

“Every successful individual knows that his or her achievement depends on a community of persons working together.” Paul Ryan knows a lot about community, as his quote shows. He’s the leader of one of the most powerful communities in our government and knows how important it is for everybody to work together to accomplish the bigger picture, much like a mosaic. Though we don’t often realize it, a community and a mosaic are very similar and are needed for successful choreography.

A community is a collection of different, individual people gathered together to form a whole, like a neighborhood, church, or school. The performing arts world is also a community because so many people know each other and come together while creating their art forms, just like our dance class. Every morning, a group of eleven to nineteen of us come together from totally different walks of life to form our relatively new community. Part of being in this new “AM Dance” community is the relationships we have formed with each other. Personally, when I walked into this room in September, I was timid and quiet because I didn’t know or fully trust anyone in that room yet. As our community has strengthened though, I have formed close bonds with the other dancers and our togetherness while dancing has improved.

Our relationships from our community help us form our mosaic. A mosaic is like a community, but with tiles instead of people. It is an image formed from many different, individual tiles. Some tiles are chipped; and all are sized differently with different shapes and colors too. Just like those tiles, every dancer in our class is a different size, shape, and color with our own individual flaws, but when we dance together, we form an image. For those 3 or so minutes that we are on stage, we are not seen as separate pieces, but as a singular unit. If there is a soloist, he/she is still perfectly blended into the picture. We depend on each other to create the final result. When we get on the stage in May to display our mosaic, we trust that we all know our part and how it fits in our mosaic because every single person is necessary for the final product.

These concepts of forming a community and becoming a mosaic are crucial for a good performance. They go hand-in-hand with each other. A choreographer cannot expect to have a beautiful final picture if his/her dancers don’t feel like they are a community yet. You need to trust and the experience of dancing with each other in

order for every dance/"tile" to work in it's place because the success of the piece depends on the community of people working together and the mosaic result.