

Thank You

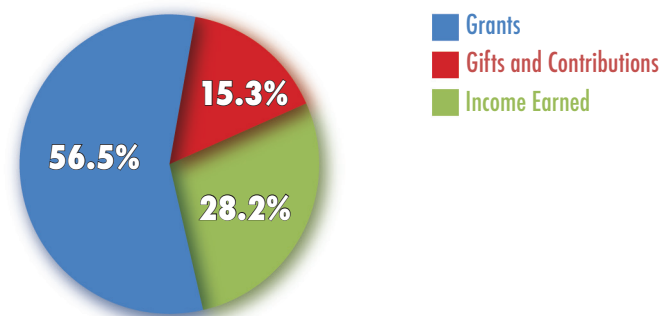
We want to extend a special thank you to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, City of Boston Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, and National Endowment for the Arts for supporting us in response to the pandemic. And thanks to our many generous funders, donors, and community partners, who helped us meet our financial goals for 2020 and fulfill our mission to make dance accessible for nearly 800 young people.

Alchemy Foundation
Arts Connect International
Black Ministry Alliance of Greater Boston
Boston Capacity Institute
Boston Cultural Council
Boston Public Schools
BPS Arts Expansion Fund at Edvestors
Capezio, Wellesley
City of Boston Arts & Culture
Covid-19 Fund
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Paul & Edith Babson Foundation
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Spontaneous Celebrations
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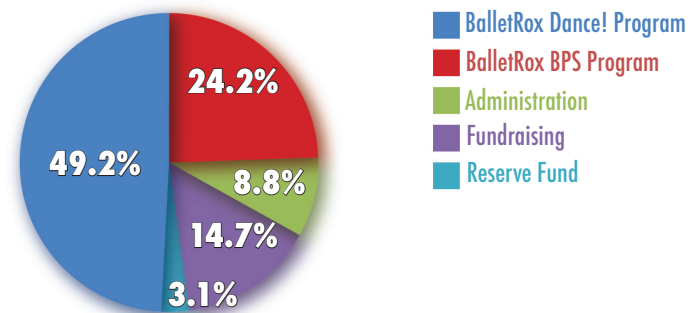
BalletRox 2020 Income

Total \$423,627



BalletRox 2020 Expenses

Total \$317,869



For detailed Financial Reports, please visit our website:
<https://balletrox.info/about/history/financials-and-reports>

HELP US RAISE THE BARRE



Your support can make a huge difference to give a student a chance to dance.

\$500 Enables one student to attend BalletRox Dance! Community Dance Program

\$250 Supports one student in a BalletRox Boston Public School Dance Program

\$100 Provides one student with dancewear and a recital costume

\$ 50 Gives one student a pair of tap shoes

Online donations:

www.balletrox.info/donate

BalletRox, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Federal Tax Identification Number 04-3140205

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BalletROX



Dear Friends and Families,

2020 was a year of challenges and transformations for us. This report gives a glimpse of how, amid concerns about the pandemic, the safety and well-being of people of color, and the future of our youth, BalletRox's vision and mission remains strong: a community of young dancers, their families, teachers, and supporters, connected by a commitment to empower young people through dance, creativity and collaboration.

Like you, we experienced tremendous change and created new normals. When the pandemic forced schools and us to teach remotely, we learned how to connect, engage, and dance with our students via Zoom.

Shocked out of complacency by the murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, we came together in support of Black Lives Matter, and are engaging in a process of looking at our work through the lens of racial and cultural equity.

While we prepared for a new year of dance programming, we got excited about the renovations taking place in our home at Spontaneous Celebrations. New dance floors, new stage, accessible entryways, and bright lights!

I saved the best for last. As I retire from the Executive Director role after 15 years of volunteering as a Board member and Executive Director, I am pleased to introduce Ellice Patterson, our new Executive Director. Ellice is the founder of Abilities Dance, a Boston based dance company that welcomes artists with and without disabilities. Boston's Chamber of Commerce just named her one of this year's 10 Outstanding Young Leaders! She brings tremendous talent, enthusiasm, and vision for taking BalletRox to the next level. I continue to serve on our dedicated Board and am thrilled to turn over the reins to Ellice and our team. I hope that you can meet her in person very soon.

With confidence and commitment for a bright future where more Boston kids have a chance to dance!

Carol

Carol Knox
Board Vice President

BalletRox

PO Box 301334

45 Danforth Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

(857) 406-5685

info@balletrox.info

www.balletrox.info

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“We’re strong altogether as a whole group. I like being in classes with my friends. It’s a chance to be equal while being different. We’re like one big BalletRox family that welcomes everyone!” ~Ayanah A.

Community

A field trip to see Boston Ballet’s The Nutcracker, learning Broadway choreography in a Lion King master dance class, and participating in Youth Council meetings to work on programming - these are all ways our community spends time together. Most cherished is the time spent hanging out with friends, dancing, working and playing together. We support each other through challenges, and celebrate individual and group accomplishments.



Creativity

Covid may have closed the doors to our studio and our schools, but it didn’t stop us from dancing together. Over Zoom, we socialized, engaged in fun dance activities like pretending to be superheroes, and completed our group choreography Dancing through Diversity. Working online to finish the dance allowed participants to explore and reflect deeply on their own unique cultures.



Melati chose a dragonfly to represent how she felt about the dance activity they created through a zoom class.

“I like working together with my friends to create dances. It was really fun and different to create our own dances and then teach them to each other to create one final dance video.” ~Kiara



“Thank you! Lucia loves her present! I very much appreciate the way BalletRox has continued to be a presence in our lives during this time.” ~Lucia’s mom

Connection

The shuttering of BalletRox in-person dance classes in our school and community programs due to the pandemic affected all of us. We missed our students and the joy and love of dance that we were used to sharing together. In an effort to stay connected and engaged in the arts at home, BalletRox delivered wellness journals filled with crayons and coloring pages, and activities for thinking, reflecting and journaling. “I feel safe and connected to my friends at BalletRox,” said Sareta, a student in our program. “BalletRox students know that they are valued, appreciated and loved.”

BalletRox commits to designing, implementing, and advocating for equitable programs and practices that ensure an inclusive and accessible environment for students, staff, and our greater Boston communities.

Collaboration



“She loves to dance and sing with her friends, especially when there is live music!” ~ Sarah’s mom
Sarah M. is one of nearly 100 people, many with disabilities, who dance, sang, and made music thanks to BalletRox’s collaboration.

Making Dance Accessible for All: Partnering and Collaborating Expands Reach of BalletRox’s Accessible Dance Programming

BalletRox has been making dance accessible and affordable for Boston-area young people since 1992. Inclusive dance programming and generous scholarships ensure that, every year, several hundreds of Boston young people, including those with disabilities, have a chance to dance.

Partnering with local nonprofits and organizations within the community and with shared missions, we are expanding our reach to ensure that more people with disabilities, young and old, of any racial background – low-income or not– can experience the joy of dance.

Read more on the BalletRox blog.

BalletRox is proud to be a five-year NEA grant recipient



Dancing with Boston Public Schools

Teaching Artist Christina Leonard working one-on-one with Henderson School 9th grader.



“The best part of my job is the relationships I get to build with my students.”

Reaching over 700 students weekly through dance instruction, BalletRox Teaching Artists integrate dance and creativity into a curriculum committed to socially and culturally responsive learning. Students engage in dance instruction to learn dance skills, increase confidence, and connect to the world around them.

