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**Ballet Arizona to Receive \$30,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**  
*Funds will Benefit Flagship Audience Engagement Event, Ballet Under the Stars*

**PHOENIX** – [National Endowment for the Arts](#) Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter has approved more than \$80 million in grants as part of the Arts Endowment’s second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2019. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$30,000 to Ballet Arizona for [Ballet Under the Stars](#), which runs Sept. 11-14 at community parks throughout the Valley.

Art Works is the Arts Endowment’s principal grantmaking program. The agency received 1,592 Art Works applications for this round of grantmaking, and will award 977 grants in this category.

“These awards, reaching every corner of the United States, are a testament to the artistic richness and diversity in our country,” said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

“Organizations such as Ballet Arizona are giving people in their community the opportunity to learn, create and be inspired.”

“It’s an honor to receive this award from the National Endowment for the Arts,” said Samantha Turner, executive director of Ballet Arizona. “We are grateful to receive this funding to be able to continue providing free programming to the Phoenix community through our Ballet Under the Stars Program. Thank you to the National Endowment for the Arts.”

Ballet Under the Stars provides Arizonans of all ages and economic means with the opportunity to enjoy free public ballet performances in parks across the Phoenix metro area. With a goal to enrich the lives of community members through a shared dance experience, the program is a successful community building program that delivers a cultural enrichment opportunity for attendees, many of whom have not previously experienced a professional ballet performance.

The accompanying Class Act Program gives 3rd through 5th grade students the opportunity to work with professional Ballet Arizona dancers to choreograph an original dance that they perform at their local Ballet Under the Stars show. Both programs make ballet accessible to underserved populations by eliminating barriers to access.

For more information on this National Endowment for the Arts grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).

**Ballet Arizona**

Ballet Arizona, in its 33<sup>rd</sup> season, is dedicated to preserving and celebrating classical dance while creating new and innovative works. Under the artistic direction of internationally acclaimed choreographer Ib Andersen - a former Principal Dancer with The New York City Ballet and The Royal Danish Ballet - Ballet Arizona follows his lead to the future of dance in Arizona. The School of Ballet Arizona promotes access to the art form of ballet through dance education, with a focus on excellence in the form, directing each student to a life-long love of dance. Following this vision, Ballet Arizona connects to more than 35,000 children and families every year through its free and low cost outreach programs. For more information, visit [balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org).

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