



The Louisville Ballet School Director

Organization: Louisville Ballet

Location: Louisville, Kentucky

Position Type: Full-Time

Reports To: Artistic Director and Executive Director

Position Summary

The School Director serves as the senior educational leader of Louisville Ballet's training programs and is responsible for advancing the artistic, educational, and operational success of the School, including all tracks of programming; recreational, Classical Ballet, Academy, Louisville Ballet Youth Ensemble, and the Adult Division. Reporting directly to both the Artistic Director and Executive Director, the School Director works collaboratively with the Artistic Director of the Studio Company, Director of Community Engagement and across departments to ensure that educational initiatives align with the organization's artistic vision, strategic goals, and financial objectives.

The School Director provides leadership for curriculum development, faculty management, student advancement, enrollment growth, youth ensemble programming, and day-to-day educational operations while maintaining a culture of excellence, inclusion, creativity, and professionalism.

Key Responsibilities

Leadership & Strategic Partnership

- Serve as a key member of the organization's leadership team.
- Report directly to the Artistic Director on matters related to curriculum, artistic standards, student development, faculty instruction, and Youth Ensemble artistic programming.
- Report directly to the Executive Director on matters related to budgeting, enrollment, operations, staffing, strategic planning, and organizational performance.
- Provide regular updates, reports, and recommendations to both the Artistic Director and Executive Director.

- Collaborate with senior leadership to establish annual goals and long-range plans for all tracks of the School and the Louisville Ballet Youth Ensemble.
- Support the organization's mission, artistic vision, and strategic priorities.

Educational Leadership

- Develop and implement a comprehensive ballet curriculum consistent with professional training standards.
- Ensure excellence in instruction across all divisions, including children's programs, recreational classes, pre-professional training, adult education, and specialized educational initiatives.
- Evaluate and enhance educational offerings to support student achievement and retention.
- Maintain a positive learning environment focused on artistic growth, discipline, inclusion, and student well-being.

Louisville Ballet Youth Ensemble Leadership

- Provide artistic and administrative oversight for the Louisville Ballet Youth Ensemble.
- Collaborate with artistic staff to establish performance, rehearsal, and training standards for Youth Ensemble participants.
- Oversee auditions, casting, student development, and progression within the Youth Ensemble program.
- Coordinate Youth Ensemble participation in Louisville Ballet productions, community performances, educational events, and special projects.
- Develop opportunities for leadership, artistic growth, and performance experience for Youth Ensemble members.
- Serve as the primary liaison among Youth Ensemble students, families, faculty, and organizational leadership.

Faculty Management

- Recruit, hire, supervise, mentor, and evaluate faculty, accompanists, Youth Ensemble coaches, and school staff.
- Lead faculty meetings and professional development initiatives.
- Establish clear performance expectations and accountability measures.
- Foster a collaborative culture among teaching artists and staff.

Community Engagement

- Provide strategic collaboration with Louisville Ballet's Director of Community Engagement and dance access initiatives.
- Work closely with Director of Community Engagement to ensure success of the Ballet Bound program as it relates to Continuing Ballet Bound Scholarship students enrolled at the school

- Support initiatives that help build diversity in the school including scholarship opportunities for other students identified through community engagement programs
- Work with Adaptive Dance Program Manager to ensure best practices for adaptive class offerings at the school
- Collaborate with the Director of Community Engagement to build partnerships with educational institutions, civic organizations, and cultural groups throughout the region.
- Collaborate with artistic, administrative departments and Community Engagement to create meaningful community-based dance experiences and performances for students of the school.
- Support initiatives that increase access to dance education and foster lifelong engagement with the arts.
- Represent Louisville Ballet at community events, educational conferences, recruitment activities, and industry gatherings.
- Collaborate with marketing staff on recruitment, enrollment, audience development, and community awareness campaigns.

Student & Family Engagement

- Serve as the primary educational representative for students and families.
- Oversee placement, evaluations, promotions, and student progression.
- Address concerns and ensure a positive student experience.
- Develop initiatives that support student retention, engagement, and success.
- Foster meaningful relationships with students and families across all educational programs.

Program Operations

- Oversee scheduling, registration, academic calendars, and daily school operations.
- Manage summer intensives, workshops, master classes, Youth Ensemble activities, and special programs.
- Coordinate student participation in company productions, educational performances, and community events.
- Coordinate Technical needs for Fall Showcase and Spring Dance Festival with Louisville Ballet Production Staff to include: Securing and contracting the appropriate venue, developing the tech week schedule, coordinating Stage Management, Costume, Scenic, Props, Lighting and Audio needs.
- Monitor enrollment trends and implement growth strategies.

Financial & Administrative Management

- Develop and manage the annual School and Youth Ensemble budgets in collaboration with the Executive Director and finance staff.
- Monitor revenue, expenses, tuition performance, and enrollment metrics.
- Recommend pricing, scholarship, and program investment strategies.
- Ensure compliance with organizational policies and operational procedures.

Qualifications

Required

- Bachelor's degree in Dance, Arts Administration, Education, or Professional Equivalent.
- Minimum five years of progressive leadership experience within a dance school, conservatory, or performing arts organization.
- Strong knowledge of ballet pedagogy and student development.
- Demonstrated experience in staff supervision, budgeting, enrollment management, community engagement, and program administration.
- Excellent communication, leadership, and organizational skills.

Preferred

- Professional ballet performance experience.
 - Experience working within a nonprofit arts organization.
 - Experience overseeing youth performance and full academy ensembles.
 - Demonstrated success in community engagement, arts education, and outreach initiatives.
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Key Competencies

- Educational Leadership
 - Youth Ensemble Development
 - Community Engagement
 - Strategic Planning
 - Faculty Development
 - Budget Management
 - Enrollment Growth
 - Organizational Collaboration
 - Relationship Building
 - Change Management
 - Communication and Reporting
 - Curriculum Development
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Performance Expectations

The School Director will be evaluated jointly by the Artistic Director and Executive Director based on:

- Educational quality and student outcomes
 - Youth Ensemble artistic growth and performance excellence
 - Faculty performance and development
 - Enrollment growth and retention
 - Budget management and financial performance
 - Recruitment and outreach success
 - Alignment with organizational goals and artistic standards
 - Effective communication and collaboration with senior leadership
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Compensation & Benefits

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience.
 - Comprehensive benefits package.
 - Paid vacation and holidays.
 - Retirement plan participation.
 - Professional development support.
 - Complimentary access to organization performances and educational events.
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Application Materials

Interested candidates should submit the following documents to schoolsearch@louisvilleballet.org

- Cover letter
 - Resume/CV
 - Statement of educational philosophy
 - Three professional references
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Louisville Ballet seeks a collaborative and visionary leader who can work effectively with both the Artistic Director and Executive Director to strengthen the School's reputation, expand the impact of the Louisville Ballet Youth Ensemble, deepen community engagement, and advance the organization's mission through exceptional dance education and meaningful community connection.