

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation Awards Transformative Grant to Ballet Arizona

Grant to Support Strategic Initiatives, The School of Ballet Arizona, Community Engagement Programs and More

PHOENIX – [Ballet Arizona](#) is excited to announce it recently received a generous grant from [The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation](#) to support a new initiative called *Project: Ignite*. This initiative was a product of Ballet Arizona’s recently completed strategic plan supporting growth and expansion for the three pillars of the organization’s mission: artistic programming, The School of Ballet Arizona, and community engagement.

“We share our heartfelt gratitude with The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation for this historical gift,” said Ballet Arizona executive director Jami Kozemczak. “This grant was awarded at a critical inflection point for Ballet Arizona, as the organization positions itself on a growth trajectory post-pandemic. *Project: Ignite* is a visionary initiative that makes strategic investments in programmatic growth and mission enhancements, while stabilizing the organization through optimized revenue generation and infrastructure development. This transformational grant will allow us to deepen our commitment to cultural outreach, dance education, and access for the benefit of all in our community.”

Project: Ignite is a new grant initiative funded by The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation that focuses on school optimization and expansion, employee investment, artistic product development, and community engagement. This project will lay the foundation to implement the organization’s newly-approved four-year strategic plan. The strategic plan for Ballet Arizona focuses on five major priorities: artistic vision and programming, patron expansion, financial stability, operational excellence, and school optimization.

Ballet Arizona’s mission is to ignite the human spirit through the magic of dance. With a vision of ballet for everyone, the organization enables over 85,000 individuals annually to harness dance as a holistic connecting force and delivers:

PROFESSIONAL BALLET PRODUCTIONS (60,000+ audience members annually): Through its six annual productions presented at Symphony Hall, Orpheum Theatre, and the Desert Botanical Garden, Ballet Arizona’s talented company of 32 professional dancers perform both classical and contemporary choreography.

DANCE INSTRUCTION (265+ children and adults regularly attending classes): The School of Ballet Arizona offers open-to-the-public dance education, with a variety of classes for ages three through adulthood and all skill levels. The School’s instruction meets the expectations of professional dance companies, as well as those looking to enrich their lives through dance.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS (25,000+ people annually): Ballet Arizona's Community Engagement programs remove barriers to participation, especially for those traditionally excluded or underrepresented. Some of these programs include: Adaptive Dance for Down Syndrome, Ballet Under The Stars (free outdoor community performances), Ballet Arizona's book club, Class Act, Angel Night (free mainstage performances for communities in need), community presentations, Creative Aging, DanceAZ School Residency Program, DanceAZ Merit Scholarships, Driven to Dance, Hoop Dance for Native Youth, Dance for Parkinson's Disease, performance chats for public audiences, and educational and behind-the-scenes programming such as Performance Hours, Student Matinees, and Studio Spotlights.

For more information about Ballet Arizona, please visit BalletAZ.org. For more information about the Halle Foundation, please visit DianeandBruceHalleFoundation.com.

Ballet Arizona

Since 1986, Ballet Arizona has been dedicated to preserving and celebrating classical dance while creating new and innovative works. Under the new artistic direction of internationally acclaimed choreographer Daniela Cardim - a former soloist with the Ballet of Municipal Theatre of Rio de Janeiro and Dutch National Ballet - Ballet Arizona is excited to follow her lead to the future of dance in Arizona. During its 38th season, the Valley's professional ballet company will present *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, the U.S. premiere of *Frida*, *Spring Mix*, *All Balanchine* and *Eroica*. 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 25,000 children and families every year through its free and low-cost outreach programs. For more information, visit balletaz.org.

The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation

The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation works to strengthen the daily opportunities and lifelong outcomes for the people and communities they serve by identifying and funding outstanding nonprofits to ensure that all people can build healthy, productive, and inspiring lives. It serves as a leader in providing philanthropic resources for organizations working in the fields of human services, health and medical, education, art and culture, and spirituality. Learn more about The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation by visiting dianeandbrucehallefoundation.org.

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