

## Thank you to our Community Partners, Sponsors and Donors

BalletRox thanks our community partners for their valuable support. We are especially grateful to Liberty Mutual Foundation for their partnership, not only for the direct support of our programs, but for Liberty Serves volunteer service days, professional development for our staff and board, and especially for their commitment to help make BalletRox accessible to all, including people with disabilities.



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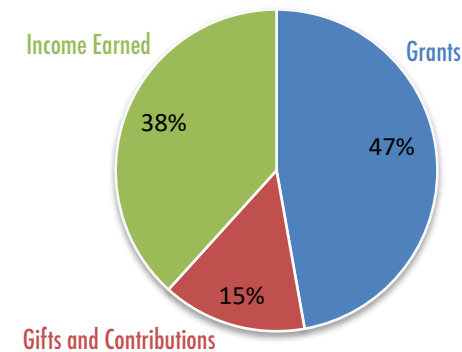
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**BalletRox is proud to  
be a four-year NEA  
Art Works recipient.**



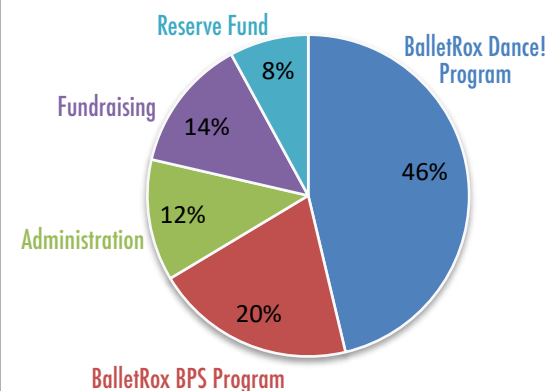
### BalletRox 2019 Income

Total \$323,093



### BalletRox 2019 Expenses

Total \$323,093



## HELP US RAISE THE BARRE

Your support can make a huge difference to give a child a chance to dance

- \$500** enables one child to attend BalletRox Dance! Community Dance Program
- \$250** supports one child in a BalletRox Boston Public School Dance Program
- \$100** provides one child with dancewear and a recital costume
- \$ 50** gives one child a pair of tap shoes

**Online donations:** [www.firstgiving.com/balletrox](http://www.firstgiving.com/balletrox)  
BalletRox, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Federal Tax Identification Number 04-3140205

# BalletROX

## A Message from Board Member Jane Allard

*A Chance to Dance*

This simple, powerful, BalletRox "tagline" inspires our work each moment, each class, with each student -- and is what drew me to BalletRox nearly 20 years ago. Since then I have served as a teacher, choreographer, stage manager, parent, and now as a Board Member.

**Each child deserves a chance to dance: a chance to grow.**

When I was a young person taking dance class I did not always feel like I belonged: I did not have the typical ballet body. But I loved dance and how much joy it brought me and others.

In short: **BalletRox IS a Chance to Dance:** creating a dance environment and community where everyone belongs, and where every young person is seen and encouraged to grow.

I was reminded of the power of "A chance to dance," at a recent Board Meeting, where members of the BalletRox Youth Council shared what this program means to them. It brought tears to my eyes: to hear them express how welcoming our program is, how many opportunities they have, and to hear how BalletRox has helped them and enriched their lives.

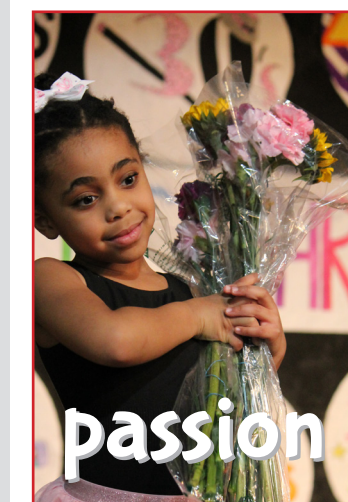
We're embarking into new territory over the next few years as we continue to lay the foundation for hundreds and hundreds of more Boston youth to have this same chance: to dance, to grow, to be.

**We cannot achieve it without you.** We'd love for you to be a part of it! Your support helps us, together, empower Boston children and young people, enrich families, and encourage communities.

*Jane*

**BalletRox**  
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# A CHANCE TO DANCE



## ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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## BalletRox Dance! Celebrates 5 Years Empowering Lives Through Community Dance

In September 2014, BalletRox launched BalletRox Dance! Community Dance Program. Embracing the Positive Youth Development approach, we provide dance education and performance opportunities in a supportive community where young people can grow and develop as leaders. Housed at Spontaneous Celebrations, a community art center in Jamaica Plain, we work collaboratively with many local organizations and schools to make dance affordable and accessible to Boston youth.

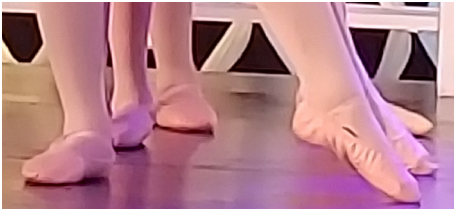
### Youth Council

The teens and pre-teens in the BalletRox Youth Council build community, learn and practice leadership skills, and provide youth voice in our programming. They are a self-governing group who create their own agenda, working on projects like choosing dance styles to study and perform, fundraising through bake sales and grant writing, determining field trips, and creating independent choreography.

**BalletRox is committed to a work environment and program design that is inclusive and accessible for all. We believe that our community is stronger and more creative when we are diverse.**

### Performances

Students perform several times a year at community events and at historic venues in and around Boston. They dance at festivals such as Dance for World Community in Cambridge, and at the Institute for Contemporary Art each year on Family Day. Performing in front of large audiences helps our participants build confidence at a young age. We recently engaged in a new performing partnership with the Boston Symphony Orchestra Residency in Jamaica Plain, and had the chance to perform in front of a crowd of nearly 5,000 people!



## 10 Years of Proud Partnership with BPS

BalletRox, a long-time community partner in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) Arts Expansion Initiative, has impacted thousands of students at 25 BPS sites. Our school-based dance program annually serves 700 students with weekly or twice weekly dance instruction. Since the inception of the Arts Expansion Plan in 2009, we have worked closely with BPS and Edvestors to increase arts engagement for all students city-wide.

Studies show that students who participate in arts programming during and after school show increased commitment to the arts and tend to remain in school longer. As part of our commitment to Boston students, we offer 10 full scholarships each year for BPS students who show the desire and dedication to pursue dance in our after-school community dance program. Meet two of these scholarship students, Kaitlyn and Marsha.

## Dancing into Leadership: Meet Kaitlyn and Marsha, Co-Presidents of the BalletRox Youth Council

Kaitlyn and Marsha started dancing with BalletRox ten years ago. They received scholarships when they were in second grade at the Kenny School, and are now seniors in High School.



**Dancing with BalletRox has taught me leadership.**

*Serving as a co-president on our Youth Council has taught me how to take initiative and be a leader. I'm also a leader in other organizations, like the Vietnamese Student Society at my school.*

*I'm excited to be **one of 12 representatives selected to attend the National Young Artists***

*Summit in Austin, Texas this November.*

*I'm developing an app for the summit, which has been a perfect blend of my interests in dance, computer science, and social justice.*

*In dance, I've learned that if you don't get something at first, you have to keep trying. It's good to have something to work towards. I've finally learned to do Fouetté turns on pointe, and I'm still working on my flexibility.*

**After dancing for ten years, I can't imagine stopping now!** I want to pursue dance in college. Maybe I'll double major in computer science and dance.

Kaitlyn, Senior, Boston Latin School



**Dancing with BalletRox has helped me break out of my shell.**

*I've learned how to balance my life and try new things. I used to be afraid of the challenges of growing up – my head was always down and I struggled. But the more challenges I accepted (like hard dance moves, and AP History last year!), the more confident I felt. Now I know, there are always benefits to*

*meeting those challenges!*

**Dance is where I go to feel centered and calm.**

*For the past two years I've been President of the Caribbean Culture Club at my high school, choreographing and teaching Caribbean dance. I want to keep dancing in college as a pre-med major, and teaching dance to younger students. Dancing is so different from regular school subjects: we don't have to worry about things, like being graded. BalletRox is fun and engaging -- and we learn how to dance really well.*

*I love it!*

Marsha, Senior, John D. O'Bryan School of Mathematics and Science

450	\$375,000	29	10	22	25	300	\$6,000	65	700	5,000
BRDANCE! STUDENTS SINCE 2014	IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO BALLETRGX STUDENTS	YOUTH-INSPIRED DANCE PRODUCTIONS	DANCE STYLES STUDIED	FIELD TRIPS FOR FAMILIES	BPS PARTNER SITES	NORTHEASTERN & COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS	RAISED BY YOUTH COUNCIL	PERFORMANCES IN BOSTON AREA	BPS STUDENTS TAUGHT EACH YEAR	AUDIENCE MEMBERS