

Prior to 2000, Debbie Lumpkins had two resumes – one for advertising/marketing/publishing and the other for dancer/choreographer. By day, she worked in a Fortune 500 company, and at night, she was rehearsing or performing in a musical. When she joined the High Point Arts Council, however, her experience in business and the performing arts came together in one fulfilling position.

Debbie was attracted to the Arts Council because of its emphasis on arts education and community outreach programs. To complement the programs already in place, she implemented the John Coltrane Jazz Workshop for youth 20 years ago and introduced the free summer concert series, Arts Splash, in 2002. Since then, several other arts and entertainment programs have been initiated for growing the arts in High Point.

As Executive Director of the High Point Arts Council and the Centennial Station Arts Center, an arts administrator has to be a well-rounded person and able to work with artists (musicians, dancers, and actors) and also balance a budget at the same time. Her business acumen earned her the Chamber of Commerce's Business Woman of the Year award and she has received a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club of High Point for her role in securing a facility for the Arts Center.

She has also served on the board of Arts North Carolina, the board of Kiwanis Club of High Point, and the Town & Gown Committee for High Point University. Her energy and passion for the arts is apparent in all that she does as she strives to make High Point a better place to live, work, play, AND create!

"It has been over 20 years since I have performed in front of an audience, but I said yes to participating in this year's Dancing with the High Point Stars because I believe in Communities In Schools' mission. The Arts Council has supported CIS through its Community Arts Projects grants over the years and now I have the opportunity to personally support CIS with this fund-raising event!"