



Reach Out And Dance (R.O.A.D.) 2019-2020

Instilling Self-Confidence and Discipline in Children through Dance

Kansas City Ballet's nationally recognized dance residency program, Reach Out And Dance (R.O.A.D.) offers weekly movement classes for 12 weeks and end of semester R.O.A.D. Rallies during the academic year in elementary schools, during the school day. Established curriculum is taught by KC Ballet teaching artists to live music, introducing 3rd and 4th grade students to the fundamentals of dance: space, time, effort, self-discipline, and cooperative learning. Thematic lessons integrate STEAM based curriculum and are based on National and State Education Standards.

A contribution of \$10,000 to our R.O.A.D. program provides needed funding to continue this program. In addition, your company has the opportunity to designate funds to your school of choice (based on list of participating schools).

The mission of our community programs is to create awareness, appreciation, and to engage learners of all ages in a deeper understanding and connection to dance. Our community programs impact thousands of people annually, and our signature program is the R.O.A.D. Residency Program.

R.O.A.D. is comprised of two primary components:

I. R.O.A.D. Residency

R.O.A.D. Residency is based on the highly successful National Dance Institute (NDI), founded by celebrated former-New York Ballet principal dancer Jacques D'Amboise, and utilizing National Dance Institute curriculum. Lessons are based around National and State Education Standards in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Kansas City Ballet has been delivering the R.O.A.D. Residency Program for 20 years, fusing creative movement, dance, live music, and classroom curriculum for third and fourth grade students at Kansas City-area schools – public, private, charter, and parochial. While the program is offered to any elementary school in the Kansas City area, we intentionally seek partnerships with Title I schools (those with more than half of their enrollment from low-income families) to bring dance and its benefits to a new audience.

R.O.A.D. program leadership establish partnerships between Kansas City Ballet and local elementary schools at the beginning of each academic year. R.O.A.D. Residency classes are scheduled for 12- or 24-weeks of in-school dance instruction provided weekly by trained dance teaching artists and professional piano accompanists from Kansas City Ballet. R.O.A.D. lessons are planned in coordination with teachers to integrate academic areas, while focusing on the primary element of dance.

For example, R.O.A.D. teaching artists have focused some class sessions on geography. R.O.A.D. works with students to identify states and cities through Body Kinesthetic, an approach to education that correlates movement with cardinal directions and, by extension, the location of specific states on the map. Many teachers report the effectiveness of the R.O.A.D. curriculum introducing different countries that provide students with opportunities to learn about international cultures and words from foreign languages.

In the Language Arts segment of the program, R.O.A.D. instructors focus on presenting and communicating ideas clearly, verbalizing directions, and introducing new vocabulary to increase students' lexicon, and written and verbal communications skills. Students improve math skills by counting out music and through movement math games; enhance vocabulary skills by learning dance and music terminology to describe various dance and music terms; and listening skills by following directions. Through this interactive involvement, the dance experience requires students to apply themselves to a task that involves both mental and physical challenges.



At the close of the program, R.O.A.D. Residency participants present their work to teachers and family members at each school in a R.O.A.D.

Rally. Rallies demonstrate lessons and skills learned in correlation with the year's R.O.A.D. theme.

R.O.A.D. Residency at Crossroads Academy, 2019.

The average cost of delivering R.O.A.D. in an elementary school is \$5,000 per year. Schools with capacity to cover this fee pay Kansas City Ballet for the program. Schools without capacity for this program in their budget are provided with the program tuition-free if we can find funders to cover the cost.

In the 2019-2020 academic year, Kansas City Ballet is partnering with 24 elementary schools to deliver R.O.A.D. to an estimated 1,200 third and fourth grade students:

Fall 2019 (12-week Residencies provided at no charge)

1. Border Starr Montessori (Kansas City, Mo.)
2. Faxon Elementary School (Kansas City, Mo.)
3. Gladstone Elementary School (Kansas City, Mo.)
4. Hale Cook Elementary (Kansas City, Mo.)
5. John T. Hartman Elementary (Kansas City, Mo.)
6. Holliday Montessori School (Kansas City, Mo.)
7. J.A. Rogers Elementary School (Kansas City, Mo.)

8. Junction Elementary School (Kansas City, Kans.)
9. Longfellow Elementary School (Kansas City, Mo.)
10. King Elementary (Kansas City, Mo.)
11. Midland Trail Elementary School (Kansas City, Kan.)
12. Oak Grove Elementary School (Kansas City, Kan.)
13. Primitivo Garcia Elementary School (Kansas City, Mo.)
14. Turner Elementary School (Kansas City, Kan.)
15. Wendell Phillips Elementary School (Kansas City, Mo.)
16. Wheatley Elementary School (Kansas City, Mo.)

Fall 2019: (24-week Residencies paid for by schools)

17. Allen Village School (Kansas City, Mo.)
18. Crossroads Academy (Kansas City, Mo.)
19. John Fiske Elementary School (Kansas City, Kan.) - fee paid by donor-designation
20. Prairie Elementary School (Prairie Village, Kan.)
21. Santa Fe Trail Elementary (Overland Park, Kan.)
22. St. Paul's Day School (Kansas City, Mo.)

Spring 2020: (12-week Residencies paid for by schools)

23. Genesis School (Kansas City, Mo.)
24. St. Ann Catholic School (Prairie Village, Kan.)

Research shows learning in and through the arts can help “level the playing field” for students from disadvantaged circumstances. ArtsEdSearch¹ (artsedsearch.org) – an online hub for research on the impact of arts in education – highlights the following benefits of programs like R.O.A.D.:

- **Literacy and Language Development.** The positive impact of arts-integrated instruction on literacy development is especially strong for English language learners.
- **Mathematics Achievement.** Research demonstrates positive connections between arts study and achievement in mathematics, beginning with early childhood and elementary grades. Dance is also related to high achievement in math.
- **Overall Academic Achievement.** Arts activities and learning in the early grades are connected to greater readiness for school. Studies at the elementary level detect connections between arts participation and overall academic achievement, including larger increases in intelligence.
- **Underserved Students.** Studies find that students from low socio-economic backgrounds, English language learners, and students with special needs—often underserved in public schools—show the greatest relative improvement in academic achievement when participating in the arts.

Many of our R.O.A.D. partner schools enroll student populations with substantial risk factors threatening their academic success. While R.O.A.D. participants are learning the

¹ <http://www.artsedsearch.org/students/research-overview#academic>

skill and appreciation of dance, many other areas of academic and personal performance benefit as well.

Initially Kansas City Ballet worked with Dr. Jenny Seham, a respected psychologist and researcher in the effects of in-school dance programs, and with the Innovation Network in Washington, DC to create R.O.A.D. evaluation tools. We collect data from classroom teachers, R.O.A.D. teaching artists and students at the beginning of each session to gather baseline information about attendance and attitudes, and at the end of the school year to evaluate progress of the students.

The goal is to develop a group sense of team dynamic, trust, individuality, discipline, and a standard of personal excellence that carries over into all aspects of the students' lives. To achieve this goal, we work toward these objectives:

1. Provide under-served and at-risk youth with a different learning paradigm through which they can experience success, develop self-discipline, and strive for personal excellence within and outside the school environment.
2. Increase the use of high-quality arts during academic instruction time at the elementary school level.
3. Demonstrate the effectiveness of dance-based arts programming in a variety of academic and economic settings by expanding the R.O.A.D. program.
4. Develop and document information, materials, processes, and techniques that can be used to replicate the program in a variety of settings.
5. Develop and enhance partnerships with school districts, community organizations, professional artists, students, teachers, principals and parents; thereby increasing appreciation and audiences for the arts.

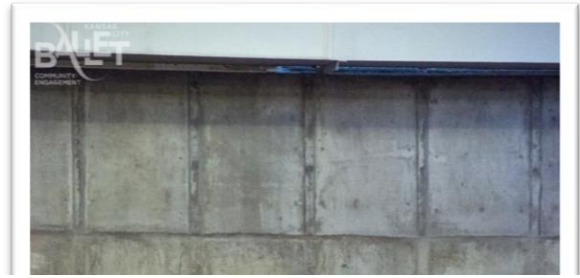


Students are also evaluated in the following areas:

- Focus & Concentration
- Listening Skills
- Effort

- Confidence
- Teamwork

R.O.A.D. teaching artists maintain class journals to assess student progress and challenges. These assessments are combined with classroom teacher evaluations to guide the program's development.



R.O.A.D. Scholarship Demonstration 2018.



II. R.O.A.D. Scholarship

In September 2017, Kansas City Ballet initiated the R.O.A.D. Scholarship Program as an extension of R.O.A.D. Residency, in partnership with Kansas City Public Schools (MO) and Turner Unified School District (KS). The goal of this program is to provide promising R.O.A.D. Residency students access to on-going professional instruction.

Students in the R.O.A.D. Scholarship program follow this process:

- Up to 112 R.O.A.D. Scholars are selected by KC Ballet's Community Engagement and Education Director in December of each year from among Residency students' in 16 partner schools (from Kansas City Public and Turner School Districts).
- Selection is based on students' movement facility, behavior, training potential, and parent/guardian commitment to the program.
- After their Residency fall semester, R.O.A.D. Scholars participate the following spring semester in two weekly dance classes (ballet / modern and/or jazz) during the school day, once a week, at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity (Kansas City Ballet's home).
- Transportation from the schools to Kansas City Ballet for the spring semester of R.O.A.D. Scholarship is provided by our two partner school districts.
- In their first spring semester, Scholars are provided dance attire and tuition- free classes, and two complimentary tickets to a Kansas City Ballet performance.

R.O.A.D. Scholarship class in their Spring Showcase at the Bolender Center, 2018.

- F. Following their first spring Scholarship semester, Scholars are invited to continue in an eight-week summer session. During the summer, Scholars must provide their own transportation to the Bolender Center and are provided with dance attire, at no cost to their families and free tuition.
- G. Upon conclusion of the summer session, 30 R.O.A.D. Scholars are invited to enroll in the Kansas City Ballet Academy for two consecutive years. During this time, Scholars are integrated into Academy classes at their level, and provided with dance attire as needed, and free tuition. Scholar's families must provide transportation.
- H. At the end of their three combined years in the R.O.A.D. Scholarship program, Scholars may apply for merit based scholarships or financial aid to continue in the Academy.

During the program's short tenure, R.O.A.D. Scholarship has demonstrated significant potential and great success.

- R.O.A.D. Scholarship selected and enrolled 87 students in the first (Spring 2018) semester.
 - Of those first 87, 54 continued for the summer 2018 term, and 30 were selected for fall 2018 Academy classes.
- In Spring 2019, 99 Scholars were selected and enrolled.
 - 66 then continued for the summer 2019 program and 30 Scholars were selected to continue in fall 2019.
- Of note, in December 2018, 11 students from the first 2018 R.O.A.D. Scholars class auditioned and nine were selected to dance in Kansas City Ballet's annual production of *The Nutcracker*.

The program is working as planned, and to witness these children performing on stage in a professional production is affirmation of the program's intent.

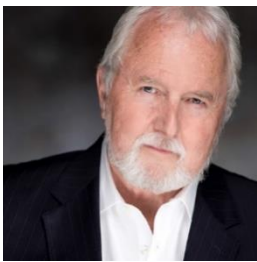
The study of dance enhances learning skills, provides alternative tools for academic achievement, and encourages confidence, discipline, cooperative learning, and critical thinking. These skills comprise the building blocks that develop future citizens of high character and strong work ethic. Kansas City Ballet's exceptional Reach Out and Dance (R.O.A.D.) program is especially focused on these core skills.

Thank you for considering support for this life-changing dance program. Your investment will transform students' lives, helping underserved students develop self-esteem, discipline, confidence, promote health and wellness and important life skills.

KEY INDIVIDUALS



Devon Carney, Artistic Director: Devon joined Kansas City Ballet in July 2013 from the Cincinnati Ballet, where he was Associate Artistic Director since 2003. He served as Ballet Master for Boston Ballet from 1998 to 2003. He was a professional dancer for two decades, chiefly with Boston Ballet. There, he performed leading roles in classics such as *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote* and *The Sleeping Beauty*. He has toured extensively with such greats as Rudolph Nureyev, Fernando Bujones and Cynthia Gregory. Devon has choreographed many works, including an all-new *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*.



Jeffrey, J. Bentley, Executive Director: Jeff has been involved in dance and theater for over 30 years as a performer, administrator, festival director, dance presenter, teacher and consultant. He began professional ballet training as a scholarship student with the American Ballet Center, the school of the Joffrey Ballet in New York City, then trained at the School of American Ballet. Following military service, he graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle, completed a one-year internship with the Washington State Arts Commission, then joined the Tony-award winning Seattle Repertory Theater before joining Kansas City Ballet.



April Berry, Director of Community Engagement and Education: April, a dance director, master teacher, educator and former internationally acclaimed dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, joined Kansas City Ballet in July 2016. She has worked with many of the most celebrated choreographers and dance artists of the 20th century. April has served as Director of Education and Outreach for North Carolina Dance Theatre, (now the Charlotte Ballet) and as Director of Education and Community Programs for BalletMet Columbus, in Ohio. Before joining Kansas City Ballet, April served as Artistic Director of Dallas Black Dance Theatre in Dallas, Texas.

2019-2020 Reach Out And Dance (R.O.A.D.) Budget

Income

Residency Fees	\$19,336
Contributions	<u>\$120,000</u>

Total Income	\$139,336
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Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	\$147,294
Mileage	\$2,000
Printing / Postage	\$2,200
Supplies	<u>\$1,850</u>

Total Expenses	\$153,344
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R.O.A.D. Sponsorship Benefits

- Company recognition posted for one year on R.O.A.D. site at kcballet.org
- Invitations to R.O.A.D. rallies at participating schools at end of Fall and Spring semesters and the R.O.A.D. Scholars Showcase in the spring at the Bolender Center for Dance and Creativity.
- Volunteer opportunities during R.O.A.D. Scholars Showcase
- Opportunity to designate funds to your school of choice (based on list of participating schools).

Season Benefits and Recognition

- Bolender Society membership for two company representatives (benefits include members-only invitations to performance intermission receptions and special events).
- Recognition in all Kansas City Ballet season program books
- Logo and Business Profile posted for one year on kcballet.org
- Discount rates for KC Ballet performances offered to Mark One Electric's employees (discounts vary by performance)
- Kansas City Ballet School Studio Discount for employees (Save \$20 on 20-class packs for dance and fitness classes)
- Business Leadership Committee membership for 1 company representative
- Invitation to Kansas City Ballet special events

COMPANY INVESTMENT: \$ 10,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact **Karen Massman VanAsdale**,
Director of Corporate Relations, at kvanasdale@kcballet.org or 816-216-5584.