

Dance for EveryBODY

Louisville Ballet's Community Engagement programs are a vital extension of the organization's mission to inspire, engage and educate through the art of dance. Rooted in the belief that dance is a powerful catalyst for personal growth, social connection, and community well-being, these programs expand access to high-quality dance experiences across the region.

By bringing inclusive, community-centered programming directly into schools, social service agencies, neighborhoods, and community spaces, Louisville Ballet works to remove barriers to the arts, fostering creative expression and cultural equity while empowering individuals of all ages and backgrounds throughout the Kentuckiana region.



FY26 DATA + IMPACT

- 27,336 Individuals Served
- 2,738 Free Tickets for Title I Schools
- 800 Classes Taught
- 115 Schools Participated
- 62 Unique Zip Codes Served
- 34 Moving Stories Performances
- 26 Continuing Ballet Bound Scholarships
- 13 Library Events
- 6 Park Audition Workshops

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS:

- 69% Under-Resourced Communities
- 20% Individuals with Disabilities
- 22% Multi-Language Learners

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:

- Philanthropic Supported Services: \$174,904
- Community Paid Services: \$113,862



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BALLET BOUND

Ballet Bound provides young dancers from across Greater Louisville the opportunity to study classical ballet free of charge in a professional setting. Ballet Bound is designed to build diversity in 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. Currently, 21 Ballet Bound Graduates are on a full scholarship at The Louisville Ballet School, along with six other graduates on partial tuition assistance.

MOVING STORIES

Moving Stories is an in-school assembly style performance featuring dancers from The Louisville Ballet Studio Company. The program includes a ballet class demonstration, a short story ballet, and students are able to join the dancers on stage. Educators receive an in-depth on-line study guide to enhance the experience for students in the classroom. In April of 2026, 34 performances took place across three counties, reaching nearly 8,000 students.



BOYS, BOOKS + BALLET

Boys, Books + Ballet workshops are offered for free at local libraries during the summer and celebrate the artistry and athleticism of ballet. These workshops are aimed to build gender diversity in ballet and feature male dancers from the Company. As role models, the dancers read books, get the participants moving and share stories of their own paths to a professional career. Each summer, we reach approximately 350 participants through this program.

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NUTCRACKER STORYTIME

In partnership with the Louisville Free Public Library, Nutcracker Storytime events bring holiday magic to local branches and feature costumed dancers sharing the story of the Nutcracker with families. Participants dance, make Nutcracker inspired crafts, and one lucky family at each event wins tickets to attend a performance of “The Brown-Forman Nutcracker”. Approximately 1,200 people participated in the workshop series in November & December of 2025.

STUDENT MATINEES

Student matinees are designed to give students and educators a behind-the-scenes look at Louisville Ballet and the arts through an interactive performance and access to an [online study guide](#). In December 2025, there were four nearly sold out student matinee performances of “The Brown-Forman Nutcracker” reaching a total of 7,300 students. The Bridge the Gap program made it possible for 2,738 of those students from Title 1 schools to attend for free.



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Louisville Ballet provides [in-school residencies](#) for students to engage in dance education workshops with their classroom during the school day. In addition, before and after school dance programs provide dance as enrichment for select students in local schools. The 2025-26 school year included residencies in ten schools and before/after school programs at five schools across Jefferson County and Southern Indiana.

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ADAPTIVE DANCE

In the 2025 -26 season, Louisville Ballet operated Adaptive Dance Programs at 15 partner sites, serving approximately 2,100 children and adults with disabilities. There was significant growth in our Adaptive Dance offerings this past season, and our staff continue to participate in professional development opportunities with national training organizations to deliver best practices in the classroom and ensure high quality programming.

GENTLE MOVEMENT

Louisville Ballet's Gentle Movement programs serves the aging population and adults with movement disorders in the Louisville community. This program encourages lifelong learning and promotes healthy habits through movement, exercise, and social activity. A new partnership with Norton Neuroscience Institute and the Doctoral of Physical Therapy Program at Bellarmine University is gathering research on the benefits of ballet and dance for patients with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders.



SENSORY FRIENDLY

The Sensory Friendly performance of “The Brown-Forman Nutcracker” is a specially designed experience that creates an atmosphere that is comfortable, inclusive, and safe for individuals who have sensory sensitivities. Patrons have access to several resources to help prepare them for the performance as well as complimentary tactile bags and the opportunity to meet dancers in the lobby before the show. Nearly 800 patrons attended the performance in December 2025.



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2025-26 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPONSORS



Snowy Owl Foundation, Inc.



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THANK YOU!

Louisville Ballet Community Engagement programs are made possible by the support of generous donors and sponsors like you. Thank you for allowing us to serve our community and provide dance for everyBODY!

