



25
26

IMPACT REPORT



To our community of supporters,

As we reflect on the 2025/2026 season, we are filled with gratitude for all we accomplished together. Your generosity and belief in Colorado Ballet made this extraordinary year possible. Thank you for investing in our artists, our students, and our community.

This season was one of celebration, growth, and new beginnings. We honored Artistic Director Gil Boggs' 20 years of visionary leadership, welcomed new members to our executive leadership team, and elevated The One Gala to new heights. On stage, audiences experienced the beauty of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with stunning new sets and costumes, while our dancers continued to inspire through performances of exceptional artistry.

Your support strengthened every part of our organization—from Academy classes and Education & Community Engagement programs that reached thousands across Colorado to investments that ensure our long-term success. Everything you will read in this report is a reflection of your generosity.

Thank you for standing with Colorado Ballet and making this remarkable season possible. We are honored to have you as part of our community and look forward to all we will accomplish together.



Geoff Long,
2025/26 Board of Trustees,
Co-Chair



Michelle Moorman-Applegate,
2025/26 Board of Trustees,
Co-Chair



Sameed Afghani,
Executive Director



Gil Boggs,
Artistic Director

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Your **Impact**

2,680
generous donors
contributed over
\$6.7 million

Over **1,450** new
patrons joined
our loyal base
of donors

1,808 subscribers
enjoyed our **57**
2025/2026 Season
performances

Our Endowment
grew to over
\$15 million

Donors from
36 states &
four countries
contributed

219 Colorado Gives
Day supporters
donated



Professional Company



This season marked a milestone chapter for Colorado Ballet. As Artistic Director Gil Boggs celebrated his 20th season, his vision continued to honor the timeless beauty of classical ballet while embracing innovation through contemporary works and new artistic collaborations.

That vision is rooted in an extraordinary career of his own. Before joining Colorado Ballet, Gil spent 17 years as a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre, where he was recognized as both an accomplished virtuoso and one of the company's most popular performers. His experience at the highest levels of the art form has helped shape Colorado Ballet into a company that balances artistic excellence with broad audience appeal.

The results have been historic. Under Gil's leadership, the 2025/2026 season became the highest-selling season in Colorado Ballet's history.

"Gil has been a true source of inspiration for me throughout my career. I'm proud to be part of the successful collective of individuals he's been able to build for the last two decades. His unwavering support in good and bad times during my artistic journey has led me to accomplish all my artistic dreams."
—Kevin Gaël Thomas, Colorado Ballet Soloist

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025/2026 SEASON SPONSORS!

Richards Carrington, LLC
Dracula

PNC Bank
The Nutcracker

Mary Ellen and David Wright
The Great Gatsby

Denver Ballet Guild
MasterWorks

Victoria and Sam Phares
S. Rachmaninoff



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Colorado Ballet brought new life to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with stunning new sets and costumes designed by Robert Perdziola.

With the addition of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the organization now owns three full-scale productions, ensuring this beloved classic can be enjoyed by audiences for years to come.



Colorado Ballet wrapped up the season with *MasterWorks*. Thanks to the generous support of sponsors Victoria and Sam Phares, Colorado Ballet was able to present the world premiere of Yoshihisa Arai's *S. Rachmaninoff*.

New ballets are essential to the future of the art form. Colorado Ballet is committed to investing in today's choreographers, fostering new creative voices while keeping ballet vibrant and evolving.

“Rachmaninoff is very emotional and cares deeply about his work, his art. I think he and I are similar in that way. I think most artists are. They take their work personally if they love it.”
—Mario Labrador, Colorado Ballet Principal



Movement for EVERY Body

By lowering the barrier to access the arts, the Education & Community Engagement department delivered programs to 42,000 youth in the 25/26 season.

But did you know that adults and seniors are also served through a diverse array of programs? Guests from three senior centers joined the Student Matinee performance of *MasterWorks*, and an assembly was performed for 75 residents at Covenant Living of Colorado, marking the first ever assembly at a senior center. Additionally, a new program called Music in Motion was designed specifically for individuals experiencing memory loss. In collaboration with musicians from Colorado Symphony, staff hosted four workshops, where participants listened to recognizable melodies of their time, before being guided through creative movements. The outcomes include increased mobility and strength, an increased appreciation for dance, and a sense of community.



Colorado Ballet has partnered with Warren Village for over 20 years, and in that time the two organizations have built an amazing program for its littlest residents: weekly dance classes at Colorado Ballet's studios. A new layer of depth was added to the program this season when adults from the Mariposa Properties were welcomed into the classroom of pre-school aged students. The program included two intergenerational classes and a joint number in the spring performance. The kids loved the opportunity to be "helpers" to the adults, which boosted their confidence and provided a sense of social responsibility.



Intentional Partnerships for Deeper Engagement

Partnerships strengthen the Education & Community Engagement department by informing their work and expanding community reach. Colorado Ballet is proud to work with other outstanding organizations who make an impact on our overlapping and growing audiences.



Since 2010, Global Down Syndrome Foundation has been the central funding and programming partner for The Be Beautiful, Be Yourself (BBBY) Dance Program, bringing dance classes to individuals with Down syndrome, intellectual or developmental disabilities. This year, **44 students** aged 5-18 took classes, helping them build kinesthetic and cognitive skills while fostering social and emotional growth and a lifelong love of dance. Each year, two BBBY dancers from Ballet II are selected to perform for one night of the company's production of *The Nutcracker*, creating memories that last a lifetime.

"During intermission I was stopped by a teacher who said her student—a grade schooler who happens to have DS—wanted to meet Olivia. She was in awe that someone like her was on the big stage. It means so much that Olivia inspired another little girl to dream big. Appreciate you all for making that possible and for helping to foster her confidence and growth as a dancer and individual."

—Parent of Program Participant



Developmental Pathways has been a valuable partner and collaborator for years, but this season was the first time an assembly was performed at their site. **One hundred adults** of all ages with developmental disabilities filled the auditorium to see ballet performed live and in a comfortable environment. Following the performance, they engaged in a Q&A session with dancers, tried ballet, and met the performers.



The Raydean Acevedo

Colorado Ballet Academy

Since 2015, the Academy's Pre-Professional Division has provided students from across the country and around the world the opportunity to refine their artistry through full-time, conservatory-style training. Students balance rigorous daily dance training with academic studies completed online, fully immersing themselves in preparation for professional careers.

The Academy, under the direction of Erica Fischbach, is committed to sustaining the future of the art form by developing the next generation of dancers, many of whom go on to join Colorado Ballet's professional company.

Professional
experience,
Exceptional
training.

64
Pre-Professional
Students

10
Performance
Opportunities

24
Average Hours of
Training a Week

\$200,000+
Scholarships
Awarded



Get to know the journey of two Academy leaders, each shaped by distinct beginnings. Today, they bring their experience on stage into the studio, offering students the rare advantage of learning directly from working artists who understand the demands of a professional career.



Erica Cornejo

Born in Argentina

Age 14: wins gold medal at the Second International Ballet Competition in Argentina and joins Julio Bocca's Ballet Argentino

Honored as a Messenger of Peace by UNESCO

1998: Joined American Ballet Theatre

2002: Promoted to Soloist

2005: Danced for President Bush at the White House

2006-2017: Danced with Boston Ballet as Principal Dancer

2024: Joined Colorado Ballet Academy as Pre-Professional Division Principal



Carlos Molina

Born in Colombia

1992: Joined The Ballet de Cali Company

1994: Joined Hartford Ballet as a Principal Dancer

1996: Winner of the first Igor Youskevitch Award

1998: Joined American Ballet Theatre

2001: Promoted to Soloist

2004-2010: Danced with Boston Ballet as Principal Dancer

2024: Joined Colorado Ballet Academy as Director Male Ballet Training



Premier Society



Colorado Ballet's Premier Society recognizes the generosity of donors who invest \$1,500 or more annually. Through exclusive events, behind-the-scenes experiences, special performances, and unique opportunities to connect with our artists and mission, members play an integral role in bringing the joy of dance to our community.

Honoring a Legacy of Generosity: Sally Cooper Murray

For many years, Sally Cooper Murray has been a devoted champion of Colorado Ballet and Denver's arts community. As a former board member and Premier Society donor, her generosity, leadership, and belief in the power of the arts have helped strengthen Colorado Ballet and support its continued growth.

In recognition of her extraordinary generosity and enduring dedication, Colorado Ballet is proud to name its black box theater the Sally Cooper Murray Black Box Theater. Home to Colorado Ballet Academy performances, *Fancy Footwork*, and other special programs, this intimate space reflects Sally's lasting impact on the artists, students, and audiences who experience Colorado Ballet. Her generosity will continue to inspire and support the organization for generations to come.

A Lasting Influence: Anne Hillary's Commitment to Colorado Ballet

For longtime Colorado Ballet supporter and board member Anne Hillary, investing in the arts has always been a lifelong commitment. As a Premier Society donor and dedicated leader, Anne has helped guide Colorado Ballet through pivotal moments while championing its mission through both philanthropy and service.

A dancer during her college years, Anne went on to build a distinguished career in arts management with organizations including American Ballet Theatre and the Martha Graham Dance Company. Her professional experience became especially valuable when Colorado Ballet searched for a new artistic director more than 20 years ago. As a member of the search committee, Anne recognized Gil Boggs' vision and leadership, informed in part by their shared connections through American Ballet Theatre.

Anne is a trusted advisor, generous donor, and steadfast advocate. Her leadership and generosity continue to strengthen Colorado Ballet today while helping to ensure its future for generations to come.



Anne Hillary, back row center, with her 2026 *The One Gala* guests and Sameed Afghani, Executive Director, and Adam Flatt, Music Director & Principal Conductor

Friends of Colorado Ballet

Friends of Colorado Ballet (FCB) honors donors whose yearly giving ranges from \$1-\$1,499. Just as ballet is built on countless hours of practice, collaboration, and attention to detail, Colorado Ballet's success is made possible by the many supporters who stand behind our work. Friends of Colorado Ballet donors may contribute in different ways and at different levels, but together they create something far greater than any one gift alone.



Just as a corps de ballet moves as one, Friends of Colorado Ballet donors work together to make an extraordinary impact.

\$270,000 was received in support of Colorado Ballet from FCB members



A single crystal may seem small, but hundreds bring a costume to life. Every element matters, and the same is true of philanthropy. Individual gifts from Friends of Colorado Ballet may seem modest on their own, but together they create an incredible foundation.

2,293 Friends of Colorado Ballet members

Colorado Ballet dancers start their day with Company Class, an opportunity to refine their craft and build strength through consistency and dedication. We see that same commitment in the many FCB members who choose to give year after year.

517 Friends renewed their support

170 Friends have supported Colorado Ballet for five or more consecutive years



FOUNDATIONAL GIVING

Built on Trust

Foundations provide consistent, reliable support that allows us to move our mission forward with confidence. We are able to provide accessible performances, educational programs, and initiatives that reach diverse audiences and foster a love for the arts.

We want to recognize the unwavering support of the following partners, as they've played a vital role in the growth and success of Colorado Ballet.

Thank you to all of our other 2025/2026 Foundation Partners

Anonymous

The Anschutz Foundation

Colorado Creative Industries

Denver Ballet Guild

Genesee Mountain Foundation

LARRK Foundation

Mabel Y. Hughes Charitable Trust

PNC Foundation

Romano Foundation

20+ years of support

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation

SCFD

The Shubert Foundation, Inc.

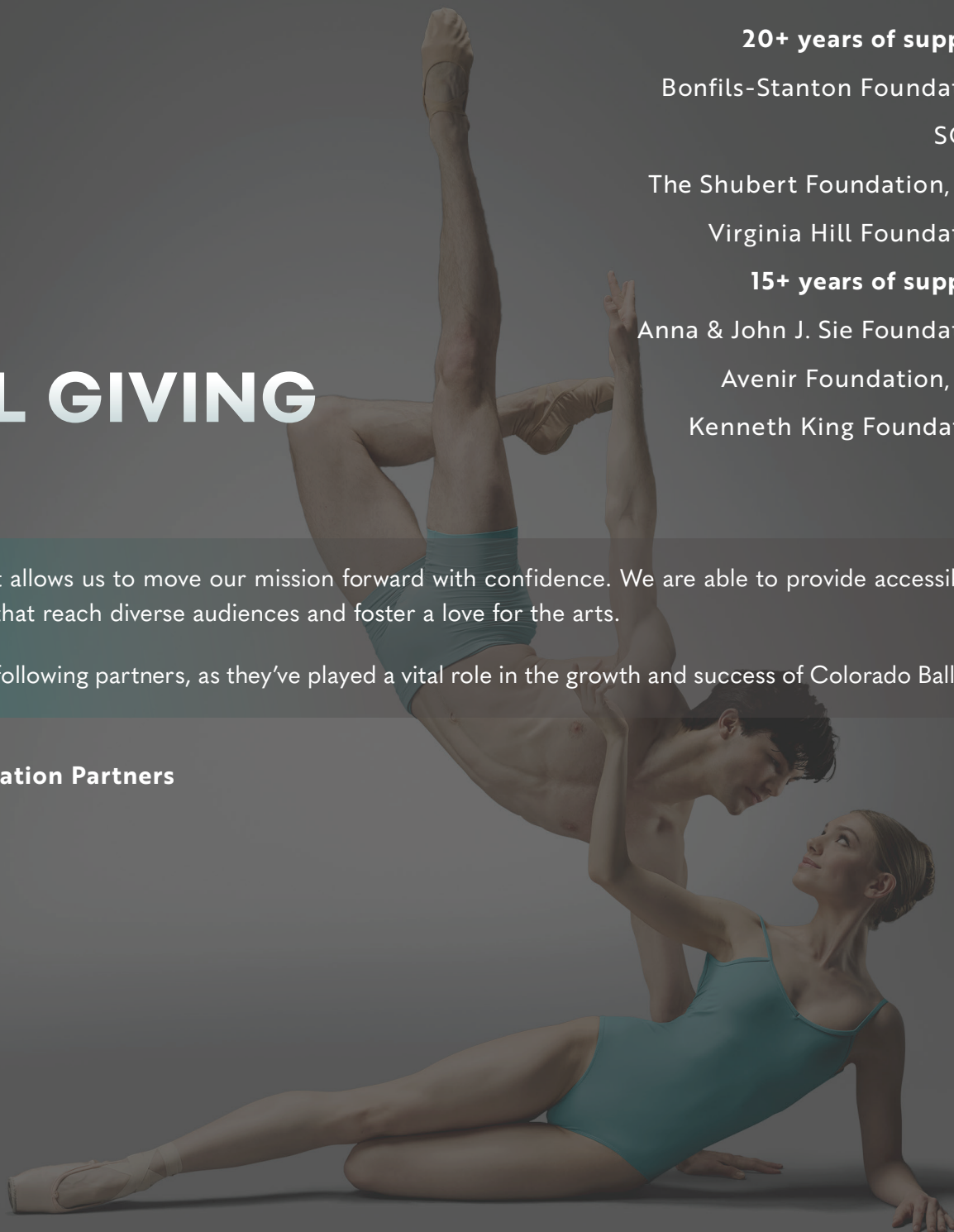
Virginia Hill Foundation

15+ years of support

Anna & John J. Sie Foundation

Avenir Foundation, Inc.

Kenneth King Foundation



Corporate Partners Who Share Our Vision

Corporate partners demonstrate a deeper level of care for the communities where they do business. We thank the following partners for sharing a vision for the community that includes fulfilling lives with enriching arts programming and experiences. Their support allows us to serve over 100,000 people every year at The Ellie alone. Together, we inspire, delight, and create memories that last a lifetime!

The corporations and foundations recognized here have generously contributed \$10,000 or more to Colorado Ballet. We are deeply grateful to all our corporate and foundation partners, whose collective support helps make our work onstage and throughout our community possible.



For nearly 40 years, the Colorado Ballet Auxiliary has helped strengthen the Ballet's connection to our community. What began as a dedicated group of volunteers has grown into a vibrant network of supporters who share a passion for ballet and a commitment to inspiring future audiences.

Whether welcoming young families through beloved traditions, creating memorable experiences for patrons, or raising critical funds to support dancers, the Auxiliary's impact extends far beyond the stage. Through programs like *Fancy Footwork* and the Sugarplum Program, members help ensure that the joy, discipline, and artistry of ballet continue to inspire generations to come.

Auxiliary by the Numbers

134 Members

Each spring, *Fancy Footwork* celebrates the extraordinary talent of Colorado Ballet's Company, Studio Company, and Academy while bringing our community together for an unforgettable performance. Behind the scenes, Auxiliary members make the event possible through volunteer leadership, concessions, and the silent auction, transforming an evening of dance into meaningful support for our artists.

Proceeds benefit the Next Step Fund, helping dancers prepare for the next chapter of their careers after their performing years come to a close—an investment in the people whose artistry has inspired audiences for years.

Fancy Footwork by the Numbers

406 Tickets Sold

\$28,880 Raised for the Next Step Fund

For 35 years, the Sugarplum Program has been a cherished Colorado Ballet tradition, introducing young people to the magic of *The Nutcracker* while fostering confidence, poise, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

This year, Sugarplums and Alums were celebrated at the Sugarplum Ball and Rose Ceremony at The Brown Palace Hotel before taking part in the opening weekend of *The Nutcracker*. Alums also returned to the stage during *The Nutcracker* in special on stage roles—a meaningful reminder that the connections formed through Colorado Ballet continue long after a single performance.

Sugarplum Program by the Numbers

30 Sugarplums

27 Alums

9 Alum Performances



Planned Giving: Establishing Your Legacy For Dance

Colorado Ballet is deeply grateful to the donors who have chosen to include our organization in their estate plans. Their generosity will sustain world class dance in Colorado for generations!

The Colorado Ballet Legacy Society was created to honor this special community of like-minded donors and show our appreciation of their significant contributions through special benefits. In 2026, we launched our most exclusive benefit, the Legacy Society Annual Luncheon.

Legacy Society Luncheon

Colorado Ballet held its first annual Legacy Society Luncheon in May at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House. It was a wonderful celebration of the people whose foresight and generosity will bring the joy of dance to future audiences and artists. Guests were joined by Colorado Ballet leadership while they enjoyed the sounds of a Colorado Ballet Orchestra string quartet and a delicious meal. It was an inspirational day! We look forward to gathering again in 2027.



Christine Honnen

Christine Honnen's legacy for dance cannot be overstated. She supported the Ballet for decades as a donor and audience member. Upon her passing, Christine provided one of the largest bequest gifts in the history of Colorado Ballet. The inspiration for her gift was sparked through her time in our audience. Her generosity will ensure our community continues to benefit from the awe-inspiring work that brought her such joy.

In honor of Christine Honnen's amazing support, Colorado Ballet has dedicated our primary rehearsal space, Studio One, to her memory. As each dancer and community member enters, they will be reminded of her legacy. We extend our deepest gratitude to Christine and to her family.



The One Gala:

Generosity Reached New Heights

The One Gala took place on April 16 at the Denver Performing Arts Complex and was a night of celebration, reflection, and historic achievement. At the heart of the evening was the honoring of Artistic Director Gil Boggs on his 20th anniversary, recognizing his profound impact on the organization. Guests enjoyed a festive cocktail reception, a ballet-inspired live auction, a formal dinner, and a lively dance party. The program featured special performances of George Balanchine's *Concerto Barocco* and an exclusive, one-night-only performance of *Élégie* by the Artists of Colorado Ballet, accompanied by the Colorado Ballet Orchestra.

For the first time in our history, The One Gala raised **\$1 million** in support of artistic innovation, outstanding dance education, and impactful community programs.

Thank you to the 653 guests who joined us!



The One Gala once again featured the spectacular Colorado Ballet Wish Tree, artfully displaying our donors' generosity. Both Gala and non-Gala attendees granted wishes and made a meaningful impact to the causes that most resonated with them, raising \$458,680.

Area of Greatest Need

\$116,596

Dancer Wellness

\$19,430

Education & Community Engagement

\$22,580

Academy Scholarships

\$11,200

In recognition of Gil Boggs' 20th anniversary, this year's Wish Tree included the Artistic Director's Fund, giving supporters the opportunity to continue his legacy by investing in the projects that inspire him most.

Artistic Director's Fund

\$288,873

Special thanks to The One Gala Chair
Jill Anschutz, whose leadership
and vision were instrumental in
bringing the evening to life.

The One Gala Committee

Jill Anschutz, Chair

Monica Owens Beauprez and John Beauprez

Stephanie Berry

Melissa Bigarel

Annabel Victoria Bowlen

Emily Garnett

Mallory Hoffman

Nicole Isenberg

Auna Jornayvaz and Dr. Jack DeGrave

Merry Logan

Elisabeth Campbell McKinnon

Dana Monfort

Laura Giocomo Rizzo

Denise Sanderson

Cari Spiecker

Nolan and Kristin Wessell





Financial Overview

REVENUE

Tickets

\$7,933,317

Colorado Ballet Academy

\$3,209,065

Donations

\$4,652,458

Education & Community
Engagement

\$357,083

SCFD

\$1,293,279

Boutique & Other

\$480,502

Interest Income

\$487,389

TOTAL REVENUE

\$18,413,093

EXPENSES

Production

\$8,474,740

Marketing &
Patron Services

\$1,830,014

Colorado Ballet Academy

\$2,176,759

Administrative

\$1,661,302

Advancement

\$1,315,980

Education & Community
Engagement

\$711,923

Building

\$728,710

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$16,899,428

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**Deceased*

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Thank you!

Your generosity makes Colorado Ballet possible. Because of your support, dancers can share their artistry on stage, students can discover the joy of dance, and our community can experience the beauty, inspiration, and connection that live performance brings.

