTURE.
OF CONNECTION.
OF COMMUNITY.







Greater Lowell Community Foundation proudly celebrates Angkor Dance Troupe and four decades of preserving Cambodian performing arts, educating generations of young people, and strengthening connections across Greater Lowell.



GLCF | 100 Merrimack Street • Suite 202 • Lowell, MA 01852 | www.glcfoundation.org | 978-970-1600

CONGRATULATIONS
to Angkor Dance Troupe

40 YEARS OF IMPACT

A Legacy in Every Step

The Nancy L. and Richard K. Donahue Charitable Foundation proudly congratulates Angkor Dance Troupe on its 40th Anniversary and celebrates four decades of preserving Cambodian performing arts, educating the next generation, and fostering innovation for generations of artists, families, and communities.

Best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

The Nancy L. and Richard K. Donahue Charitable Foundation



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GALA SPONSORS & DONORS

Tevada Presenting Sponsors
($10,000)

Greater Lowell Community Foundation

The Nancy L. and Richard K. Donahue Charitable Foundation

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The Cambodian Progress Fund

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($5,000)

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Investing in the Future of Our Community

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we share a common thread

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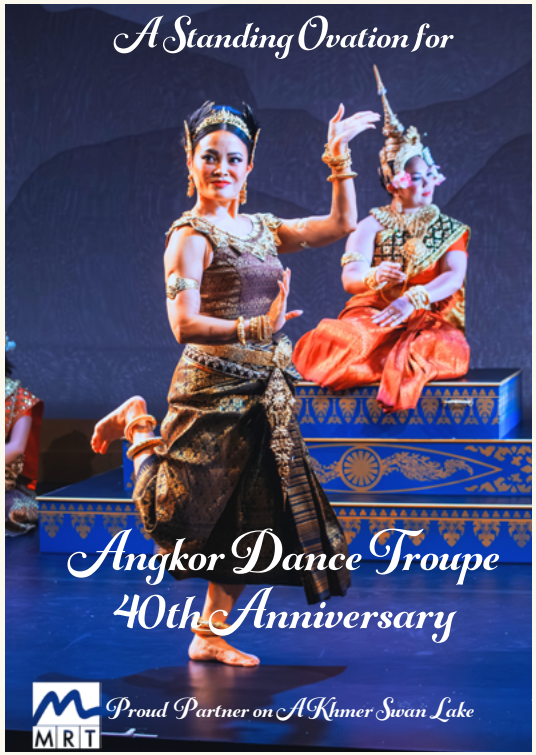
Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival

Middlesex Community College

Individual Donations

Sue Andrews Joan Chun Jim Higgins Hilary Binder

Barbara Dunsford Dorcas Grigg-Saito Jim Wilde



GOOD INSPIRES

Eastern Bank is committed to recognizing the good in our communities and celebrating the work of the
ANGKOR DANCE TROUPE

We proudly support the
40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

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Eastern Bank
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OUR STORY

Angkor Dance Troupe (ADT) was formed in 1986 by Cambodian refugees from the Khmer Rouge era. Lowell's Cambodian American community, estimated at more than 35,000 people, is the second largest in the country. When we resettled here, we brought a passion to carry on our cherished cultural traditions to practice and perform, to teach our children, and to see our art preserved for future generations of all cultures.

We take our name from the great Angkor civilization, between 802 and 1432 AD when Cambodia was a dominant empire in Southeast Asia. Dance and music have always been prominent in Khmer society, but these ancient traditions were nearly eliminated when the Khmer Rouge controlled Cambodia in the 1970s. Artists were among those deliberately targeted for execution. More than 90% of the country's tradition bearers perished. Today, as Cambodians around the world struggle to emerge from decades of war and poverty, our people look to the rebirth and recreation of dance as a testimony to the endurance of our culture.

As the heart of the Cambodian community, Angkor Dance Troupe is nationally recognized as one of the most accomplished and experienced U.S.-based Cambodian traditional arts organizations.

MILESTONES & RECOGNITION

- 1986 · Angkor Dance Troupe founded in Lowell
- 1999 · White House Performance
- 2001 · Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
- 2006 · Coming Up Taller Award
- 2012 · Apsara Dancing Stones
- 2014 · Performance for Governor Patrick
- 2015 · Reamker: The Balance of Good and Evil
- 2022 · Clark Art Institute Performance
- 2025 ·2nd Performance at Jacob's Pillow
- 2025 · Historic 6th Performance at Lowell Folk Festival
- 2026 · City of Lowell AAPI Heritage Month Citation
- 2026 · A Khmer Swan Lake with MRT



MISSION STATEMENT

Connecting communities through the preservation, education, and innovation of Cambodian performing arts.

VISION

Angkor Dance Troupe (ADT) is the premier resource in the country for Cambodian performing arts, culture, and history, grounded in strong organizational sustainability, driven by artistic innovation, and sustained through rigorous education and inter-generational leadership. Rooted in classical tradition and guided by disciplined innovation, ADT preserves and advances Cambodian dance, music, history, and the Khmer language while developing new works that reflect the evolving Cambodian diaspora. Through organizational resiliency, strengthened governance, financial resilience, vibrant artistic collaboration, and a clear next-generation pipeline from student to teacher and leader, ADT serves as a living bridge, honoring heritage, inspiring creativity, and ensuring cultural continuity for generations to come.

A KHMER SWAN LAKE

CREATED BY ANGKOR DANCE TROUPE

DANCERS

Madison Eng

Irene Nop

Victoria Ung

Kana Desens

Gima Mean

COSTUMERS

Sophea Nop

Channa Sath

Phousita Huy

Korry Voeun

Roza Lay

Theresa Tha



NEANG

The Neang role in Cambodian classical dance represents the graceful and refined female character. The costume for this role consists of the following key pieces:



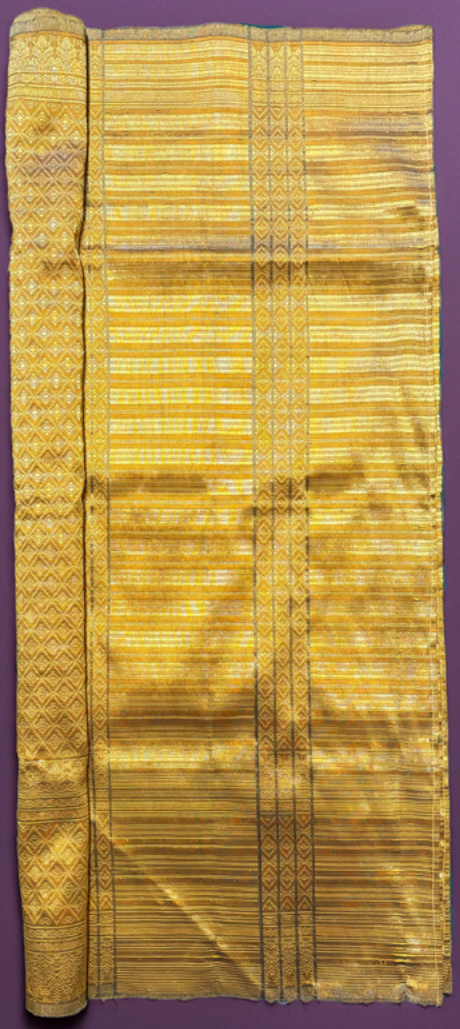
a.

a. Sorong-Or (Neckpiece): An ornate, gold-plated collar that elegantly frames the dancer's neck and shoulders.



b.

b. Aoy Cheang (Blouse/Shirt): A fitted, often complements the overall aesthetic of the costume



c.

c. Sampot Jor-la-bup (Skirt): A silk brocade, intricately pleated and draped, featuring delicate patterns that enhance the fluidity of movement.



d.

d. Sbai (Embroidered Scarf): A beautifully embroidered scarf draped over the upper body, symbolizing the scales of the Naga, a sacred serpent in Cambodian mythology.



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Curtis "Chad" Mai

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Lokru Kimhan Meas
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Curtis “Chad” Mai
Addyson Vicka McCallion
Kinara Yang
Sophia Yem

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF IMPACT

40th ANNIVERSARY

1986 — 2026

A Legacy in Every Step

40 YEARS OF IMPACT

A Legacy in Every Step

For forty years, every step has carried a story of resilience, cultural preservation, and community, Thank you for being part of our journey and helping ensure that Cambodian performing arts continue to thrive for generations to come.

Angkor Dance Troupe, Inc.

ក្រុមរាំអង្គរ

1986 — 2026

www.angkordance.org