

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



BalletROX



"Still being able to have a safe place, even during this hard time of the pandemic, (is why I love BalletRox): having a safe way to still dance with everybody at BalletRox, and still be active."

~ Ayanah A., age 12
Youth Council member

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A WORD FROM OUR BOARD

Dear friends and families:

BalletRox is a youth arts organization that has been working with amazing kids in the city of Boston for over 25 years. Our mission is giving more kids a chance to dance, providing high-quality dance education for every Boston youth where they are: in schools, after school, and in the community. We're also an organization committed to cultural equity, where we strive to be receptive and committed to always ensuring that there is an equitable place in our spaces for every Boston youth and their families.

It's been a challenging year to be sure, but our staff and our dancers have remained strong and endured so many obstacles throughout the pandemic. We continued to hold classes remotely and provided a safe, in-person and video-based performance opportunity.

We are incredibly fortunate and grateful to have brought on our talented and committed Executive Director, Ellice Patterson, to lead BalletRox into the future. She brings an exciting vision of diversity, equity and inclusion to BalletRox, working to expand our success as a youth arts organization in the City of Boston. I am grateful to be working with her on behalf of the entire BalletRox community.

To each of you: thank you for being a part of BalletRox, giving more Boston kids a chance to dance. We couldn't do it without your support.


Greg Manousos
Board President



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.



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



BALLETROX DANCE!: RESILIENCY, COMMUNITY EQUITY, YOUTH LEADERSHIP

BalletRox successfully provided students in our communities and schools with a chance to dance amid this unprecedented pandemic year. To engage our vulnerable populations safely, our teachers taught with new equipment, ingenuity, and resiliency via Zoom from their homes and our studio in Jamaica Plain. Our students prepared dances for our first ever virtual recital. They adapted and remained committed and connected!

The Youth Council, our self-governing student body, met weekly over Zoom to plan and engage in leadership opportunities. Our Executive Director, Ellice Patterson, mentors council members as they learn about arts administration through hands-on activities such as grant writing and event planning. This year Youth Council members moderated a panel of esteemed guest dance educators speaking on the intersection of racial equity and dance education, and choreographed a dance piece for the virtual recital.

BalletRox students and board members facilitated community connections with non-English speaking families by hosting enrollment nights in French and Spanish. Bilingual conversations led to a shared cultural understanding and an increase in Latinx student enrollment in our partner and after-school programs.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS PROGRAM: PROVIDING ACCESS TO DANCE EDUCATION WHERE STUDENTS ARE

For decades, the core of the BalletRox Boston Public Schools Program has been providing access to dance where students are. Through the leadership of our new Executive Director, we extended our reach in 2021 to include private schools, after-school programs and more. Among our new initiatives in our aptly renamed External Partners Program, we worked with Ann's Christian Learning Center to provide virtual dance classes in between tutoring sessions for academically struggling students. We also began a partnership with Roger Clap Elementary so that students could stay moving amid the challenges of the pandemic time of Spring 2021.

Through our expanded programming, BalletRox is bringing dance to more students across Boston!

"I'm really glad to be a part of an organization that does what [we] say [we] do: an organization that is really part of the community; is really about families; is really working to empower kids through a love of the art of dance!"

~ Magalie Neff
Board member, parent

THANK YOU

We want to extend a special thank you to the National Endowment for the Arts for supporting us in response to the pandemic. And thanks to our generous funders, donors, and community partners who helped us meet our financial goals for 2021 and fulfill our mission.

- Paul & Edith Babson Foundation
- Boston Cultural Council
- The Boston Foundation
- Harry Chapin Foundation
- City of Boston
- Edvestors BPS Arts Expansion
- Liberty Mutual Foundation
- Mass Cultural Council
- Mass Cultural Council YouthReach
- Ramsey McCluskey Foundation
- The Retik Mello Foundation
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- New World Foundation



HELP US RAISE THE BARRE

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

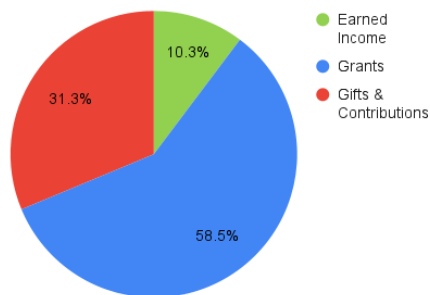
- **\$500** Enables one student to attend After-School Program
- **\$250** Supports one student in an External Partners Program
- **\$100** Provides one student with dancewear and a recital costume
- **\$50** Provides one student with a pair of tap shoes



FINANCIALS

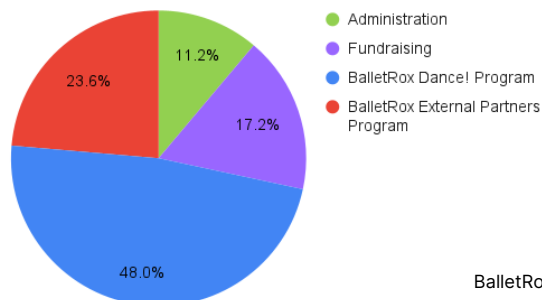
BalletRox 2021 Income

Total \$241,561



BalletRox 2021 Expenses

Total \$247,255



Board

Gregory Manousos, President
 Carol Knox, Vice President
 Jeremy Thompson, Treasurer
 Rachel Hassinger, Clerk
 Jane Allard
 Morgan Keith
 Magalie Neff
 John Tobin
 Sarita Uribe
 Monique Veale

Staff and Teachers

Ellice Patterson, Executive Director
 Olga Marchenko
 Valerie Maio
 Sybil Huggins
 Mikela Lymon
 Andy Taylor-Blenis
 Kathryn Boland
 Caitlin Knowles