
From: danielle vezina [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: September-02-19 5:04 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Emma Earle: Young Dancer invited to Join Elite Ballet Training at [REDACTED] Ballet School

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Dear Mr. Hurley,

I am writing to you (as I assume most people do) in hopes that you might be able to help me. I am [REDACTED] years old and I have lived my whole life in Burnaby. My whole life I have dreamed of being a professional ballet dancer. I have attended by audition all the top ballet school summer intensives in Canada (The National Ballet School Of Canada in Toronto, L'Ecole Superieure Du Ballet De Quebec, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and Finally [REDACTED] Ballet School). I have been offered full time placement at 3 of these schools. However I chose until now (largely for financial reasons) to stay in Burnaby.

In Burnaby I have completed grade 8 at [REDACTED], and grade 9 and 10 through the Burnaby On-Line Platform while dancing up to 35 hours a week in a half day program at Grand Ballet Vancouver. My current average at school is around 93%, with some of my grades being 95 or higher. I am a committed student, and have academic plans which include going to University- and pursuing a career as a forensic scientist or a coroner. But, these academic pursuits will wait until I have finished my dance career.

Dance training is strenuous, and it is for the young! It is not something that can be put off... sadly there are no professional training full time programs here in Vancouver which can satisfy both the artistic and academic needs of a Classical Ballet student such as myself.

I have accepted a placement at [REDACTED] Ballet School at a cost of 37.5 thousand dollars. This Tuition cost as well as residency does not qualify for RRSP funds. I have requested through both Gina Niccoli-Moen (Burnaby School Board Superintendent) as well as Russell Horswill (Treasure Burnaby School District) to have my BC Education Funding transferred to Alberta so as to help defray the cost of my education. They were both exceptionally supportive, however, they are unable to help because it has been legislated that students cannot have their BC Education Funding follow them outside of Province. I have contacted our MLA in hopes that she might be able change this policy.

I am asking for your help with this. I am by all means an exceptionally talented and 'bright' student. I have a dream, I am pursuing my dream to the fullest with my parents support. I fully believe that the community in which I have grown up would support my academic and artistic endeavours. There are no bursaries/grants/scholarships available to me other than applying for a BC Arts Council Bursary (which I will do this spring). However as a young dancer these bursaries put young students against practicing artists, leaving a very real gap for young dancers in training.

Currently, as the second of three children in my family pursuing my dream will result in my family having to make some very hard financial adjustments [REDACTED]. This past year my dance training cost in excess of \$20,000 dollars. My oldest sister (age [REDACTED]) will be attending University Next September is a Canadian Champion Rock Climber, who competes on the World Cup Circuit. My parents fund her dreams as well.... My youngest sister is in elementary school and is extremely fun and exceptionally bright [REDACTED] my mother works part time [REDACTED]. My dad works full time and he works hard. I am grateful to have parents who are willing to support me and my sisters. They have done this in the belief that education and experiences are worth more than a big beautiful house and stuff. I would very much like to be able to get a Scholarship or a Grant through BC if there were any to be had. I have searched for ones to apply for and haven't found any. I am wondering if you might know of any Burnaby Community initiatives to help

Note: Staff notified the writer that the request does not meet the Community Granting Policy criteria.

young developing artists/dancers, which I might be able to approach. I believe that BC should be supporting its best talent and brightest students in their quest for excellence.

I am hoping that for myself and other young dancers who take the exceptional step to move away from home and train professionally outside of the province that you might be supportive in helping me find a way to make this financially viable.

I also understand excellence, commitment, community and action. I truly hope that you may be a person of action and that you may find a way to help me find either access to funds, or at least start the conversation in Burnaby of how best to support its young dance artists. Perhaps it is time to start thinking of a Burnaby Scholarship or Grant process for exceptional Elite education opportunities.

Most kindly, Emma Earle