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**NUDM, Evanston Community Foundation receive Catalyst Award at
8th annual Evanston MashUp**



Jeffrey Wang/Daily Senior Staffer

Students dance at the 2017 Dance Marathon. Evanston MashUp awarded NUDM and Evanston Community Foundation on Tuesday, citing the organizations’ community partnership.

[Elizabeth Byrne](#), Assistant Campus Editor
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Northwestern University Dance Marathon and the Evanston Community Foundation received awards at the eighth annual Evanston MashUp on Tuesday.

The organizations received the Evanston/Northwestern Catalyst Award, an annual award given to recognize people and organizations with committed partnerships between NU and the city.

Evanston MashUp launched eight years ago to help improve relations between the Evanston and NU communities. Each year, the event brings members of both communities under one tent behind Norris University Center, not unlike that set up each winter for NUDM.

NUDM executive co-chair Daniel Nussbaum, a Weinberg senior, accepted the award. He said receiving it was an honor for the organization.

“(This award) represents the hard work of those who came before us and what they put into fostering a positive relationship with the Evanston community and giving back to the community that we call home,” he said.

NUDM has partnered with ECF for more than 20 years and gives 10 percent of its proceeds to the foundation each year. In March, NUDM donated more than \$109,000 to the foundation — the largest donation NUDM has made to ECF.

MashUp co-chair Jay Ryan, who organized and emceed Tuesday’s event, said this year’s MashUp was the most well-attended with more than 700 people.

“The MashUp has a lot to do with just bringing the community together,” Ryan said. ”That’s really the key. There’s a lot of people who live in Evanston, that don’t know about what goes on at Northwestern and vice versa.”

Amy Monday, ECF’s development officer, was also on stage with Nussbaum to accept the award. She said the partnership with NUDM has been instrumental to the foundation’s success.

“It feels fantastic to receive this award because we’re partnered with such a productive organization,” Monday said. “It’s amazing that students are so interested and involved with a town they only live in for four years.”

In May, NUDM announced ECF will again serve as its secondary beneficiary.

Nussbaum said he is excited about the future partnership of NUDM and ECF. He added that he hopes to increase NUDM’s involvement in the Evanston community.

“NUDM could not be where it is today without the support of the Evanston and Northwestern communities,” Nussbaum said. “NUDM is really representative of what the MashUp and the Evanston community is all about.”

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