

BALLET BOUND

A Pathway Into the World of Ballet



Louisville Ballet believes that children should have access to high quality dance education and training regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, or socio-economic status.

Ballet Bound is an initiative of Louisville Ballet providing young dancers from all across Greater Louisville the opportunity to study classical ballet free of charge in a professional setting.

Ballet Bound is designed to build access to the world of ballet while serving as a pathway for dancers to The Louisville Ballet School, Louisville Ballet Studio Company and eventually a career with Louisville Ballet.

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Now in its fifth year of operation, Ballet Bound has become one of Louisville Ballet's flagship programs, as it furthers the company's mission to provide access to the world of ballet. Since the inception of the program in the summer of 2020, the program has created a pathway for several young dancers to achieve their dreams of becoming a professional dancer.

Louisville Ballet is aware that the cost of tuition is a barrier for many families, and through the Ballet Bound program, students are able to receive free training for up to 10 years.

In addition to covering the cost of tuition, students on a full Ballet Bound Scholarship at The Louisville Ballet School receive free uniforms, shoes and tickets to Louisville Ballet performances. Coverage of fees to participate in annual performance opportunities and special workshops with guest teachers at the school are also included in the scholarship.

The initial 10-year plan for Ballet Bound required a \$1.5 million commitment by Louisville Ballet.



BALLET BOUND: IMPACT

Five years of operation include:

- 400 students have auditioned for the Ballet Bound Program
- 101 students have been accepted and participated in the Ballet Bound Community Class
- 16 students from the Ballet Bound Community Program are currently continuing their training on a 100% all inclusive scholarship at The Louisville Ballet School - on which they can remain until high school graduation
- 7 students from the Ballet Bound Community Program are currently continuing their training on a partial scholarship at The Louisville Ballet School
- \$50,000 - cost of ONE Ballet Bound student to continue on full scholarship until they graduate high school (approximately 10 years of training)
- 10 Ballet Bound students appeared in the children's cast of The Brown-Forman Nutcracker in December 2024
- 5 Ballet Bound students appeared in Romeo & Juliet Ballet in March 2024
- 3 Ballet Bound students have just entered the Pre-Professional program at The Louisville Ballet School and received their first pair of pointe shoes

"Ballet Bound has meant the world to my family. I grew up in a single parent household and community dance programs were my escape...they opened my eyes and exposed me to so many opportunities, and I gained many skills I still use today. Even though our family has been blessed enough to have two parents, the economy has yet again made it hard to financially provide opportunities to quality arts instruction to my child. Thanks to Ballet Bound my child is getting exposure to the wonderful world of dance and loving it."

-Ballet Bound Parent





Photo by Michael Clevenger/Courier Journal, 2023



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