



COLORADO BALLET

IMPACT

2024/2025 Season



REPORT

To our community of supporters,

Colorado Ballet reached new heights during the 2024/2025 season, and you played a vital role in everything we accomplished. We are immensely grateful for you and your support which sustains our work—thank you.

The past season was marked by growth. We expanded the ranks of our Professional Company and performed new, challenging works. Our Education and Community Engagement programs reached tens of thousands of individuals across our community, fostering the next generation of dance lovers. We increased our endowment, strengthening our resilience and capacity for new artistic initiatives. Our accomplishments in the 2024/2025 season reflect over six decades of dedication and set the stage for major growth in coming seasons. There are big things to come.

Your generosity is vital to everything we do. It is manifested in every Ellie performance, school program and Academy class. Thank you for making our work possible!



Geoff Long,
Board of Trustees, Co-Chair



Michelle Moorman-Applegate,
Board of Trustees, Co-Chair



Sameed Afghani,
Executive Director



Gil Boggs,
Artistic Director

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Your Impact

2,879
devoted supporters
gave over
\$6.6 million

Over **1,500** new
patrons joined
our loyal base
of donors

We increased
our Professional
Company to a
historic **40** dancers

1,527 Subscribers
enjoyed our **57**
2024/2025 Season
performances

Special
performances at
Vail Dance Festival
and **Green Box**
Arts Festival

6,200 students
experienced **6**
Student Matinee
performances

Stunning live music
brought to the
Ellie by **60** Colorado
Ballet Orchestra
members

Colorado Ballet
Academy welcomed
275 Summer Intensive
students from
across the globe

Professional Company

STRONGER EVERY SEASON

A dancer's artistry is only as strong as their physical and mental health. Thanks to donor support, **Colorado Ballet's Dancer Wellness Program** provided essential care and resources that kept Company Dancers healthy and ready to perform at their best.

"This season, I broke my fifth metatarsal on my left foot during a stage run of *Sleeping Beauty*. My biggest concern when I first got injured was having a long recovery. I thought everything was going to feel different, and that I was going to be afraid to jump on the foot. I came back in about five weeks, and that was due to our health and wellness team. They helped me rebuild my strength in those muscles so that when I came back, I was just as strong as I was before and prepared to go into *Nutcracker* season." -Christopher Mitchell, Corps de Ballet Dancer



Colorado Ballet dancers and artistic staff celebrate and gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the Founding Sponsor of the the Dancer Wellness Program, Lynnette Morrison (pictured at a dancer wellness meal with Executive Director, Sameed Afghani and Principal Dancer, Mario Labrador.)

Colorado Ballet welcomed FIVE NEW DANCERS to the Professional Company for the 2024/25 season.



Wyatt Mier, Apprentice
Hometown: Tokyo, Japan
Wyatt trained in American Ballet Theatre's summer programs and competed in the Youth American Grand Prix.



Lily Hagan, Apprentice
Hometown: Wyckoff, New Jersey
Lily trained under former Kirov Ballet Artistic Director, Oleg Vinogradov for the International Youth Ballet Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia.



Justin Pidgeon, Apprentice
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Justin had the opportunity to perform in Boston Ballet II's "Rising Stars" and "Next Generation", performances that showcase the future of ballet.



Santiago Paniagua, Corps de Ballet
Hometown: Boston, Massachusetts
Santiago began his dance training through one of Boston Ballet's outreach programs called 'Citydance' which visited third grade public school classrooms and recruited students to their program.



Chloe Kinzler, Apprentice
Hometown: Los Angeles, California
Chloe has attended several summer intensives in The School of American Ballet, Joffrey Ballet Chicago, Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet School, and Ballet West.

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 67,000 students and educators and 3,000 schools and organizations each year, nationwide. Programs include after school dance education, Sensory Friendly performances, school assembly programs and student matinee performances.



DIGITAL BROADCASTS

Digital Broadcasts bring the magic of Colorado Ballet beyond the Ellie—at no cost to viewers. From classrooms to community centers to living rooms, audiences enjoy live hosts, dancer interviews, behind-the-scenes access, and even an intermission lesson on ballet pantomime.

Each broadcast is paired with an educator guide full of activities and learning tools. Schools can also book movement workshops, ensuring students experience the joy of dance—especially important where arts access is limited.

Next steps include Spanish translations, American Sign Language, and an archival library, giving more people more ways to experience ballet.



Emily Herrin, Director of Education & Community Engagement, interviews Soloist Ariel McCarty, about the anatomy of a pointe shoe during a Digital Broadcast

BALLET WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

Connecting thousands of people nationwide to the excitement of Colorado Ballet.

Since 2015, EON247 and Truce Media have made Digital Broadcasts possible for communities across Colorado and beyond. Their efficient process—finished in less than a day—costs only a fraction of typical broadcasts, while they also cover rights and fees that often limit nonprofits. Thanks to EON247, Truce Media, and Rick Romano's generosity, schools and community groups enjoy professional ballet at no cost, year after year.

"Thank you for these opportunities to share this artform with my students that would otherwise have no access to this wonderful gift!
– High School Teacher, Colorado

"Really looking forward to this. Professional Ballet is at least a 6-hour drive from our home."
– Homeschool Family, Michigan

Viewership for Digital Broadcasts increased by **56%**, reaching a record-breaking **54,444** viewers

ALICE (in wonderland) reached **18,500** viewers in **ALL 50** states

"Thanks for the extended viewing! I'm so excited to get to share the **WHOLE** experience with my music students! In previous years they would only get to see about half of the performances. Now I can make sure they see/hear it all!"
-Elementary School, Wyoming (over 300 student viewers)

Colorado Ballet Academy

The Raydean Acevedo Colorado Ballet Academy is Denver's premier institute for classical ballet and the official school of Colorado Ballet. Students study alongside our prestigious faculty and Company dancers, focusing on clarity in classical technique, musicality, and dynamic and honest artistry. The Academy welcomes students from all backgrounds, and donor-supported scholarships help ensure every student can learn, dance, and grow into the artist they're meant to be.



SWAN LAKE

Every season Colorado Ballet Academy showcases our students' immense talent and hard work with a spring production at The Ellie. In 2025, we staged an ambitious production of *Swan Lake* to our largest audience yet.

2 Performances

2,581 Tickets Sold

250 Dancers

349 Costumes

73 Parent Volunteers





Company to Staff **SEAN OMANDAM**

Following a 20-year career as a dancer with Colorado Ballet, demi soloist Sean Omandam took his final bow on stage in April 2025. Fortunately, Sean will continue his work with Colorado Ballet Academy as the Director of Summer Programs and Academy Operations Assistant. We are so grateful to have Sean lend his experience and insights to the development of the next generation of dancers in Colorado.

Dancers Promoted from Academy

Colorado Ballet Academy is a wellspring for emerging new talent and a vital source of dancers for our professional company. At the conclusion of the 2024/25 season, five exceptional Academy dancers were invited to join our Studio Company.

LYDIA SALAZAR

Hometown: El Paso, TX

Years at Colorado Ballet Academy: 1

Notable 2024/25 Roles: Odette in *Swan Lake*

DAELEN MAROTT

Hometown: Vail, CO

Years at Colorado Ballet Academy: 1

Notable 2024/25 Roles: Little Swan & Pas de Trois
in *Swan Lake*; Snow Scene in *The Nutcracker*

NICOLAS HALSTEAD

Hometown: Napa, CA

Years at Colorado Ballet Academy: 3

Notable 2024/25 Roles: Mouse & Arabian
Attendant in *The Nutcracker*

ANNALISE PALMIERI

Hometown: Highlands Ranch, CO

Years at Colorado Ballet Academy: 6

Notable 2024/25 Roles: Odette in *Swan Lake*; Snow
Scene in *The Nutcracker*; Peasant in *Sleeping Beauty*

MADELYN LEHRNMAN

Hometown: Fort Collins, CO

Years at Colorado Ballet Academy: 7

Notable 2024/25 Roles: Odile in *Swan Lake*; Snow
Scene in *The Nutcracker*; Peasant in *Sleeping Beauty*

Premier Society

Colorado Ballet Premier Society members support our mission with gifts of \$1,500 or more. Members engage deeply in the programs they support through Society benefits like amazing events, special performances, dance focused travel, and behind the scenes tours.

The 2024/25 Season featured a diverse array of engagement opportunities including studio and dress rehearsals, a *Nutcracker* backstage tour, an exclusive Colorado Ballet Academy performance, and opening night parties.

Our 333 Premier Society members contributed over \$1.9 million and had the opportunity to attend 24 exclusive events.

Theresa & Norman PARKER



How long have you been a donor with Colorado Ballet?

Since 2017. We started small, rounding up on season tickets.

Why do you support Colorado Ballet?

At first, we donated out of an obligation to “give back”—something our parents instilled in both of us. Over the years, we’ve increased our donations. The more we gave, the more engaged we felt—and the more we felt a part of the organization.

Do you have a favorite donor event and why?

The Dress Rehearsal evenings are wonderful. It’s an opportunity to see the ballet from a different perspective. We also have a chance to connect with other donors; catch up with friends, and make new ones. A close second is the tour of “Tutu Alley”—we’ve learned so much about behind-the-scenes activities.

What keeps you coming back to the Ballet?

Over 8+ years, we have been so warmly welcomed by the community. It’s a true delight to get to know everyone and go where ‘everyone knows your name.’ At the core of it all is the incredible artform that is ballet. The performances are spectacular! The dancers are so graceful and move brilliantly to the professionally executed music. Recent non-traditional performances like *Casanova*, *Jekyll & Hyde* and *Dracula* are so incredibly powerful they made us want to see more! This year, we bought season tickets for two different nights!

Friends of Colorado Ballet

Friends of Colorado Ballet celebrates donors who contribute annual gifts up to \$1,499. We are proud to spotlight three extraordinary donors who have contributed to Colorado Ballet at this level for 20 years or more. We are amazed and grateful for their longtime commitment to the Ballet!

HONORING DECADES OF SUPPORTING DANCE



DEBORAH HAYES

Audience Member Since: 1987
Donor Since: 2001

"I choose to give to Colorado Ballet because the dancers are extremely talented, the sets and costumes are gorgeous, and the orchestra is world-class."

"My children and grandchildren have seen *The Nutcracker* every year since their births!"



REBECCA GIVENS

Audience Member Since: 1990's
Donor Since: 2003

"I started donating to the ballet when they were experiencing financial challenges in the 1990s and had to make the difficult decision to pivot from live to recorded music. I felt strongly that the beauty and emotion of the ballet experienced is so enhanced by the synergies of live music that I felt moved to contribute. To this day it warms my heart when I hear those first notes from the orchestra!"

"I treasure the family tradition of *The Nutcracker* which I now get to share with my grandchildren!"



MICHAEL BREED & CHERYL RISTIG

Audience Member Since: Early 2000's
Donor Since: 2001

"We choose to support Colorado Ballet because we want to support the dancers. We feel that our contributions help, in a small way, to provide financial support and benefits like health insurance that is merited by the hard work and dedication of the performers."

"*Bolero* in 2024 was a real standout, but classics such as *Swan Lake* also have lots of appeal to us. Basically, we go to each performance with open minds and look to enjoy, be challenged, and to come away uplifted."



AVENIR
ENDOWMENT FUND



Community Partners

Community Partners are vital to Colorado Ballet's work, as they provide consistent corporate, foundation, and government support that helps us offer accessible performances, educational programs, and initiatives that reach diverse audiences and foster a love for the arts. Thank you to the businesses, foundations, and institutions who invest in our mission and allow us to serve over 100,000 people every year. **Together, we inspire, delight, and create memories that last a lifetime!**



*We are grateful for all our Community Partners. Donor logos highlight Community Partners supporting at \$30,000 and above.

Lily Bines by Andrew Fassbender

Leadership Council

In the 2024/2025 Season, Colorado Ballet launched the Leadership Council, a group of dedicated professionals helping to elevate awareness of Colorado Ballet's work while increasing its engagement with the community. This dynamic group of ambassadors brings together ideas that span multiple industries, leading us to new perspectives on how to serve and connect with our audiences. We are grateful to all members of the Leadership Council for offering their skills, expertise, ideas and passion to Colorado Ballet.



Christopher Hayes, Chevron

Why did you join Leadership Council?

I joined the Leadership Council because I believe that artistic pursuits like ballet and modern dance are powerful forms of storytelling that deserve support. I have a background in competitive figure skating and the opportunity to join the Council was important to me because I feel that ballet, like skating, transcends cultural and social boundaries.

Did Leadership Council make you feel closer to your community? If so, how?

The Leadership Council absolutely made me feel closer to my community! Not only was I fortunate to engage with the incredibly dedicated staff of the Colorado Ballet, I also connected with fellow members of the Council. As a recent transplant to Denver, it was a fantastic way to meet other people who share my enthusiasm for the arts.

What was your favorite memory from last season?

My favorite moment from the past season was the opportunity to attend rehearsal for *ALICE (in Wonderland)*. I was amazed by the physicality of the performances and the intensity of the dancers while they worked. That experience heightened my appreciation for the performances when I saw them on stage.



Sarah Liao, VF Corporation

Why did you join Leadership Council?

The decision to join was prompted by my desire to learn more about Colorado Ballet (CB) and its presence in Denver's arts and culture scene, and to participate in its community engagement... Having lived in Denver for 7 years, I've formed my own small communities within my interests and hobbies; joining the Leadership Council was a great way to expand my network while enhancing CB's community relationships and impact.

Did Leadership Council make you feel closer to your community? If so, how?

Absolutely! I wasn't a part of the arts scene before joining the Leadership Council. Through our internal meetings and various CB events, I expanded my knowledge and network. Now, I will happily talk to anyone about Colorado Ballet (especially those in my social circles who have not heard of CB before!) Speaking to patrons of CB and getting to know the CB staff has allowed me to see both the reach and potential CB has, which has made me excited to get more involved.

What was your favorite memory from last season?

I brought a close friend to the *ALICE (in Wonderland)* dress rehearsal. He had never been to a ballet performance and loved the experience. We geeked out on some of the "behind the scenes" logistics like the pit orchestra (which we both did in high school). Dress rehearsals are a great entry-point for first-time ballet attendees and I am excited to invite more friends to these events.

2024-2025 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Virginia Barrow, Bank of America

Sharon Black, Robert Half

Christopher Hayes, Chevron

Betsy Leonhardt, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver

Sarah Liao, VF Corporation

Joseph Schuster, Ballard Spahr

Marcia Romero, US Bank

FANCY FOOTWORK

COLORADO BALLET AUXILIARY
join the *dance*

Dancers in Motion, Futures in Focus

In April, Colorado Ballet dancers took the lead—both on stage and behind the scenes—to present Fancy Footwork, a dancer-produced and choreographed performance. All proceeds went towards the Next Step Fund, a grant created to financially support and facilitate career transitions for Colorado Ballet company dancers.

This special weekend was made possible thanks to the incredible support of the Colorado Ballet Auxiliary—Colorado Ballet’s dedicated membership group that supports all elements of Colorado Ballet through fundraising, audience development, education, and social activities.

\$28,829 Raised for the Next Step Fund

353 Tickets Sold *(more than double compared to 2024!)*

3 Original Works Created

26 Colorado Ballet Company and Studio Company
Dancers performed in 10 pieces

“My first experience with Fancy Footwork was in 2024 and I was struck by the incredible quality of the dancing, choreography and costuming. I determined that I would do all that I could to bring the appearance of the venue to be commensurate with the quality of the dancing and the incredible dedication of the Fancy Footwork team. With the very generous help of Denver Design Works and Total Wine, I am hopeful that we were able to do that.”

Carolyn Moorman,
Colorado Ballet Auxiliary
VP of Social Events



Alexandra Wilson & Cruz Vining



Sonata Ross, Lily Bines, & Kenny Allen



Ever Larson, Alexandra Wilson,
Poppy Martinez-Cox, & Emma Chen

Dancer photos by Andrew Fassbender

Colorado Ballet *Legacy Society*

The Legacy Society is a group of generous individuals who have decided to maximize their support of Colorado Ballet through an estate gift such as inclusion in a will. Legacy Society members come from all walks of life and are bound by the common belief that dance is an essential part of our community. Their estate commitment will solidify the legacy they built over a lifetime!

Colorado Ballet is deeply grateful to the donors who have chosen to include our organization in their estate plans. Their inspiring gifts help shape the future of dance in Colorado and beyond!

Colorado Ballet Endowment

The Colorado Ballet Endowment provides enduring funding for new artistic initiatives and organizational investments. Fittingly, most planned gifts support the Endowment. Society members' generosity has spurred incredible growth in recent years, and we are pleased to honor their legacy commitments through the amazing programs the Endowment facilitates. Generous realized bequests of \$2.2 Million supported the growth of the endowment in 2024-2025.



LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER BARBARA DE JONG

How many years have you supported Colorado Ballet?

I'm a relative newcomer, having rediscovered the joy of ballet in 2022 when a friend invited me to *The Wizard of Oz*. I found it absolutely thrilling, and decided to make ballet-going a habit through season tickets!

Why do you support Colorado Ballet?

I think it's vital to keep the performing arts alive and well. This company is an outstanding one that deserves to be recognized and supported.

What motivated you to become a Colorado Ballet Legacy Society member?

As a financial advisor, I've long urged my philanthropy-minded clients to use their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to leave legacies to the organizations they're passionate about—so I decided it was time to follow my own advice!

What keeps you coming back?

Every time I see a performance I find myself in another world, one where I don't give a thought to anything but the magic that is unfolding in front of me. I've also really enjoyed the opportunities to see dress rehearsals, hear from the people who make it all happen, and meet other ballet fans.

Scan to learn
more about our
LEGACY SOCIETY



To learn more about making an estate gift and joining the Legacy Society, contact Joe Pettit, Senior Director of Development, at 303-339-1629 or joe.pettit@coloradoballet.org or scan the QR code.



THE *One* GALA

The One Gala was an unforgettable evening celebrating Colorado Ballet's 64th Season. Thanks to our Co-Chairs, Emily Garnett and Mark and Cari Spiecker, guests enjoyed celebratory cocktails, a ballet-infused live auction, a dazzling dinner and dancing, as well as an exclusive performance of Jiří Kylián's *Petite Mort*. *The One Gala* raised \$606,669 in support of artistic growth, exceptional dance education, and enriching community engagement programs.

The One Gala reached a historic milestone in December 2024, selling out earlier than ever in Colorado Ballet history.

**Thank you to the 530+ individuals
who made the night a success!**

The One Gala once again featured the spectacular Colorado Ballet Wish Tree in the theater foyer, artfully displaying our donors' generosity. Gala guests granted a wish and made a meaningful impact to the causes that most resonated with them, raising \$270,934!

Area of Greatest Need

\$160,107

Student Matinee Transportation

\$9,192

Dancer Wellness

\$42,335

Academy Scholarships

\$16,882

Expanding *The Nutcracker* Orchestra

\$11,336

Education & Community Engagement

\$31,082





Financial Overview

REVENUE

Tickets
\$7,173,029
Colorado Ballet Academy
\$2,731,315
Donations
\$2,899,410
Education & Community Engagement
\$323,785
SCFD
\$1,451,674
Boutique & Other
\$485,608
Interest Income
\$581,991

TOTAL REVENUE
\$15,646,812

EXPENSES

Production
\$8,311,578
Marketing & Patron Services
\$1,694,965
Colorado Ballet Academy
\$1,886,683
Administrative
\$1,365,509
Advancement
\$1,038,693
Education & Community Engagement
\$598,583
Building
\$676,969

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$15,572,980

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THANK YOU!

Your contributions have helped Colorado Ballet present exceptional classical ballet and contemporary dance through performances, training, education and community engagement while inspiring and growing an increasingly diverse audience base.