



Colorado Ballet

IMPACT REPORT

Reporting on the 2023/2024 Season



To Our Dearest Supporters,

On behalf of Colorado Ballet, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support during the 2023/2024 season. Your gift has played a crucial role in making this season a tremendous success.

Thanks to your commitment and generosity, we have been able to bring world-class performances to our community, inspire countless individuals through our outreach programs, and nurture the next generation of dancers through our academy. Your support helps us continue to elevate the art of ballet and share the beauty and joy it brings with audiences of all ages.

We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved this season, and it would not have been possible without you. Your dedication to the arts and belief in our mission is truly inspiring.

Once again, thank you for being a vital part of the Colorado Ballet family. We look forward to your continued support and to sharing many more beautiful moments with you in the seasons to come.

With heartfelt appreciation,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gil Boggs".

Gil Boggs,
Artistic Director



A stylized handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SA".

Sameed Afghani,
Executive Director

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Philanthropic Highlights

\$3,954,269
raised from
3,067 donors

178
Colorado Gives
Day donations

Donors from
44 states &
5 countries

1,458
new donors

\$30,000
from round-up gifts
received when patrons
purchased tickets
& classes

"To express the range and depth of human emotion and experience, poets search for the perfect words and turns of phrase; composers craft with sound and silence; while painters reach for a brush and palette. Dancers use our very selves to convey the raw and real physicality of human experience, melding emotion, intellect, and athleticism."

- Lorraine Pollard, Friend of Colorado Ballet

Professional Company

36

company members

22

studio company members

57

public performances

27

swans in *Swan Lake*

45

Academy students performed in professional productions outside of *The Nutcracker*

9

choir groups performed during the snow scene in *The Nutcracker*

2

guest musicians featured (Kip Jones & David Korevaar)



THREE VIEWS OF A MOUNTAIN

Thanks to the generous underwriting by Mary Ellen and David Wright, Colorado Ballet presented the world premiere of *Three Views of a Mountain*. Created by former New York City Ballet principal dancer Lauren Lovette, the ballet was inspired by and built on the intricate score composed by Kip Jones, who also performed the violin solo with the Colorado Ballet Orchestra. Set against a stunning backdrop hand painted by Libby Stadstad, this ballet voyaged through three movements, each representative of a different perspective of a mountain, reflecting one's state of mind along their journey.

The Climb with its ambition, struggle and aerobic energy, featured two dancers as they sought to find one another within their own life adventures...constantly meeting and separating and tied to the notion that they must stay true to their own path.

The Clearing was a world of steadfast peace where one had a sense of place in a much greater existence, and the dancers held one another alongside the magnitude of a larger-than-life view of the world.

The third movement titled **The Descent** represented the speed, delirium, and downright silly motivation that befalls us when we have gravity at our back.

"We are thrilled to support the creation of this new ballet, as it represents a harmonious blend of innovation and tradition. By underwriting this production, we hope to inspire future generations of dancers and audiences alike, fostering a deeper appreciation for the transformative power of the arts."

- Mary Ellen and
David Wright

Education & Community Engagement

The Education & Community Engagement department offers programs to students least likely to access dance independently and for whom it could have the greatest impact. The department reaches over 50,000 students and educators nationally and 200 schools and organizations locally each year. Programs include after school dance education, Sensory Friendly performances, school assembly programs and Student Matinee performances.



3,000 individuals participated in **WORKSHOPS**



55% of Colorado **COUNTIES** reached



35,000 people reached through **STUDENT MATINEE LIVE STREAMS**



4,700+ students experienced the in-school assembly program **FROM THE PAGE TO THE STAGE**

Student Matinees

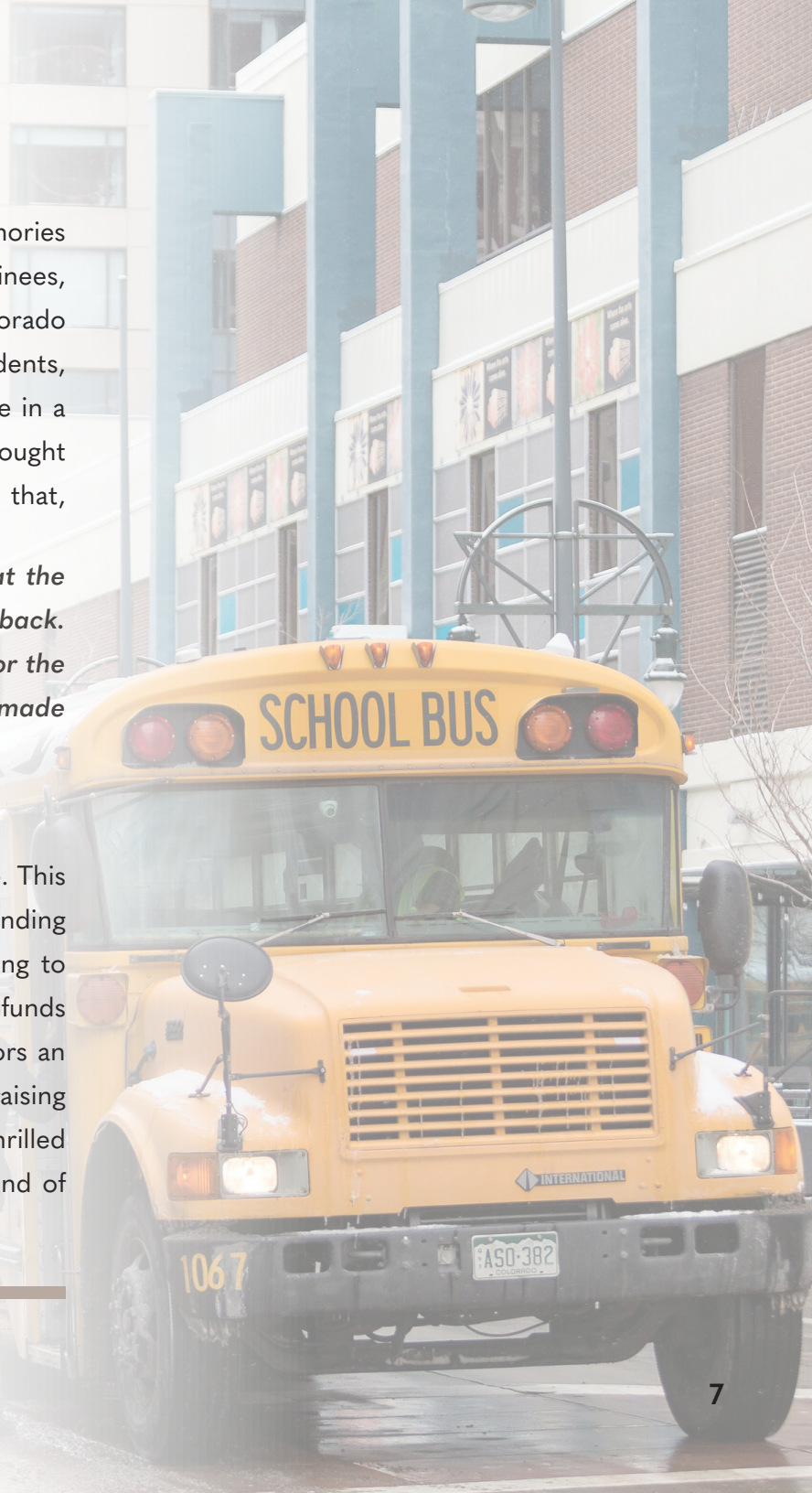


Every season, Colorado Ballet creates lasting memories for thousands of children through Student Matinees, which offer kids the experience of seeing the Colorado Ballet Company live at the Ellie. For many students, this is their first time seeing a ballet performance in a theatre. One teacher from North Denver, who brought her class to a matinee of *Jekyll & Hyde* shared that,

“At first, my students were scared to attend and felt like they didn’t belong at the ballet. In the end, they absolutely loved it and have been asking when we can go back. My students learned a lot about ballet and began developing an appreciation for the arts. They also loved the video that showed the diversity of the company; it made them feel better about entering a space that they didn’t think was for them.”

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

When school buses aren’t available, chartering a private bus is the only alternative. This is an expense that many schools can’t afford, ultimately preventing them from attending Student Matinees. For the March production of *Coppélia*, three schools planning to bring 260 students to the performance had to cancel because they did not have funds for buses. Recognizing this as a barrier to the arts, Colorado Ballet offered donors an opportunity to make a difference. At *The One Gala*, Colorado Ballet’s annual fundraising event, guests could “buy a bus” for \$1,000 through the Wish Tree. Donors were thrilled to support this initiative, and all 10 wishes to buy a bus were sold, creating a fund of \$10,000 to cover the expense for schools in need.



Colorado Ballet Academy

Colorado Ballet Academy students receive professional, classical ballet training and mentorship that extends beyond the dance studio. The Academy and its outstanding faculty shape students into well-rounded, dynamic dancers by empowering them to freely and creatively express themselves while cultivating their technique and musicality.

“It is the greatest reward to work with young students, spending thousands of hours in the studio learning, striving, and perfecting, and then to witness them blossom into beautiful, professional dancers performing right here with our own Colorado Ballet!”

- Erica Fischbach,
Academy Director



ACADEMY TO COMPANY

Sarah Martin

STUDIO COMPANY

Academy student from 2011 to 2023



Alexandra Wilson

SOLOIST

Academy student from 2008-2011

Summer Intensive student from 2008-2016

Youth America Grand Prix

Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is an international youth ballet and contemporary dance competition that engages more than 10,000 students every year. Through YAGP, students have the unique opportunity to be seen, taught, and professionally guided by the world's foremost companies and schools. Thanks to generous Colorado Ballet donor support, scholarships were awarded to several students to ensure they could be part of this life-changing experience in New York City.

DENVER YAGP REGIONAL

80 CBA students performed

Colorado Ballet Academy was
awarded Outstanding School

NEW YORK CITY YAGP FINALS

67 CBA students performed

3rd place win for *Salute to Sousa*
out of 150 ensembles

1 soloist made it to the Junior Final Round
for the first time in CBA history

4 CBA students participated in *Grand de File*, an
ensemble made up of 400 YAGP finalist students
from around the world and performed at YAGP galas



PREMIER SOCIETY

Colorado Ballet's Premier Society honors donors who generously contribute annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, fueling our artistic and educational endeavors. Premier Society members gain unparalleled access and exclusive opportunities to immerse themselves in the heart of our company's initiatives.

This season, Premier Society members were treated to special opening night receptions, intimate rehearsal viewings, and unique chances to mingle with artistic staff and Company dancers.

300+
active members

**OVER \$1.7
MILLION**

donated by Premier Society members

5

new opportunities to engage
with fellow ballet supporters



Benefit Highlights



FAMILY EVENT

"Meeting the characters and learning some of the steps made the ballet even more exciting to watch."

- Iris, age 9



BACKSTAGE TOUR

"My daughter and I enjoyed the tour so much, she was thrilled to be able to stand on the stage. It was wonderful to see the sets up close."

- Kelly Meyer, Premier Society member



ETOILE DINNER

"The Etoile Circle Dinner was a beautiful night. It took place onstage, and you can't beat that experience! Events like these give me opportunities to meet new people in the organization or other patrons."

- Doug Richards, Colorado Ballet Trustee and Premier Society member

FRIENDS OF COLORADO BALLET

Launched in 2022, Friends of Colorado Ballet celebrates donors who contribute annual gifts up to \$999. These valued members enjoy exclusive perks that elevate their ballet experience, including special invitations to interact with all aspects of our mission.

2,800+ active members

114 Sustaining Friends (\$500 to \$999)
147 Contributing Friends (\$250 to \$499)
369 Supporting Friends (\$100 to \$249)
2,200+ Friends (\$.01 to \$99)

\$40K+

was contributed from donors
who gave \$.01 to \$99
Every Dollar Counts!

55

attendees at 3
Pre-Performance Talks





Member Highlights

DONOR E-NEWSLETTER

"I love getting these informative messages! Thank you for communicating and reinforcing the value of donations to your organization. I am proud to be a Colorado Ballet supporter, however modest my contribution."

- Jane Thompson, Friend of Colorado Ballet

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALKS

"The pre-performance talk always adds extra dimension to our enjoyment of the ballet. We learn more each time which builds our overall knowledge!"

- John Donohoe, Friend of Colorado Ballet

WORLD-CLASS PRODUCTIONS

"It is an honor to live in a state with a world-class ballet. Every performance seems better than the previous one, we are mesmerized with the costumes and athleticism."

- Margaret & Peter Dzwilewsk,
Friend of Colorado Ballet



Colorado Ballet Auxiliary

Founded in 1986, the Colorado Ballet Auxiliary is proud to support one of the nation's leading dance companies. Their aim is to support Colorado Ballet by cultivating future audiences and fostering a deep appreciation for the artistry of ballet. Through dynamic programs, engaging social activities, dedicated volunteers, and fundraising, the Auxiliary is committed to enriching our community through the transformative power of dance.

The Auxiliary's most recognized offering is the Colorado Ballet Auxiliary Sugarplum Program—a beloved tradition for over 30 years. During their first year, Sugarplums are presented on-stage at opening night of *The Nutcracker*. During their second year, Sugarplum Alums are invited to join the artists of Colorado Ballet on-stage during *The Nutcracker* party scene.

130+

active Auxiliary members

22

events hosted by
the Auxiliary

37

2023-2024 Sugarplums
presented on-stage

26

Sugarplum Alums performed
in 11 performances of
The Nutcracker



Community Partnerships

Colorado Ballet is committed to the belief, practice, and execution of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. By working internally and externally to listen to and uplift diverse voices, perspectives, artists, and communities, we strengthen our mission and vision while continuing to build an organization where everyone belongs.

One way Colorado Ballet is working to bring ballet to a wider community is through its partnership with ArtistiCO. A neighbor in the Art District on Santa Fe, ArtistiCO is committed to uplifting, promoting and educating the Latinx culture through artistry and dance. The partnership between Colorado Ballet and ArtistiCO has been both strategic and natural, and rooted in mutual trust, shared goals, collaboration, and a desire to best serve the dance community. In October 2023, 50 students from ArtistiCO attended a performance of *Swan Lake*, observed company class before the performance, and had the opportunity to engage in a discussion with Colorado Ballet Artistic Director, Gil Boggs and Principal Dancer, Jonnathan Ramirez. Additionally, ArtistiCO held their annual recital at Colorado Ballet's Black Box Theater.

There are plans for this relationship to develop into a formalized program that will help create and expand a pipeline of talent from a community that has been historically underrepresented in ballet in the coming seasons.



We are grateful for the support of the following partners.



AVENIR
ENDOWMENT FUND



THE SHUBERT
FOUNDATION INC.



THE ANSCHUTZ FOUNDATION





THE
One
 GALA

Tables & Tickets
 \$300,550

Live Auction
 \$40,417

Wish Tree
 \$279,556

Total
 \$620,523

19% increase from FY23 Gala!

NEW DONORS

53


donors made their first
 gift to Colorado Ballet
 during the gala

30

donors made their
 first donation through the
 Wish Tree or Live Auction

23

donors made their first
 donation through the
 purchase of a ticket or table



WISH TREE

Area of Greatest Need - \$167,962

Dancer Wellness - \$10,500

Academy Scholarships - \$3,295

2024-2025 Sponsorships - \$60,000

Student Matinee Transportation - \$10,036

Education & Community Engagement - \$27,763

The One Gala once again featured the spectacular Colorado Ballet Wish Tree in the theater foyer, custom designed and created by Handsome Little Devils to artfully display our donors' generosity.



Financial Overview

REVENUE

Tickets	\$6,697,254
Colorado Ballet Academy	\$2,664,037
Donations	\$2,398,296
Education & Community	
Engagement	\$315,012
SCFD	\$1,608,055
Boutique & Other	\$475,415
Interests & Investments	\$815,183

TOTAL REVENUE
\$14,973,252

EXPENSES

Production	\$7,529,510
Marketing & Patron Services	\$1,744,851
Colorado Ballet Academy	\$1,701,714
Administrative	\$1,192,891
Advancement	\$1,140,480
Education & Community	
Engagement	\$537,293
Building	\$636,486

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$14,483,225

Board of Trustees & Advancement Team



2023-2024 Trustees

Board Co-Chairs

Brent L. Backes
Michelle Moorman-Applegate

Executive Committee

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Sandy Elliott*
Don Kortz*
Henny Lasley
David Ramsay
Jim Ruh
Lisa Snider
Harry M. Sterling*

Lifetime Trustees

Raydean Acevedo
Duke Hartman
Dick Saunders

**Deceased*

Advancement Team

Chief Advancement Officer
Karen Sumner

Development Services Manager
Sophia Koop

Assistant Director of Institutional Giving
Marlene Vilorio

Manager of Events & Individual Giving
Andy Cota

Administrative Assistant
Madeline Ryner



MISSION STATEMENT

Colorado Ballet's mission is to present exceptional classical ballet and contemporary dance through performances, training, education and community engagement while inspiring and growing an increasingly diverse audience base.