

## Community Engagement Impact Report 2024-2025

Dear Friends of Ballet Arizona,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 season, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all we’ve achieved together. This year marked a transformative chapter for our community engagement efforts, and none of it would have been possible without your belief in our vision and generous support.

One highlight was launching our new partnership with Child Crisis Arizona at their Center for Child and Family Wellness in Mesa. This collaboration has already enriched our Creative Aging program, expanded our Native American Hoop Dance offerings, and contributed to Child Crisis Arizona employee wellness programs, planting seeds of creativity and connection in the East Valley.

We launched our Bussing Program with the goal of eliminating financial barriers to transportation for schools to attend our Student Matinee and Performance Hour field trips.

Driven to Dance, our new initiative to provide transportation for Title 1 students to attend the School of Ballet Arizona, sparked incredible energy and enthusiasm.

This season, we also grew Ballet Under the Stars from four parks to six, offering thousands of community members the chance to experience free, family-friendly performances under the night sky.

Perhaps most profoundly, we debuted the Community Engagement Showcase, a moving culmination of the year, bringing together students from our Adaptive Dance, Dance for Parkinson’s Disease, Native American Hoop Dance, and Driven to Dance programs. This long-held dream became a powerful expression of inclusion, belonging, and the joy of dance!

These accomplishments are more than just program expansions, they represent moments of transformation, both big and small, made possible by your support, partnership, and care. On behalf of the entire Community Engagement team at Ballet Arizona, thank you for walking beside us on this journey.

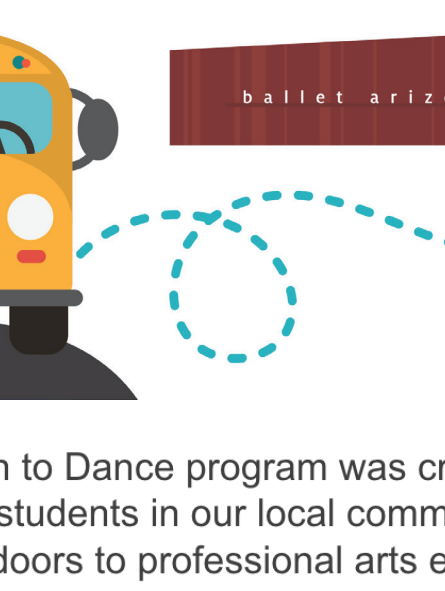
With heartfelt appreciation,  
Claire Martinez  
Director of Community Engagement

### Community Engagement’s Mission

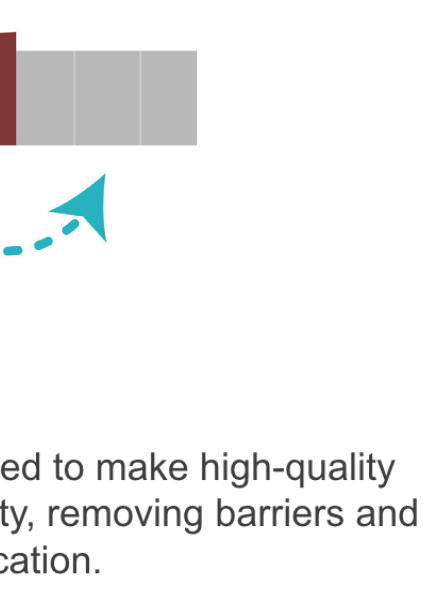
Ballet Arizona seeks to educate communities about the transformative power of dance. Through our work we strive to empower individuals to engage more deeply with the art form and eliminate barriers to participation that prevent people from experiencing dance.



EDUCATE

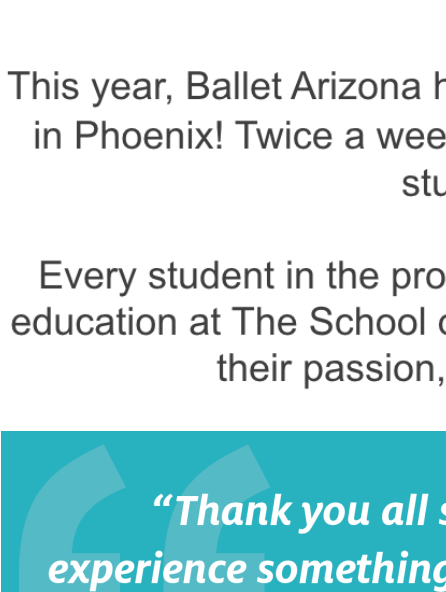


INSPIRE

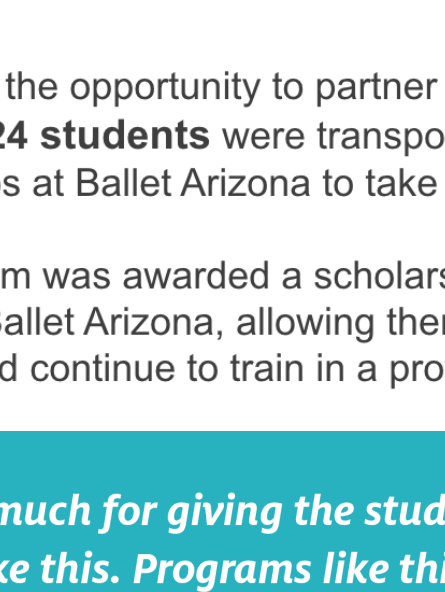


IMPACT

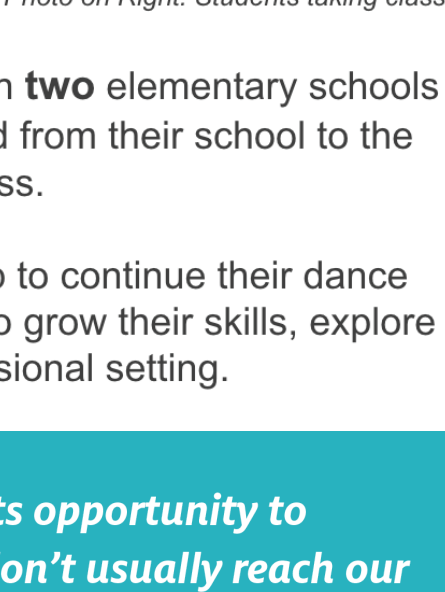
26,500 ARIZONA RESIDENTS SERVED



3 NEW Programs



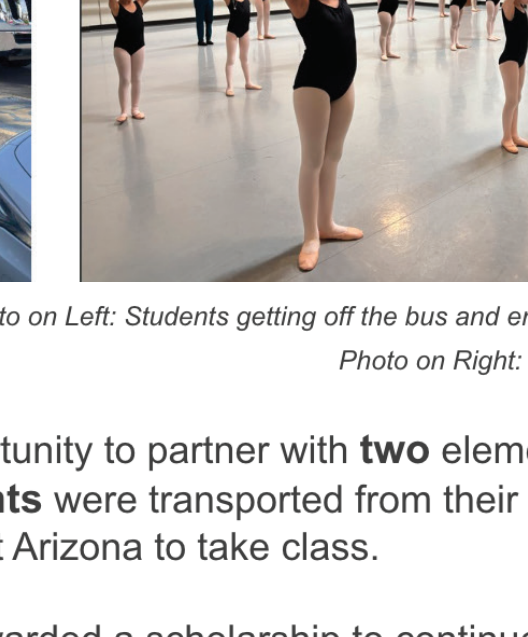
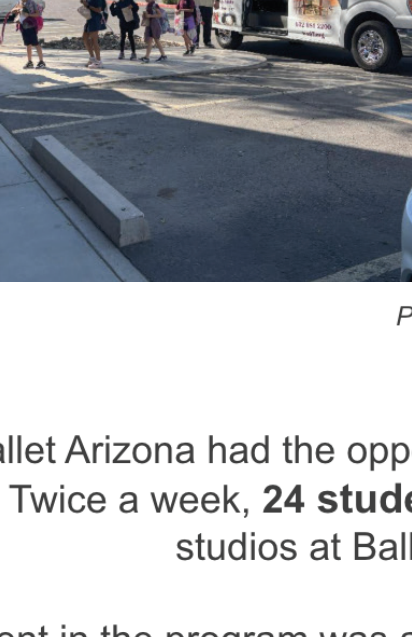
2 NEW Ballet Under the Stars Parks



1 NEW Satellite Location

### Programs for Teachers & Schools

## DRIVEN TO DANCE



Ballet Arizona’s new Driven to Dance program was created to make high-quality ballet training accessible to students in our local community, removing barriers and opening doors to professional arts education.

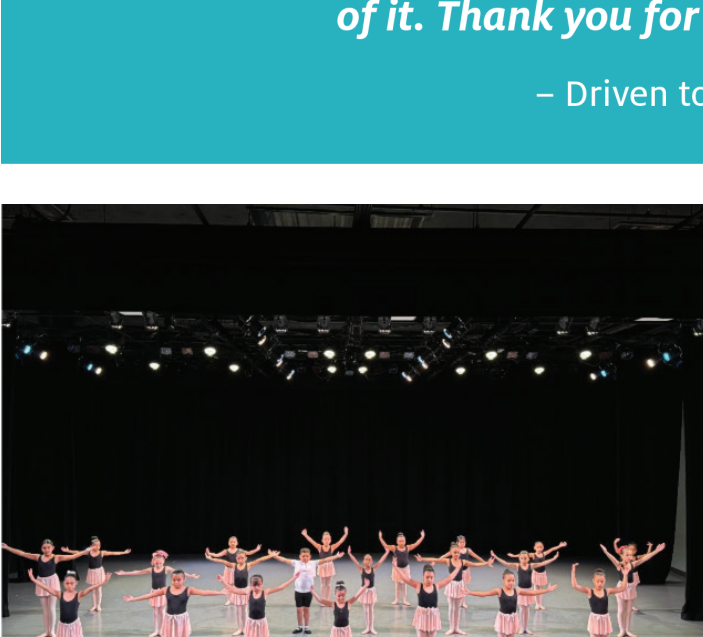


Photo on Left: Students getting off the bus and entering Ballet Arizona



Photo on Right: Students taking class

This year, Ballet Arizona had the opportunity to partner with **two** elementary schools in Phoenix! Twice a week, **24 students** were transported from their school to the studios at Ballet Arizona to take class.

Every student in the program was awarded a scholarship to continue their dance education at The School of Ballet Arizona, allowing them to grow their skills, explore their passion, and continue to train in a professional setting.

*“Thank you all so much for giving the students opportunity to experience something like this. Programs like this don’t usually reach our neighborhoods — and ballet, especially, is something many of them have never had access to. We’re truly grateful that they got the chance to be part of it. Thank you for making this possible.”*

– Driven to Dance Parent

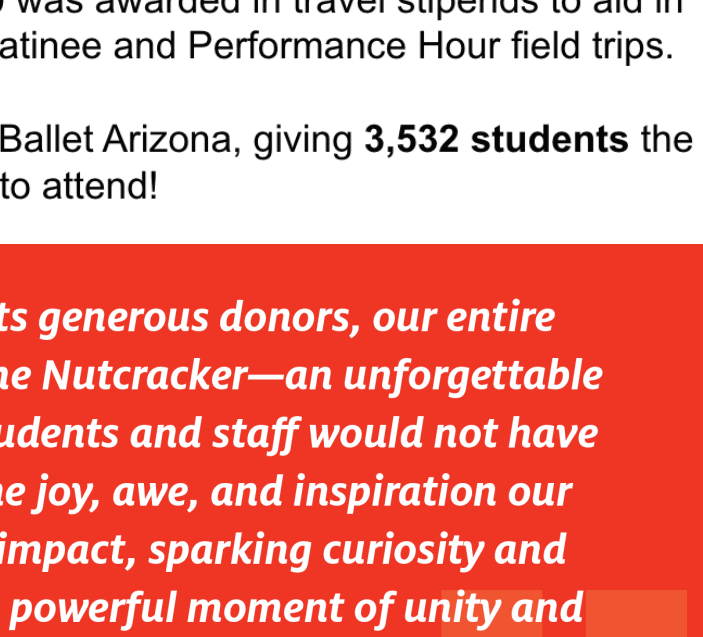
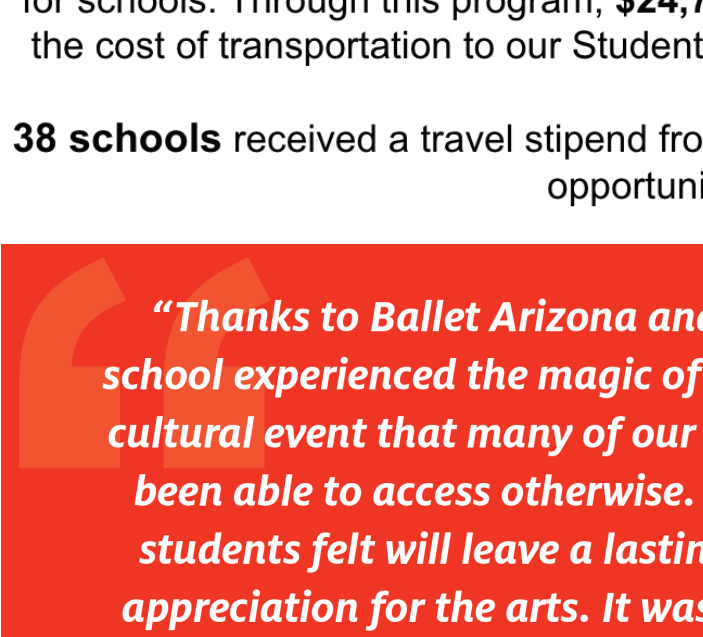
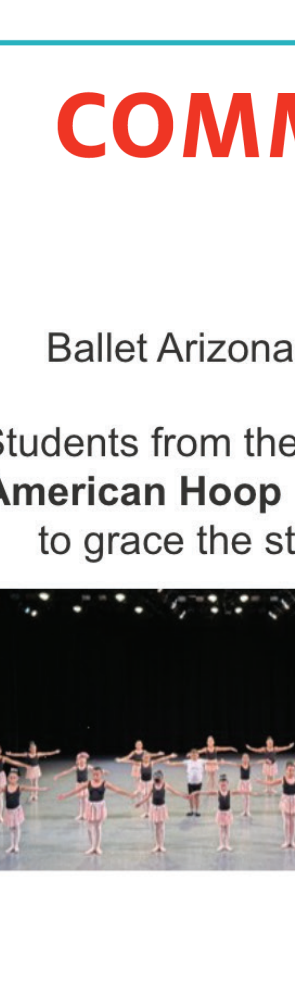


Photo on Left: Students performing in Community Engagement Showcase

Photo on Right: Students pose with Teacher, Andrea Rosas

### Talking with our Teaching Artist!



**Andrea Rosas**  
Driven to Dance Teaching Artist

**Q: What benefits are to be gained from this program?**

**A:** The students in the program have gained so much from being a part of *Driven to Dance*. Over the weeks, their confidence has grown, as most of them were introduced to dance for the very first time. The program has given them the opportunity to learn ballet in a traditional setting—with ballet barres, studio space, and even leotards, tights, and ballet shoes—an experience most of them wouldn’t have had without this program.

**Q: What has your experience been like teaching *Driven to Dance*?**

**A:** Teaching *Driven to Dance* has been a heartwarming experience. I’ve watched these students grow into their love for ballet, showing so much dedication in each class. While it was initially challenging to teach a class of 25 students, their commitment and enthusiasm brought it all together. I’m forever grateful to be part of their ballet journey.

### Programs for Teachers and Schools

## BUSSING PROGRAM



Photo Credit: David Knox

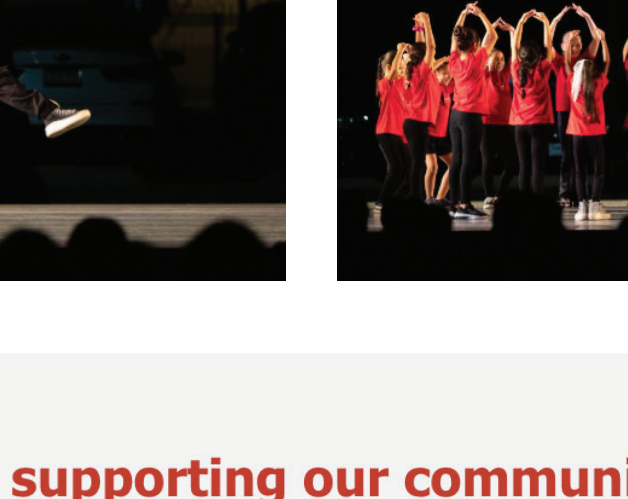
Ballet Arizona’s Bussing Stipend Program was implemented to make arts education more accessible for school partners by addressing the rising cost of transportation for schools. Through this program, **\$24,700** was awarded in travel stipends to aid in the cost of transportation to our Student Matinee and Performance Hour field trips.

**38 schools** received a travel stipend from Ballet Arizona, giving **3,532 students** the opportunity to attend!

*“Thanks to Ballet Arizona and its generous donors, our entire school experienced the magic of *The Nutcracker*—an unforgettable cultural event that many of our students and staff would not have been able to access otherwise. The joy, awe, and inspiration our students felt will leave a lasting impact, sparking curiosity and appreciation for the arts. It was a powerful moment of unity and wonder that our community will cherish for years to come.”*

– Bussing Program Partner

The Bussing Program is sponsored by:



### Community Programs

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

Ballet Arizona celebrated the first Community Engagement Showcase!

Students from the **Adaptive Dance, Dance for Parkinson’s Disease, Native American Hoop Dance, and Driven to Dance** programs had the opportunity to grace the stage and share their passion for dance with the audience.

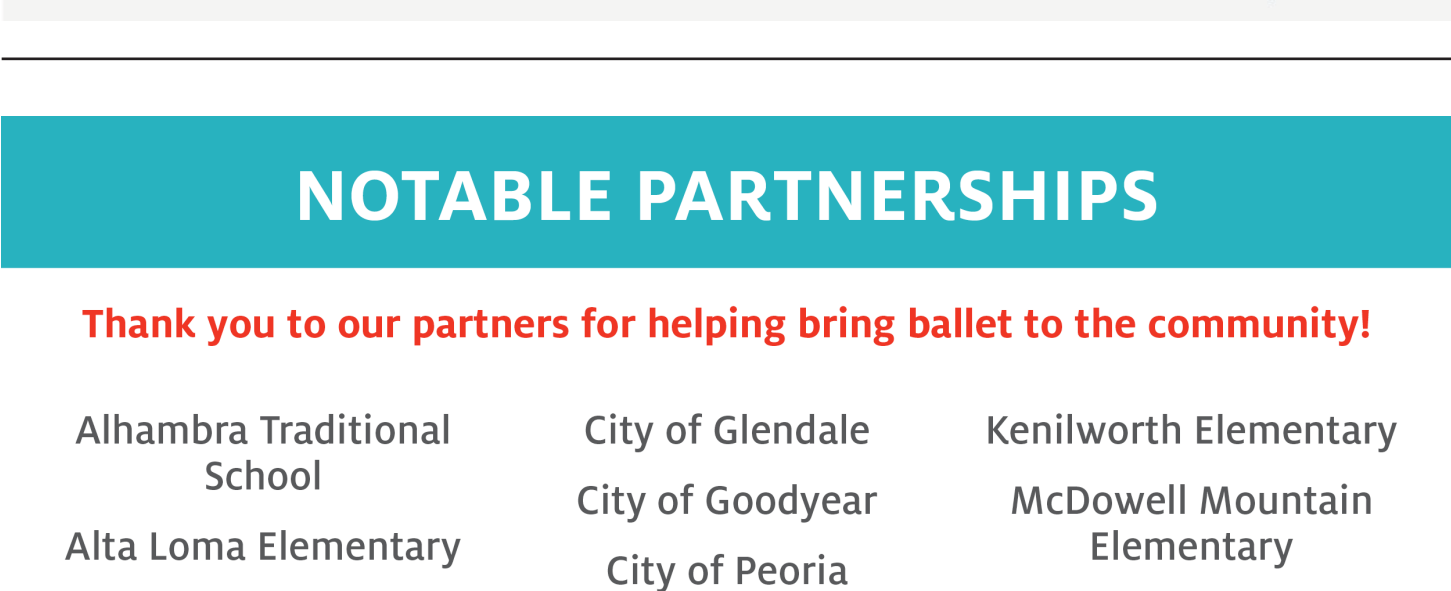


Photo from Left to Right: Driven to Dance students, Adaptive Dance students, Hoop Dance Intermediate students

All 285 seats sold in Dorrance Theatre!

**SOLD OUT**

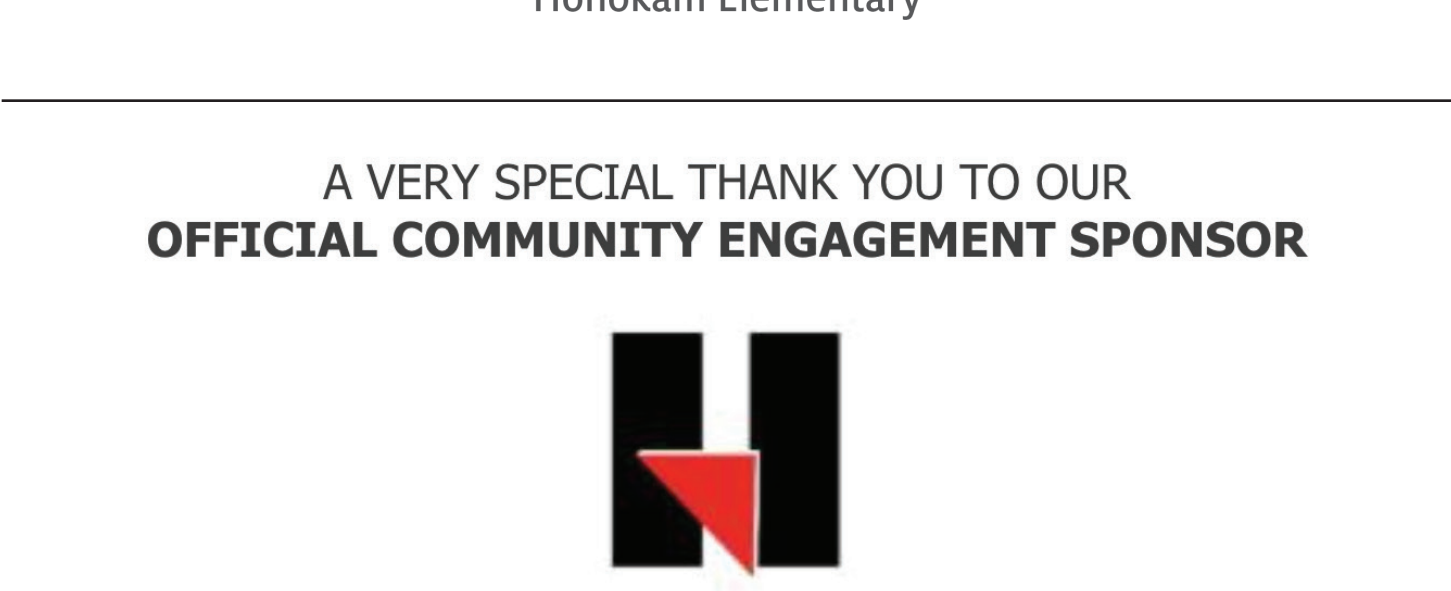


Photo from Left to Right: Hoop Dance Advanced and Beginner students, Adaptive Dance Level 2+3 students, Dance for Parkinson’s Disease students

*“We absolutely loved attending the community showcase and were deeply moved by the incredible variety of dances. It was truly special to see performers of all ages from the adaptive community and watching our own children grow in this class over the past few years—and being able to participate in a recital—was an unforgettable milestone and a proud moment for our family. It’s so important for all children to grow up seeing and appreciating diversity, not only in ethnicity but in ability as well. We’re deeply grateful to Ballet Arizona for everything you do!”*

– Adaptive Dance Parent

### Community Programs

## BALLET UNDER THE STARS



Photo Credit: Sherrie Buzby

Ballet Under the Stars brings fully staged performances to local parks around the Valley, making dance free and accessible to the Arizona community. This year, Ballet Arizona added **two new parks**, reaching six cities and attendees from **121 zip codes!**



### BALLET UNDER THE STARS LOCATIONS

**Fountain Park, Fountain Hills**  
**Chandler Park, Chandler NEW!**  
**Estrella Lakeside Amphitheater, Goodyear**

**Centennial Plaza Park, Peoria NEW!**  
**Sahuaro Ranch Historic Park, Glendale**  
**Steele Indian School Park, Phoenix**

In conjunction with Ballet Under the Stars, Ballet Arizona partners with six elementary schools to bring Class Act to 3rd and 4th grade students. This year, Class Act provided **108 local elementary school students** with the opportunity to dance, create, and perform under the guidance of Ballet Arizona’s teachers and dancers at the Ballet Under the Stars performances.



**Interested in supporting our community programs?**

Click the button below to bring Ballet Arizona’s mission to life in our community.

**Make your Impact Today!**

## SATELLITE LOCATION

### Mesa, Arizona



Ballet Arizona was very excited to announce a new school satellite expansion into the East Valley through a partnership with **Child Crisis Arizona** this season!

Child Crisis Arizona’s new Center for Child & Family Wellness boasts a new state-of-the-art dance studio for ballet classes for all ages!

In the first 6 months, **80 people** were served in the East Valley!

## NOTABLE PARTNERSHIPS

**Thank you to our partners for helping bring ballet to the community!**

Alhambra Traditional School	City of Glendale	Kenilworth Elementary
Alta Loma Elementary	City of Goodyear	McDowell Mountain Elementary
Apache Elementary	City of Peoria	Phoenix Public Libraries
ASU Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts	City of Phoenix	Sagewood
The Center for Habilitation	Don Mensendick School	Scales Technology Academy
Child Crisis Arizona	Frank Elementary	Sunnyslope Senior Center
City of Chandler	Foothills Elementary	Westar Elementary
City of Fountain Hills	Freedom Plaza	Wilson Primary
	Hartford Elementary	
	Herrera Elementary	
	Hohokam Elementary	

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR OFFICIAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPONSOR



**THE DIANE & BRUCE HALLE FOUNDATION**

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

