

2023 2024 GRATITUDE REPORT



MISSION

To Inspire and Engage Through the Beauty, Power & Passion of Dance

VISION

Outstanding Dance Experiences Accessible to All

INCLUSION STATEMENT

Kansas City Ballet believes in the right for all to experience full equity and inclusion. We strive to represent diversity in our company, staff, and school, and actively seek to cultivate dancers from diverse backgrounds.

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Kansas City Ballet Dancers in George Balanchine's Rubies.
Front Cover | Dancers Georgia Fuller & Alladson Barreto in George Balanchine's Emeralds.
Back Cover | Dancers Kaleena Burks & Andrew Vecseri in George Balanchine's Diamonds..

THANK YOU FROM KANSAS CITY BALLET LEADERSHIP

I was thrilled to present an incredible lineup of talented dancers performing world-renowned works and newly minted creations in my eleventh season as Kansas City Ballet's Artistic Director.

The season began spectacularly with the North American premiere of *Jekyll & Hyde*, featuring a haunting score arranged and conducted by our own Music Director, Ramona Pansegrau. Record-setting attendance at *The Nutcracker* introduced many new faces to this beloved holiday tradition. Meanwhile, *Peter Pan* served as a perfect introduction to ballet for young ones and the young at heart, complete with pixie dust and flying.

As spring approached, New Moves offered audiences the chance to experience an incredible collection of world premiere works by emerging choreographers up close. The season's elegant grand finale featured *Jewels*, one of Balanchine's most celebrated full-length works, providing audiences with a special treat and fulfilling my dream of bringing this sought-after masterpiece to Kansas City.

It is an honor to be part of an organization with such strong support for creating unforgettable dance experiences. We can all be proud of the amazing work we do, which positions us on the international stage and raises the cultural profile of Kansas City.

I look forward to another dynamic year!

Sincerely,



When I first interviewed for the position of Executive Director of Kansas City Ballet, I was struck by the commitment of the company's supporters and the broader community's dedication to the arts. After a year here, this unwavering support continues to impress.

Of course, Devon Carney makes it easy to feel passionate about our work. The incredible repertory, the amazing dancers, and the warmth and kindness at the heart of KCB inspire me daily. Witnessing the hard work and enthusiasm of the students in our School, especially the children in our Reach Out and Dance (R.O.A.D.) program, fuels my passion to build on the successes that my predecessor, Jeff Bentley, established over his long tenure.

I'm particularly pleased that we are advancing on several fronts, including the implementation of our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Sustainability (IDEAS) Plan, appointing a new School Director, creating a new Partnerships role, and the opening and rapid growth of our South Campus enrollment.

A personal highlight has been meeting many of you at events or the theater. If we haven't met yet, please say hello next time!

Thank you!



DEVON CARNEY

Artistic Director



DAVID GRAY

Executive Director



30 COMPANY MEMBERS
INCLUDING 4 APPRENTICES

13 STATES REPRESENTED
PLUS D.C., BRAZIL, CUBA, FRANCE, AND JAPAN

2023-2024 COMPANY DANCERS

Hometown | Years with KCB

FRONT ROW

Brock Maye *

Washington, D.C. | 2 years

Elliott Rogers *

Chicago, IL | 1 year

Aidan Duffy

Philadelphia, PA | 1 year

Chase Hanson

Darien, CT | 1 year

Joshua Kiesel

*Hanover Park, IL | 3 years
+2 years - Second Company
2023-2024 Greg and Barbara
Storm Emerging Dancer*

Paul Zusi

South Bend, IN | 3 years

Cameron Thomas

*Rochester, NY | 7 years
+1 year - Second Company*

Kevin Wilson

Durango, CO | 8 years

Joshua Bodden

Miami, FL | 10 years

Angelín Carrant

*Paris, France | 6 years
+1 year - Second Company*

Isaac Allen

Ashland, OR | 2 years

Gavin Abercrombie

*Acton, CA | 6 years
+2 years - Second Company*

BACK ROW

Gabriel Lorena

São Paulo, Brazil | 2 years

Taryn Pachciarz

Independence, MO | 12 years

Georgia Fuller

*Cincinnati, OH | 4 years
+3 years - Second Company*

Sidney Haefs

*Los Angeles, CA | 5 years
+1 year - Second Company*

* Company Apprentice, supported in part by the Estelle S. and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation



169 COLLECTIVE YEARS
WITH KANSAS CITY BALLET

60 PERFORMANCES
ON THREE DIFFERENT STAGES

Amelia Meissner
San Antonio, TX | 1 year

Sophie Hod
Great Neck, NY | 2 years
+3 years - Second Company

Marisa DeEtte Whiteman
Stony Brook, NY | 6 years
+4 years - Second Company

Amira Hogan *
Houston, TX | 1 year

Kelsey Ivana Hellebuyck
San Francisco, CA | 8 years

Alladson Barreto
Natal, Brazil | 2 years

Emily Mistretta
Upland, CA | 8 years
2023-2024 Sally and Thomas
J. Wood Senior Dancer

Amanda DeVenuta
Carmel, NY | 10 years

Amaya Rodriguez
Havana, Cuba | 8 years
2023-2024 John
Hunkeler Senior Dancer

Whitney Huell
Irmo, SC | 10 years

Olivia Jacobus *
Malibu, CA | 2 years

Naomi Tanioka
Sapporo, Japan | 5 years

Andrew Vecseri
Houston, TX | 2 years

Kaleena Burks
Ft. Lauderdale, FL | 14 years
(not pictured)

Company dancers are represented by the American Guild of Musical Artists.

23 SECOND COMPANY MEMBERS (7 KCB II AND 16 TRAINEES)



2,190 AUDIENCE MEMBERS REACHED

(7 KCB II COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES AND 5 LECTURE DEMONSTRATIONS)

2023-2024 SECOND COMPANY

Laila Madison
Trainee

Lauryn Brown
KCB II

Troy Monger-Levin
KCB II

Malerie Moore
KCB II

Trinity Santoro
KCB II

Gordan Camplejohn
Trainee

Aysia Bates
Trainee

Olivia Pearsall
Trainee

McKibben Needham
KCB II

Gillian Yoder
KCB II

Mei McArtor
Trainee

Ava Bernardo
Trainee

Ian Anderson-Conlon
KCB II

Emma Blake
Trainee

Maya Sprague
Trainee

Reagan Pender
Trainee

Sage Guillot
Trainee

Hannah Waldon
Trainee

Jake Lapham
Trainee

Natalie Boese
Trainee

Dylan Wills
Trainee

Elena Victoria
Trainee

Aaron Williamson
Trainee

*Dancers listed from
left to right.*

Kansas City Ballet's Second Company is an emerging professionals program designed to provide extraordinarily talented young dancers with professional company experience before they join a professional company. This program includes KCB II and the Trainee Program, both integral parts of the Professional Division of the Kansas City Ballet School.

KCB II performs throughout the region, offering public performances, lecture demonstrations, residencies, and workshops. These activities enable the community to experience live dance in various public settings, fostering a deeper appreciation for the art of ballet.

Performance highlights included a performance for 500 guests at AdventHealth's Tiny Tim Holiday Fantasy Event, a lecture demonstration for 300 students and teachers at Junction Elementary School, and a series of September performances at the Crossroads Hotel.

"Kansas City Ballet Second Company dancers represent what is on the horizon for KCB and serve as ambassadors for the art form in our community."

- Christopher Ruud, Second Company Manager



Dancers in Gabriel Lorena's Under My Skin, New Moves 2024.



Middle | Dancer Joshua Bodden taking his final bow. Right | Dancers Amanda DeVenuta, Joshua Bodden and Marisa DeEtte Whiteman in George Balanchine's Jewels.

RETIRING DANCER JOSHUA BODDEN TAKES HIS FINAL BOW

A decade of leadership both on and off the stage

On May 19, Kansas City Ballet company dancer Joshua Bodden gave his last performance after ten seasons with the company. The standing ovation he received was a fitting tribute to the legacy he leaves behind as a gifted dancer and cherished colleague, friend and mentor. **“Josh brought all of himself to every role he played and made a lasting impact on the company,”** says Devon Carney, KCB Artistic Director.

Josh fell in love with ballet and began his training at the age of ten after seeing a student

matinee performance of *The Nutcracker* in his hometown of Miami. After joining KCB in 2014, he showcased his incredible talent in numerous roles such as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Nutcracker Prince in *The Nutcracker* and many other featured roles while also becoming a role model for other dancers in the company.

Kansas City Ballet congratulates Josh on a fantastic performance career and wishes him the very best in his next chapter as Rehearsal Director for Ballet Des Moines.

NEW DANCER ELLIOTT ROGERS LEAPS TO NEW HEIGHTS

Company apprentice embraces lead role in Peter Pan

Kansas City Ballet welcomed an incredible new talent this past year: Elliott Rogers, a company apprentice for the 2023-2024 season. A native of Chicago who began dancing at the age of two, Elliott took a major first step as a professional dancer by performing the role of Peter Pan on the Kauffman Center stage.

Elliott relates deeply to the character of Peter Pan, whose child-like mischief defines him as the boy that never grows up in this endearing family classic. “I love to go out and fly on stage,” he says, adding that playing Peter Pan was a dream role for its opportunities to be youthful, free and fully committed to the role.



Right | Dancer Elliott Rogers in Devon Carney's Peter Pan.
Photo by Gabriel Lorena.

2023-2024 SEASON IN REVIEW

Annual
Operating
Budget
\$11.2M

COMPANY PREMIERE

George Balanchine's full-length *Jewels*

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde*

13%
revenue increase
from 22-23

VENUES

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity

Midwest Trust Center at Johnson County Community College


Record
audience of
67.5K

14
Ballets
Performed

KANSAS CITY BALLET SCHOOL

499 students enrolled in the Kansas City Ballet Academy

231 roles performed by Academy students in Company productions



Endowment
\$23.4M

KCB SOCIAL MEDIA

67.8% net audience growth

59.2% rise in engagement rate

Two viral videos:

[Chiefs Super Bowl LVIII Challenge](#)
[Team Hook or Team Croc?](#)

DANCERS

30 Main Company

7 Second Company

16 Trainees



423
volunteers
contributed
6,541 hours

THE NUTCRACKER SET NEW RECORDS

41.8K in attendance

\$3.09M in sales

17% over sales goal

1,288
Subscribers

*Thank you to all Kansas City Ballet subscribers. The dancers look forward to welcoming you to the 2024-2025 season. If you haven't renewed yet or for more information, please visit kcballet.org or call the Box Office at **816.931.8993** so as not to miss a single magical moment on stage.*



Participants of the 2023-24 Board Retreat at Lathrop GPM. Photo by Beeh Moynagh.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS USHER IN NEW ERA FOR BALLET

Kansas City Ballet's governing board, under the new leadership of longtime Ballet supporter Barbara Storm, ushered in an exciting year of transition. In her first year at the helm, Barbara and the board worked closely with KCB staff to drive key initiatives, most notably the onboarding of new Executive Director David Gray after a year-long, nationwide search.

The board also celebrated the opening of the expanded South Campus of the Kansas

City Ballet School and championed the initial implementation of KCB's organization-wide plan for inclusion, diversity, equity, access, and sustainability (IDEAS).

"It is so easy to be committed to an organization that dedicates itself to excellence. I am so grateful to collaborate with my fellow passionate board members to support KCB's mission and vision." – Barbara Storm, President, KCB Board of Directors

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman,
Chairman
Muriel McBrien Kauffman
Family Foundation

Barbara Storm,
President
Community Leader

CiCi Rojas,
Immediate Past President
Tico Productions LLC /
Tico Sports

Stephen Doyal,
Vice President
Hallmark Cards, Retired

Jack D. Rowe, J.D.,
Vice President
Lathrop GPM LLP

Kathleen Nemechek, J.D.,
Vice President
Berkowitz Oliver LLP

David Harris,
Treasurer
US Bank

Carolyn W. Parkerson,
Secretary
Community Leader

David Gray,
Executive Director
Kansas City Ballet

Devon Carney,
Artistic Director
Kansas City Ballet

MEMBERS

Aviva Ajmera
SoLVE KC

Charlotte Kemper Black
Commerce Trust Company

Lucy Wells Coulson
Community Leader

Derald Davis, Ed.D.
Kansas City Public Schools

Donna M. Davis, Ph.D.
University of Missouri-
Kansas City

Anne Elsberry, J.D.
Community Leader

Cindy Hampton
DecoPac

John D. Hunkeler, M.D.
Community Leader

Cyndi James
2023-24 Kansas City Ballet
Guild President

Linda Lenza
Bank of America

Patricia Macdonald
HI-IQ - Healthcare Institute
for Innovations in Quality

Steve McDowell
BNIM

Rachel Hack Merlo
Google Fiber Kansas City

Tracy Musolf
Lockton

Sarah Pedraza
SS&C

Joab Ortiz
Burns & McDonnell

G. Mark Sappington, J.D.
Community Leader

Suzanne Shank, J.D.
Community Leader

Kent V. Stallard, J.D.
Stinson LLP

Angela Walker
Community Leader

Marissa Wickam
2023-24 BARRE KC
President



New Emeritus Council members Jack D. Rowe, J.D., Cyndi James and Marissa Wickam. Photo by Mark McDonald.

EMERITUS COUNCIL STAYS INVOLVED AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Kansas City Ballet's Emeritus Council recognizes former board members for their tremendous leadership over the years. It also allows some of the Ballet's most passionate leaders to stay engaged with the organization by participating in milestone Council events such as the Fall Luncheon and Open Rehearsal as well as the Ballet's Annual Meeting in June.

KCB would like to thank Council Chair Wendy Powell and all Emeritus Council members for their ongoing commitment, with special appreciation for the following new members:

Jack D. Rowe, J.D.
Board Member 2010-2024
Board President 2019-2021

Cyndi James
Guild President 2023-2024

Marissa Wickam
BARRE KC President 2022-2024



*Left | Jeffrey J. Bentley, Susan Lordi Marker and Emeritus Council Chair Wendy Powell at the Emeritus Council Luncheon.
 Right | Emeritus Council members are invited to stay up to date at the Annual Meeting. Photos by Mark McDonald.*



KANSAS CITY BALLET IDEAS COMMITTEE BEGINS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Building on the initial task force work that began in 2021, the Kansas City Ballet Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Sustainability (IDEAS) Committee made significant strides in 2023-2024. With the KCB Board of Directors approving a plan developed by KCB senior leadership based on the IDEAS Committee's recommendations, the Committee has now moved into the implementation phase.

High-level recommendations of the IDEAS plan include:

- Establishing inclusive core values and expanding them across the organization to foster a positive and IDEAS-centric organizational culture.
- Optimizing outreach efforts to attract a more diverse talent pool, including underrepresented communities.
- Developing and implementing initiatives tailored to support dancers from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

KCB leadership is committed to listening to all viewpoints and integrating inclusion into every decision, aiming to create a sustainable approach to diversity, equity and inclusion across the organization.

“A strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion ensures everyone in the organization feels valued, welcome, and respected. It also helps attract top talent and continue to build a successful organization.” – Dr. Kevin Sansberry, IDEAS Consultant to KCB

IDEAS COMMITTEE

Zakry Akagi-Bustin
Kevin Amey
Jeffrey J. Bentley
Devon Carney

Kimberly Cowen
David Gray
George Hans
Pat Macdonald

Sarah Pedraza
Joab Ortiz
Ramona Pansegrau
CiCi Rojas

Dr. Kevin Sansberry
(IDEAS Consultant)
G. Mark Sappington, J.D.
Barbara Storm

Amy Taylor
Jennifer Wampler



Dancers Georgia Fuller and Marisa DeEtte Whiteman in Morgan Sicklick's *I am, lost to all but this*, *New Moves* 2024.

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ENCOURAGES CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT

Kansas City Ballet made significant strides in partnering with the local business community this past year, guided by its Business Leadership Council. ***"Sponsoring the arts presents a unique opportunity to build business through greater brand awareness and community engagement,"*** says Rachel Hack Merlo of Google Fiber Kansas City, Chair of KCB's 2023-2024 Business Leadership Council and a member of KCB's Board of Directors.

A partnership with VanBrock, owned by longtime KCB supporters Bonne and Clifford W. Illig, led to a multi-faceted sponsorship of *Jewel's* that significantly enhanced the visibility for both partners. Innovative tactics included KCB

dancers featured in VanBrock's print and digital advertising, an exclusive in-store event, and jewelry giveaways from the stage at each *Jewel's* performance.

Other longstanding partners include Lockton, which hosted a private reception for clients during the *Jekyll & Hyde* run. "Networking in Neverland" brought a record number of guests to the Council's private *Peter Pan* reception. Other valued partners like Performance Rehab KCOI and YMCA of Greater Kansas City support the dancers with access to physical therapy and gym memberships, while Parisi Coffee supplies coffee at the Bolender Center.

2023-2024 BUSINESS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Rachel Hack Merlo, Chair
[Google Fiber](#)
[Kansas City](#)

Nathan Benjamin
[Burns & McDonnell](#)

Consuelo Cruz
[Belger Arts Center](#)

Kendra Gage
[Performance Rehab](#)

David Harris
[US Bank](#)

Linda Lenza
[Bank of America](#)

Jill McCarthy
[KCADC](#)

Tracy Musolf
[Lockton](#)

Joab Ortiz
[Burns & McDonnell](#)

Bridget Romero
[Lathrop GPM LLP](#)

Barbara Storm
 Community Leader

Chris Teddy
[J.E. Dunn Construction](#)
[Company](#)

Lorie Whitaker
[Bank of America](#)

Courtney Yerganian
[Parisi Coffee](#)



KCB II Dancer Lauryn Brown in VanBrock Ad. Photo by Jessica Tierney.

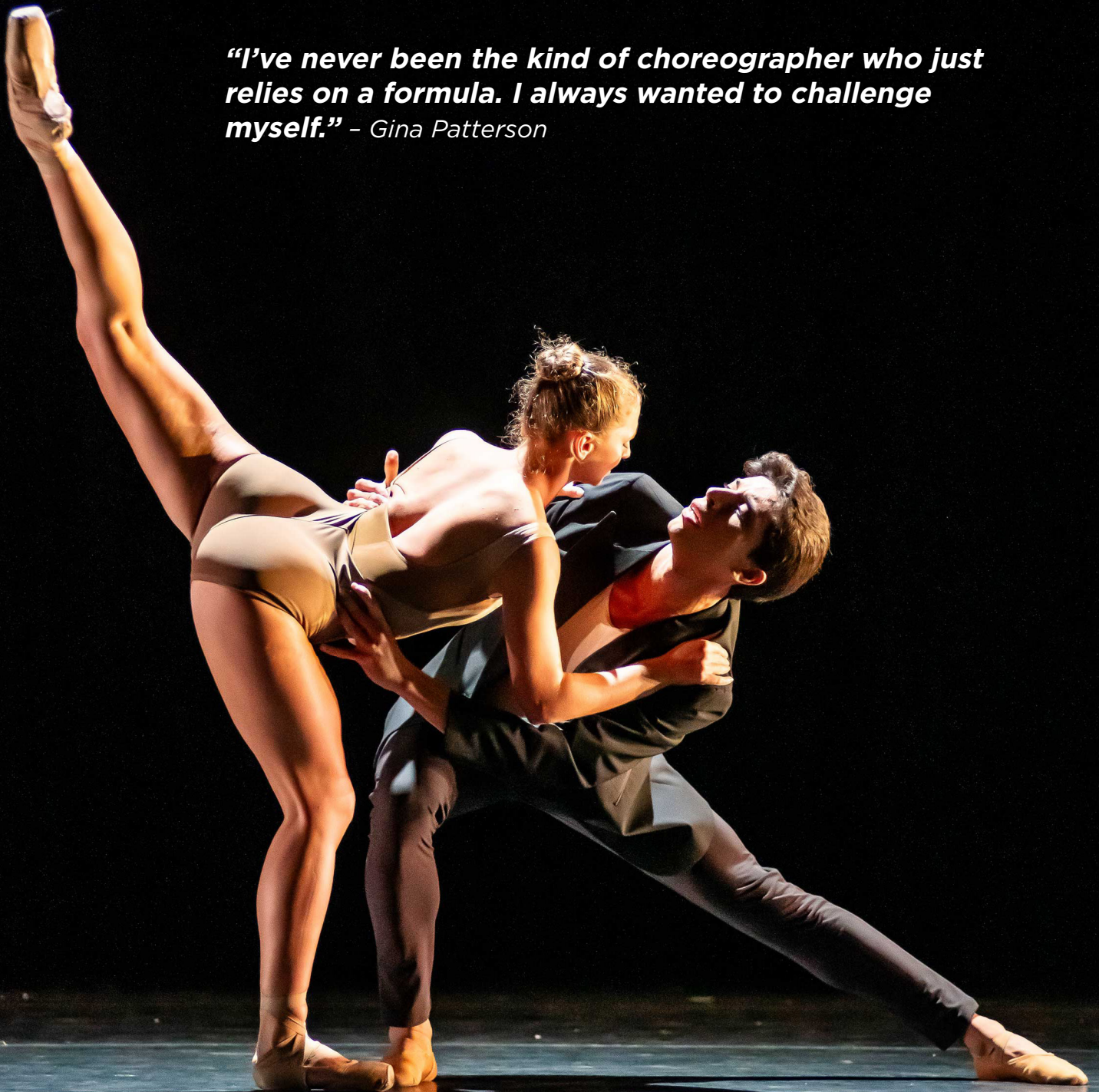
NEW DANCE PARTNERS • SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2023

[Midwest Trust Center](#), Johnson County Community College

While the World Was Laughing

Choreography by Gina Patterson

"I've never been the kind of choreographer who just relies on a formula. I always wanted to challenge myself." – Gina Patterson



Dancers Alladson Barreto and Amelia Meissner.

***"It was so inspiring to see
Kansas City Ballet perform a
contemporary work. All the
dances changed me."***

- Audience Member



***"New Dance Partners is a genius idea and
ALWAYS inspiring, fresh and innovative."***

- Audience Member



Top | Dancer Alladson Barreto with Company Dancers. Bottom | Kansas City Ballet Dancers. Photos by Mike Strong.



Susan Lordi Marker, Karen Lordi, Bolender Society Committee Chair Angela Walker and John Walker, and Cindy and Michael Wurm.
Photo by Mark McDonald.

THE BOLENDER SOCIETY ELEVATES SUPPORTER ENGAGEMENT

The Bolender Society unites Kansas City Ballet’s most dedicated supporters, providing them with unique opportunities to deepen their connection to the Ballet. During the 2023-2024 season, The Bolender Society significantly expanded its support of both membership and revenue contributions, supporting performances and vital philanthropic initiatives.

Friendships flourished within The Bolender Society through a shared love of ballet. An expanded membership base enjoyed a variety of exclusive events, from mingling at intermission

receptions and watching rehearsals to interacting with artistic staff and gaining behind-the-scenes insights. A highlight of the season was the annual Evening with Ramona, where members explored the diverse musical styles that Balanchine chose for his *Jewe/s* ballet.

“I love sharing my passion for all things Kansas City Ballet with my fellow Bolender Society members, whose generosity and commitment to the Ballet make such a positive impact.” – Angela Walker, Chair, Bolender Society Committee

2023-2024 BOLENDER SOCIETY COMMITTEE

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Angela Walker, Chair | Donna Davis, Ph.D. | Richard Jensen, Ph.D. | Barbara Nash | Barbara Storm |
| Blair Bieser | Susan Hangauer | Susan Lordi Marker | G. Mark Sappington, J.D. | John Walker |
| Lucy Coulson | Zack Hangauer | Siobhan McLaughlin Lesley | Suzanne Shank, J.D. | Karen Yungmeyer |



186

Bolender Society member households



\$481,161

contributed by Bolender Society members



12

new households joined TBS this year

Top Right Row | Devon Carney, Barbara Storm, Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman, David Gray, Jack Rowe, and Mary and John Hunkeler celebrate KCB’s successful 66th season at The Kansas City Country Club.
Middle Right Row | Aviva Ajmera, Wayne Strickland and Tracy and Jeff Musolf enjoy the North American premiere of Jekyll & Hyde at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Julie and Vince Clark and Joe and Claire Brand kick off the 2023-2024 season at the launch party held at The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center.
Bottom Right Row | Bolender Society members enjoying the annual Evening with Ramona at The Carriage Club. Glen and Susan Sands and Lisa and Christopher Sirridge. Photos by Mark McDonald.

**BOLENDER SOCIETY MEMBERS
ENJOY THE SEASON TOGETHER**



JEKYLL & HYDE • OCTOBER 13-22, 2023

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

North American Premiere

Choreography by Val Caniparoli

“The dancers of the KC Ballet company put on a flawless performance, with toe-breaking pirouettes, spins that defied the laws of physics, and movements that conveyed frightening sequences of events and portrayed a variety of emotions, from anguish, to desire, to terror.”

– Emily Jacobs, The Pitch



Dancers Cameron Thomas and Gavin Abercrombie.

FUN FACT: KCB's costume team spent 400 hours making alterations for the show.

"This new ballet was decidedly menacing, with stark lighting and ominous sound design and, you know, incarnate evil."

- Libby Hanssen, KC Studio



"This show was spectacular! The costumes were stunning, the music was haunting, and the dancing was sublime. I absolutely loved every second of it!"

- Audience Member



FUN FACT: 34 wigs, hair falls, and pieces of facial hair were featured in the show.

Top | Kansas City Ballet Dancers. Bottom | Dancer Cameron Thomas with Kansas City Ballet School Students.



Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau in rehearsal with Jekyll & Hyde choreographer Val Caniparoli. Photo by Beeh Moynagh.

CONDUCTOR RAMONA PANSEGRAU CREATES A PERFECT SCORE

Music Director Collaborates with Jekyll & Hyde Choreographer Over Seven Years

Ramona Pansegrau arranged, edited and compiled the score of Val Caniparoli's *Jekyll & Hyde* with such precision that every transition is seamless. "The music is a character too. Having the correct music is 95 percent of the battle for a successful ballet," says Val, one of the world's most sought-after choreographers. "What Ramona did made it seem like the music was written specifically for this ballet."

Choreographers rarely work closely with one music director.

"Val would be workshoping in the studio, and if something didn't work, I could edit and bring the music back almost immediately. That never happens," says Ramona.

During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, Val and Ramona spent months on Zoom, adjusting pieces. They ultimately compiled two hours of music.

Ramona also helped the Finnish National Ballet with the score and negotiated musical rights and royalties, a task not typically assigned to the music editor.

"I either love the music itself or how it enhances the choreography to tell the story beautifully," says Ramona.

Ramona's secret weapon is her ability to find opportunities for continuity through careful editing and arranging. Val and Ramona were still fine-tuning pieces two weeks before it premiered in Finland.

"Val choreographed a fantastic ballet, and I'm very proud of how it sounded," says Ramona. **"The music fit perfectly with the choreography. I'm thrilled that Kansas City audiences got to see it."**



FUN FACT: There are 5 sets of parts for *Jekyll & Hyde*, including the original instrumentation for 87 players, the reduced orchestration for 58 players, and the hybrid orchestration with recorded interpolations for 33 players. It took two full years to make the parts!

Kansas City Ballet Music Director Ramona Pansegrau conducting the Kansas City Symphony. Photo by Elizabeth Snell.

Moving into the Future

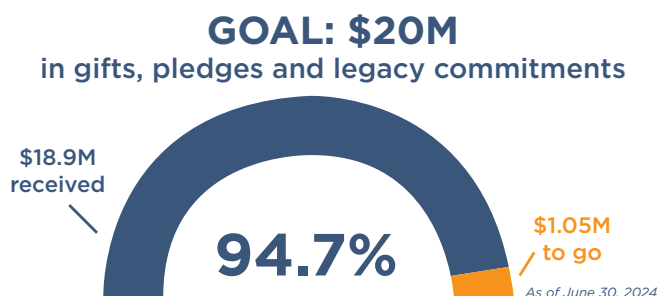
A Campaign for Kansas City Ballet

Dancer Georgia Fuller with Company Dancers in Devon Carney's Swan Lake. Photo by Ali Fleming.

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN NEARS THE FINISH LINE

Created to ensure a strong future for Kansas City Ballet, the *Moving into the Future* campaign is close to reaching its \$20 million goal. The generous gifts, pledges, and legacy commitments received are crucial for sustaining the Ballet's continued momentum.

The Ballet is greatly appreciative of the *Moving into the Future* Campaign Committee, co-chaired by Mike and Vicki Bray and Dr. John D. Hunkeler.



2023-2024 MOVING INTO THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Mike and Vicki Bray,
Co-Chairs

Dr. John D. Hunkeler,
Co-Chair

Peggy Beal, J.D.

Claire Brand

Steve Doyal

David Gray

Siobhan McLaughlin
Lesley

CiCi Rojas

Jack D. Rowe, J.D.

Lisa Sirridge

Kathy Stepp

Barbara Storm

Jennifer J.E. Wampler

Jacquie Ward

Rebecca Zandarski

Kansas City Ballet gratefully acknowledges the **Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation** for its instrumental support and \$5 million challenge grant, which matches gifts to this campaign. The Ballet also extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported the *Moving into the Future* campaign, including the following new gifts and pledges of \$5,000 or more received between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

NAMED FUNDS

Brad Allen and Gene Cooper:
The GENEgerBRAD Boys
Fund (Live Music)

Cathy and Steve Doyal
(Live Music)

R and C Charitable Foundation
Fund for Community
Engagement

The Thomas and Sally Wood
Family Foundation
(Senior Dancer)

John and Angela Walker
(Live Music)

Dr. Michael J. and
Cindy S. Wurm

POOLED FUNDS

UNRESTRICTED FUND
Janis E. Brewster

Edie and Randy Downing
O'Dea Family Foundation –
Crystal O'Dea

George and Suzy Pagels
Brian Woolley and
Patricia Martin

JEFFREY J. BENTLEY FUND FOR INNOVATION & CREATIVITY

John and Mary Hunkeler

BUILDING DIVERSITY IN BALLET SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Fred and Lucy Coulson
Dr. Linda E. Mitchell

TATIANA DOKOUDOVSKA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

William T. Laaser

the Tatiana Dokoudovska

LEGACY SOCIETY



LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS EXTEND THEIR LOVE OF THE ARTS FOR A LIFETIME

The Tatiana Dokoudovska Legacy Society continues the vision of Kansas City Ballet founder Tatiana Dokoudovska, whose dynamic spirit is the strong foundation that has made the Ballet a nationally acclaimed professional company. Legacy giving can have a profound impact on the

future of the Ballet, and it is surprisingly simple to do, allowing supporters to leave a lasting legacy that supports the arts for generations to come. Kansas City Ballet is sincerely grateful for its new Legacy Society members who have chosen this meaningful commitment.

NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS 2023-2024

Brad Allen and Gene Cooper

Vicki Erickson

Art Lafex

Bill Pallucca and Kevin Deen

Anonymous (2)

David Gray

Julia Malter

Kansas City Ballet is deeply honored to be a designated beneficiary of the estate plans of longtime supporters Kyle and Jacquie Ward and Linda Mitchell.



"I want to help instill a love for ballet in kids from a young age. I hope 20-50 years from now we have a diverse audience and a broad group of people that can come and enjoy the ballet."

– Jacquie Ward, Legacy Society Member



"Those of us who love dance and value the presence of such a superb company and organization in our midst know that the future of our beloved KC Ballet is dependent on our generosity and commitment."

– Linda Mitchell, Legacy Society Member



Co-chairs Jennifer Pontier and Carrie Kruse in the festive ballroom at The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. Photo by Mark McDonald.

SUGAR PLUM FAIRY CHILDREN'S BALL ENCHANTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This year's Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball once again enchanted attendees, creating unforgettable holiday memories while supporting the future of ballet in Kansas City through scholarships for students at the Kansas City Ballet School. Co-chairs Carrie Kruse and Jennifer Pontier returned to lead the 2023 event, themed "Clara's Holiday Party," transporting families into a world of imagination and holiday cheer.

Hundreds of guests attended the luncheon and children's party at The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, which was transformed into a magical

wonderland. Joyful carolers set the mood as guests enjoyed a variety of family-friendly activities, including holiday face painting and photos with the Sugar Plum Fairy. Following a multi-course luncheon, guests boarded a special motor coach to see *The Nutcracker* at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

"The holiday season wouldn't be the same without this special event that brings to life the arts for our children and creates lasting memories. It is a magical experience that has become a tradition for us." – Carly Unger, Attendee

2023 SUGAR PLUM FAIRY CHILDREN'S BALL COMMITTEE

Carrie Kruse, Co-chair

Karen Badgett

Julia Kim-Malter

Jennifer Pontier, Co-chair

Stephanie Eppler

Lisa Sirridge



467

party guests of all ages



\$57,366

raised for Kansas City Ballet School

LOOKING AHEAD:

[Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball](#) • Dec. 7, 2024

Sugar Plum Fairy Children's Ball Emcee Dia Wall and Alina Covington. Photo by Mark McDonald.



THE NUTCRACKER • DECEMBER 1-24, 2023

Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography by Devon Carney

"Seeing The Nutcracker every December has become one of our favorite traditions! Seeing the joy on my grandchildren's faces makes it worth every penny!" – Audience Member



FUN FACT: KCB's costume team replaced the ruffle on the two Sugar Plum Fairy tutus, with each ruffle having 420 inches of fabric gathered into 80 inches.

Presented by:

BANK OF AMERICA



Supporting
Sponsor



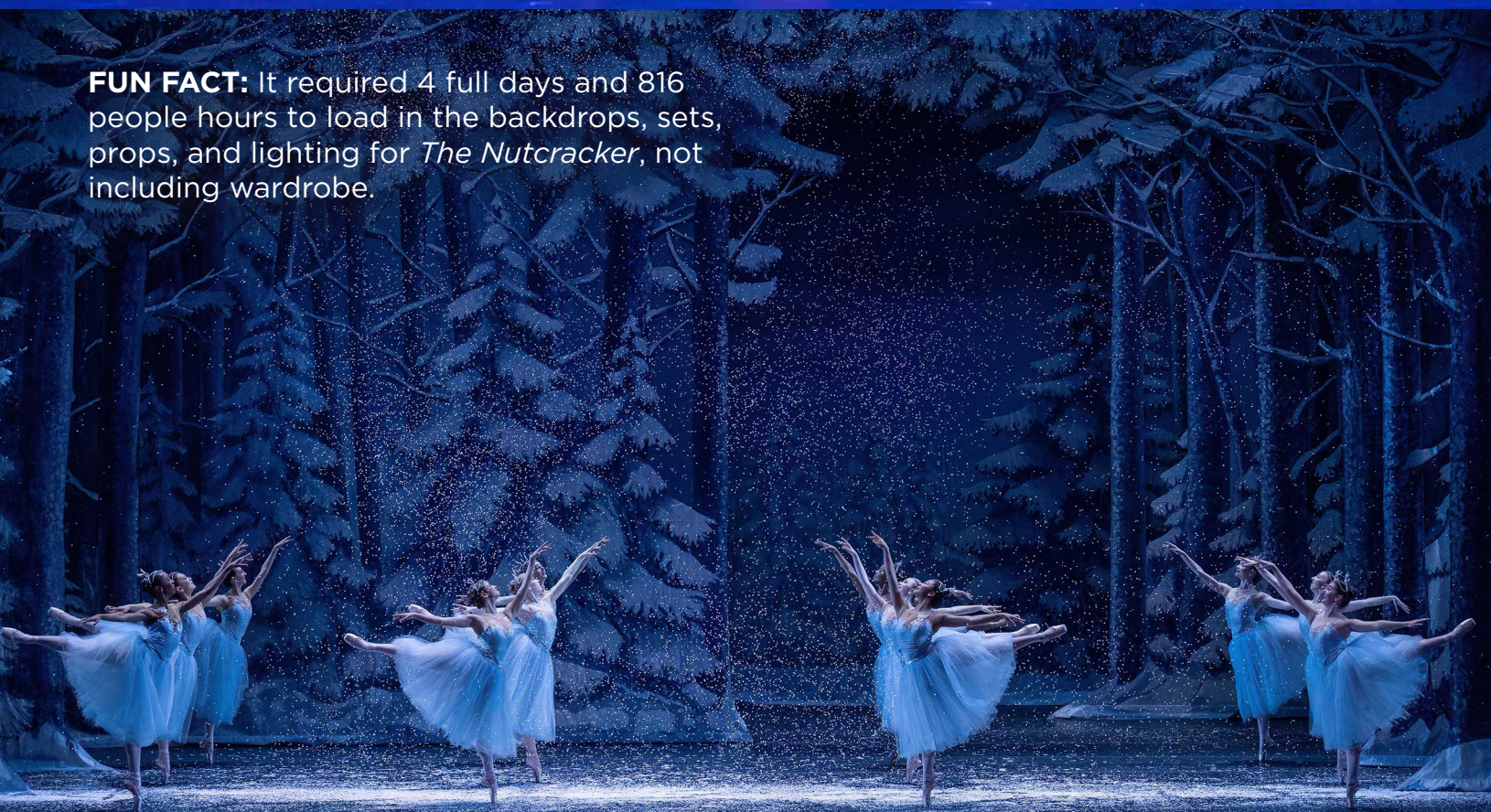
Dancers Naomi Tanioka and Gavin Abercrombie.

“No words can describe how beautiful and awe-inspiring The Nutcracker ballet performance was. Hands down the best!” – Audience Member



FUN FACT: There are 227 props in *Nutcracker*, with 463 conventional lighting fixtures and 40 moving lights.

FUN FACT: It required 4 full days and 816 people hours to load in the backdrops, sets, props, and lighting for *The Nutcracker*, not including wardrobe.



Top | Dancer Whitney Huell with Company Dancers. Bottom | Kansas City Ballet Dancers.



Kansas City Ballet trainees Mei McArtor and Laila Madison with an audience member. Photo by Beeh Moynagh.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE OFFERS WELCOMING SPACE

The beloved sensory-friendly performance of *The Nutcracker*, specially curated for children and adults with sensory sensitivities, autism spectrum disorder, or other special needs, made a welcome return to Kansas City Ballet this past holiday season.

Families with members who have sensory sensitivities often miss out on special memories like attending the theater together. Thanks to generous support from the Kirk Foundation and other passionate individuals, KCB offered this performance as part of its vision to make outstanding dance experiences accessible to everyone.

To create a welcoming and safe space for all attendees, the performance still included many

aspects of a typical performance while featuring various adaptations, including reduced sound levels and relaxed house rules that allowed freedom to move around, use electronic devices, and talk freely during the show. KCB also collaborated with Down Syndrome Innovations, whose participants helped support lobby activities to gain valuable life skills.

"I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity for my kids to experience such an amazing performance in a less intimidating environment."

– Audience Member

Thank you to Donny Cosse for donating souvenir photos, ensuring every audience member has a special memory to take home with them.



580

attendees, a record audience

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sensory-Friendly *ALICE (in wonderland)* • Oct. 17, 2024

Sensory-Friendly *Nutcracker* • Dec. 5, 2024

Kansas City Ballet trainees Lauryn Brown and Aysia Bates with audience members. Photo by Beeh Moynagh.



Students and their teachers attending a matinee at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Photo by Beeh Moynagh.

MATINEES FOR SCHOOLS ENRICH YOUNG LIVES

As many as 6,199 children discovered the power of dance this past season at Kansas City Ballet's matinees for schools performances. For many excited children, it was their first experience attending a live ballet performance. Nearly 1,600 students flew to Never Never Land with Peter Pan and Wendy, while over 4,600 followed Clara on a magical journey to *The Nutcracker's* Land of the Sweets

Thanks to the generous supporters who responded to a fall campaign supporting matinees for

schools, KCB presented a total of four full-length matinee performances for students from Kansas City schools, from Liberty to Lee's Summit to Lawrence.

Strong attendance at these matinees demonstrates the community's excitement for outstanding dance experiences and helps foster a love for the arts among future generations. Through high-quality dance performances like these, children complement their basic education and awaken to new worlds, new possibilities, and new ideas.



136

different schools participated



6,199

students attended *Nutcracker* and *Peter Pan* matinees for schools

LOOKING AHEAD:

[ALICE \(in wonderland\)](#) • Oct. 17, 2024

[The Nutcracker](#) • Dec. 6 & 12, 2024



Executive Director David Gray with students at a *Nutcracker* matinee for schools. Photo by Beeh Moynagh.



Kansas City Ballet Guild 2023-2024 members. Photo by Mark McDonald.

KANSAS CITY BALLET GUILD SUPPORTS KCB THROUGH ENTHUSIASTIC INVOLVEMENT

The Kansas City Ballet Guild continued its momentum this past season, reaching a record number of members and sponsoring two successful fundraising events: the Nutcracker Ball and the Nutcracker Boutique. Under the leadership of President Cyndi James, the Guild was integral to the success of KCB this past year.

Since 1961, Guild membership has provided ballet enthusiasts opportunities to socialize, learn more about ballet, and offer financial support for KCB. This season, the Guild hosted a Recruiting Happy Hour, adding 65 new passionate members. Members connected at events such as the lively

season kick-off party at Boulevard Brewing Company, three elegant luncheons, and a new “behind-the-scenes” opportunity to observe a KCB Company class. Also, members hosted their own open rehearsal and reception with the dancers, a Nutcracker cast appreciation day, a book club and movie night.

“Ballet has been a passion of mine since childhood, so it has meant so much to me personally to be connected to KCB and know how much of a difference the Guild makes in supporting the dancers.” – Cyndi James, Guild President

2023-2024 GUILD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Cyndi James <i>President</i> | Penelope Vrooman <i>Corresponding Secretary</i> | Angela Walker <i>Special Projects Vice President</i> | Cindy Wurm <i>Social Activities Vice President</i> | Jo Anne Dondlinger <i>Gala Vice President 2023</i> |
| Karen Yungmeyer <i>President-Elect</i> | Teresa McKinney <i>Membership Vice President</i> | John Walker <i>Education & Engagement Vice President</i> | Lisa Hickok <i>Archives Vice President</i> | Lynne & Carl Weilert <i>Gala Vice Presidents 2024</i> |
| Stephanie Eppler <i>Vice President & Treasurer</i> | Juliette Singer <i>Membership Data Vice President</i> | Angela Moore <i>Marketing/PR Vice President</i> | Melissa Ford <i>Immediate Past President</i> | Michele Hamlett-Weith <i>Gala Vice President 2025</i> |
| Ron Fredman <i>Recording Secretary</i> | | | Peggy Beal <i>Governance Chairman</i> | Cyndi James & Juliette Singer <i>Gala Vice Presidents 2026</i> |



\$425,000
contributed to
KCB, including an
unprecedented
Nutcracker Boutique
sell-out



\$83,794
raised by the
Nutcracker Boutique,
a record



240
members, a
record number,
plus 65 new
members



KCB Board President Barbara Storm, KCB Executive Director David Gray, Honorary Chairmen Susan Lordi Marker and Dennis Marker, Nutcracker Ball Chair Jo Anne Dondlinger, Bill Dondlinger, Guild President Cyndi James, KCB Artistic Director Devon Carney, and KCB Board Chairman Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman.

THE NUTCRACKER BALL ANNUAL GALA CELEBRATES THE SEASON WITH GENEROSITY

On December 1, the Kansas City Ballet Guild hosted its 56th annual fundraiser gala at The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. Jo Anne Dondlinger chaired the event, with Dennis and Susan Lordi Marker serving as honorary chairmen.

The evening included a lively cocktail reception, a gourmet dinner, and spirited dancing. Attendees were treated to a special debut presentation of the classic “Défilé” (French for “procession or show”) by the Kansas City Ballet School. This

exclusive performance featured select students at various stages of their training, showcasing their skills and the Academy’s dedication to nurturing talent.

Guild President Cyndi James and KCB Executive Director David Gray also presented the annual Pirouette Award to Angela and John Walker, recognizing their outstanding support and contributions.



480
guests



\$356,350
raised

LOOKING AHEAD:

The Nutcracker Ball • Dec. 7, 2024,
The Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center

Angela and John Walker receive their Kansas City Ballet 2023 Pirouette Award. Photos by Kenny Johnson.



PETER PAN • FEBRUARY 16-25, 2024
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography by Devon Carney

FUN FACT: The show's pirates and pirate maidens wore a combined 350 fake tattoos during the run of performances.

"I loved this performance.... I'm already gleefully anticipating catching the next story KC Ballet reimagines, and what these dancers bring to the stage."

- Gabriel Flynn, The Pitch



Dancer Andrew Vecseri with Company Dancers.

“I felt like I was a child again watching something special at this performance.” – Audience Member

FUN FACT:

The sound effects for *Peter Pan* included a slide whistle, an actual ship’s bell, 9 synthesized sounds played on a keyboard and 4 percussionists.



“Unquestionably, in Devon Carney’s alluring and terrifically comic Peter Pan, Paul Zusi, who joined the company in 2021, gave an absolutely smashing performance.” – Hilary Stroh, Bachtrack

FUN FACT: KCB’s costume team cut out 100 fabric leaves to be affixed to the new Peter Pan vests.



Top | Dancers Andrew Vecseri and Paul Zusi with Company Dancers. Bottom | Kansas City Ballet Dancers.



BARRE KC members with KCB Executive Director David Gray at the Crossroads Hotel, one of the stops of the annual BARRE Crawl kick-off event. Photo courtesy of BARRE KC

BARRE KC INSPIRES YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

As the premier group for young professionals supporting Kansas City Ballet, BARRE KC brings together ballet enthusiasts for a range of social, educational and networking events throughout the year.

Events from the past season included post-performance parties at new Kansas City venues, including Cloven Hoof – Tom’s Town pop-up, Fern Bar, and Third Place Lounge. New initiatives for mingling with fellow members included an open rehearsal and joint reception with the Kansas City Ballet Guild, and the first-ever BARRE KC holiday party.

Members deepen their involvement and impact through leadership opportunities and fundraising events benefiting the Ballet’s Reach Out and Dance (R.O.A.D.) Program.

“I’m incredibly proud to have served as President for the last two years. The Board has developed strongly and together we’re making a lasting impact on our community.” - Marissa Wickam, BARRE KC President

2023-2024 BARRE KC BOARD

Marissa Wickam
President

Alexis Strauss
Vice President

Katie Abbott
Secretary

Zakry Akagi-Bustin

Allissa Gehring

Quinn Harrold

Morgan Holecek

Madison Moore

Jessica Whalen



71
BARRE KC members



7
Membership events



23
new BARRE KC Members

BARRE KC members Jessica Whalen, Katie Abbott and Angelique Short. Photo courtesy of BARRE KC.



BARRE KC Board members at Soirée. Front (left to right): Jessica Whalen, Alexis Strauss, Allissa Gehring, Marissa Wickam. Back (left to right): Morgan Holecek, Katie Abbott, Madison Moore, Quinn Harrold. Not pictured: Zakry Akagi-Bustin. Photo by Mark McDonald.

BARRE KC SOIRÉE RAISES FUNDS TO SPREAD THE JOY OF DANCE

BARRE KC hosted another successful Soirée, raising funds to allow hundreds of students to experience the joy of dance. Chaired by Alexis Strauss, this year's event took place on April 13 at the Crossroads Hotel. Guests enjoyed excellent cuisine, dynamic performances by Kansas City Ballet's Second Company and Reach Out and Dance (R.O.A.D.) scholarship students, a Silent Auction with unique items, and lively music that kept them dancing well into the night.

Proceeds from Soirée provide support for KCB's R.O.A.D. Program, which brings dance to elementary students in under-resourced Kansas City Public Schools in Missouri and the Turner Unified School District in Kansas. R.O.A.D. combines dance with academics to create a fun learning environment, with each class accompanied by live music.



160
guests



43
uniforms sponsored



\$34,588
raised, a record number that
included \$15,000 from the Silent
Auction

LOOKING AHEAD:

BARRE KC Soirée • April 12, 2025

Guests Paul and Allison Payton attend Soirée.
Photo by Mark McDonald.



NEW MOVES • MARCH 21-24, 2024
Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity



Kansas City Second Company Dancers.

GABRIEL LORENA'S *UNDER MY SKIN*

"I really enjoyed the energy and power Elliott Rogers brought to his role in Natasha Adorlee's beautifully patterned Komorebi: he had a very watchable stage presence."
– Hilary Stroh, *Bachtrack*



Kansas City Ballet Dancers.

NATASHA ADORLEE'S *KOMOREBI*



Dancer Taryn Pachciarz with Company Dancers.

MORGAN SICKLICK'S *I AM, LOST TO ALL BUT THIS*

CAMERON THOMAS' *RATHER LIVELY, VERY RHYTHMIC*



Dancers Amelia Meissner, Georgia Fuller and Amanda DeVenuta.

EMILY MISTRETTA'S *THIS VERSION OF YOU LOOKING AT YOU, YOU LOOKING BACK*

***"Intimate and inventive ...
a showcase of creativity."***
– *The Kansas City Star*



Kansas City Ballet Dancers.

CAROLINE DAHM & HALEY KOSTAS' *CIRCLE BACK*



Dancers Naomi Tanioka and Amira Hogan.

PARRISH MAYNARD'S *SECRET PLACES*



Kansas City Ballet Dancers.



2024 Summer Intensive Students at the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity.

KANSAS CITY BALLET SCHOOL CONTINUES TRADITION OF TRAINING EXCELLENCE

Kansas City Ballet School (KCBS), the official school of Kansas City Ballet, offers a complete, professional curriculum for Academy students. With state-of-the-art facilities in both downtown Kansas City and Johnson County, the School boasts an acclaimed faculty of over 50 instructors and a skilled team of pianists and percussionists, providing the highest level of ballet training for a diverse group of students.

The Academy trained 499 students in a comprehensive curriculum based on the many traditions of classical ballet, helping them develop their dance and academic success skills.

The Pre-Professional Division offered a company experience to 60 talented young artists, preparing them for professional dance careers.

The Open Division provided a variety of recreational dance and fitness classes to 885 teens and adults of all experience levels in a supportive and encouraging setting.

Adaptive Dance expanded its offerings, allowing 62 children, teens and adults of mixed cognitive and physical abilities to enjoy creative movement and live music in an inclusive setting.

Summer Intensives attracted 234 dancers from across the country for rigorous study in June and July.



1,954

dancers auditioned for KCBS Summer Intensives



30

students competed in Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP), with 3 placing in the top 12 at Regionals



165

students performed in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*



Kansas City Ballet School Students in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*.



Kansas City Ballet School students Luci Oyler and Ben Brandmeyer in Marius Petipa's Calvary Halt. Photo by Mark McDonald.

SCHOLARSHIP SOCIAL SUPPORTS ASPIRING KCBS DANCERS

The inaugural Scholarship Social celebrated Kansas City Ballet School student achievements and honored cherished Ballet leaders whose incredible legacies live on through distinctive scholarship funds. Dozens of guests gathered at the Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity on May 18 to reminisce about their own dance journeys and watch uplifting performances by several of the School's own aspiring ballet dancers. The new annual event highlights the variety of funds available for direct student support.

Scholarship fund committee members Wendy Powell and Michele Hamlett-Weith, longtime KCB supporters and former students of Kansas City Ballet founder Tatiana Dokoudovska ("Miss Tania"), joined others in sharing their favorite memories and encouraging support for next-generation dancers to pursue their dreams.

Scholarship funds available include:

Tatiana Dokoudovska Scholarship Fund

Todd Bolender Scholarship Fund

Shirley Weaver Scholarship Fund

Building Diversity in Ballet Scholarship Fund



\$32,250

awarded in financial aid



\$26,530

awarded in scholarships



67

scholarships given

LOOKING AHEAD:

Second Annual Scholarship Social • Date TBD

Julia Kim-Malter and Michele Hamlett-Weith at the first annual Scholarship Social. Photo by Mark McDonald.





SOUTH CAMPUS AT MEADOWBROOK OFFERS NEW AND EXPANDED PROGRAMMING

Kansas City Ballet School's newly renovated South Campus at Meadowbrook officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 18, 2023. The celebration continued the next day with a community open house, featuring free dance and fitness classes.

The \$2.1 million facility expanded the Ballet's footprint in Johnson County from 3,400 to over 12,000 square feet, offering new and enhanced programming in four spacious studios. This expansion aims to engage learners of all ages, foster a deeper connection to dance, and meet the growing demand for high-quality training in the south metropolitan area.

In 2023-2024, the new campus served 300 Academy students and introduced a variety of new class offerings to the community. These include Silver Tap & Ballet, DANCEFIX, Be Moved, Ballet Bod, a first-ever Winter Workshop, and the inaugural Adult Ballet Summer Intensive.

KCB raised \$1.75 million through a capital campaign generously supported by foundations, corporations and individuals to fund the renovation. In its first year, the South Campus achieved its third-year financial projections.



300

students, a 62% increase



55

weekly Academy classes, an 83% increase



54

students ages 9-14 in sold-out Junior Summer Intensive



12

weekly Open Division classes, a 433% increase



19

students enrolled in Adaptive Dance, with 7 making their debut on the Kauffman Center stage

Top | Front (left to right): Angelo Zuniga, NEJC Chamber of Commerce; Devon Carney; Kaelyn Bell, KCBS Student; Jeffrey J. Bentley; Grace Holmes, Marilyn A.W. Gaar, Deb Settle, NEJC Chamber. Back (left to right): Bonnie Limbird, Prairie Village Ward 5; Jeff Quest, NEJC Chamber; Hon. Stephanie Clayton, Kansas Representative; Mayor of Prairie Village Erik Mikkelsen; Taryn Ouellette; David Gray; Kimberly Cowen (hidden); Kevin Amey.
Top Right | Exterior of the South Campus at Meadowbrook. Bottom Left | Kansas City Ballet School Upper Division Students. Bottom Right | Kansas City Ballet School instructor Michele Hamlett-Weith with Adaptive Dance Students. Photos by Beeh Moynagh.



All photos by Beeh Moynagh.



Level 1 R.O.A.D. Scholars rehearse for their end-of-year Showcase performance. Photo by Beeh Moynagh.

REACH OUT AND DANCE (R.O.A.D.) PROGRAM INSPIRES YOUNG MINDS THROUGH DANCE

Kansas City Ballet's nationally recognized Reach Out and Dance (R.O.A.D.) program continued to nurture young dancers in elementary schools across the Kansas City metro area, providing them with the tools and opportunities to succeed both in and out of the dance studio. Operating in both Kansas and Missouri to ensure broad reach and impact, the R.O.A.D. program integrates weekly dance classes with a curriculum that reinforces concepts students are learning in the classroom.

For more than 20 years, the R.O.A.D. residency program has provided 3rd and 4th graders with weekly movement classes and celebrated their achievements with end-of-semester R.O.A.D. Rallies. Scholarships are awarded to residency students who demonstrate a passion for dance

and potential in the art form, allowing them to become R.O.A.D. Scholars. These scholars study dance at the Kansas City Ballet School during the school day, with tuition, dancewear, and performance tickets provided. Scholars can train for up to three consecutive years at KCBS.

To further support R.O.A.D., KCB has appointed a full-time program administrator to manage operations, assist families, and seamlessly integrate dance into school environments.

"I love how R.O.A.D. gives all students the opportunity to build confidence and be successful in a school setting." – 4th grade teacher, Prairie Elementary School



69

R.O.A.D. Scholars enrolled in the Kansas City Ballet School



1,564

attended end-of-year R.O.A.D. Rallies



\$140,400

received in grant awards

A spring t-shirt design contest added a creative element to the spring R.O.A.D. residency theme. Photo by Beeh Moynagh.



Sam (age 12) in Devon Carney's *The Nutcracker*.

KCBS STUDENT SAM STEIN JOURNEYS FROM THE R.O.A.D. TO THE STAGE

Clutching his brown teddy bear as Michael Darling in Devon Carney's *Peter Pan*, twelve-year-old Sam Stein was thrilled to show off all he has learned in his more than four years of training with the Kansas City Ballet School.

Sam says that he would never have considered ballet had it not been for the R.O.A.D. Program, the Kansas City Ballet program that offers weekly movement classes centered around a STEAM-based curriculum.

"The R.O.A.D. Program showed me how fun it was to learn ballet and its many different styles," says Sam. "I discovered a passion I never would have known about before."

Following his performance at his school's end-of-semester R.O.A.D. Rally, KCB invited the budding young dancer to continue his training in the R.O.A.D. Scholarship Program.

Now a dedicated student with KCBS, Sam practices regularly to become a better dancer while also serving as one of KCB's popular young performers in its various stage productions.

At age ten, Sam auditioned and landed his first role as a peasant boy in the tragic love story *Giselle*, KCB's 2022-2023 season opener.

Sam's big break came later that same season when he successfully auditioned to play the part of Fritz, the annoying younger brother in *The Nutcracker*.

"I was really nervous taking on a bigger role at first, but it only took a couple of shows to settle in and relax," says Sam.



Sam (age 12) in Devon Carney's *Peter Pan*.

JEWELS • MAY 10-19, 2024
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Choreography by George Balanchine

***“...We enjoy watching
that touch of exciting
danger, that electrifying
sense of stage presence
and swift movement.”***
– Hilary Stroh, *Bachtrack*



Dancers Amaya Rodriguez and Paul Zusi.

EMERALDS

“When the curtain came up on Rubies, the entire audience let out a very audible gasp as an absolutely stunning tableau was revealed. The stage was a luminous ultraviolet blue hue. The background was totally black save for some dainty red lights arrayed like stars. Against this canvas the cast stood frozen in costumes of the most brilliant crimson.”

– S. Fairbank

FUN FACT:

Company pianist Jordan Voth spent a full year learning his breathtaking solo for *Rubies*.



RUBIES

DIAMONDS

FUN FACT: KCB's costume team applied 585 stones on 11 new flesh mesh sections customized for *Jewels* costumes.



Top and Bottom | *Kansas City Ballet Dancers.*



KCB PEOPLE MAKING AN IMPACT

DAVID GRAY celebrated his one-year anniversary as the Executive Director of Kansas City Ballet, succeeding Jeffrey J. Bentley, who led KCB from 1998 until his retirement last year. Under David's leadership, KCB has continued to advance, deepening its community connections and enhancing its artistic excellence. David has prioritized engaging with Ballet supporters, often wearing colorful suits to performances and special events to make it easier to meet people, and learn about their ballet stories.

Photo by Nicole Dolan.

KCB's Chief Philanthropy Officer, **JENNIFER WAMPLER**, was honored with the Excellence in Fundraising Award by the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals on November 7, 2023. With over 25 years of experience in arts and philanthropy, Jennifer has made significant contributions to KCB. This includes spearheading the *Moving into the Future* endowment campaign, as well as leading capital campaigns for the Todd Bolender Center for Dance & Creativity and the expansion of the Kansas City Ballet School's South Campus.

Photo by Nicole Dolan.



OLIVER TILL has joined KCB's senior leadership team as the new Director of the Kansas City Ballet School. Oliver brings a wealth of experience to his position, having enjoyed a successful international career in professional dance, including dancing as a Soloist with Birmingham Royal Ballet under Sir David Bintley's directorship. With his extensive background as a teacher and mentor for several dance organizations such as the Swedish National Ballet School and the Joffrey Ballet, Oliver is well-equipped to guide KCBS into a bright future.

Photo by Brett Pruitt & East Market Studios.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024-2025

Kansas City Ballet enthusiasts can look forward to acclaimed masterpieces and fresh, innovative creations in the **2024-2025 SEASON**. Septime Webre's captivating *ALICE (in wonderland)* returns by popular demand to open the season, followed by the Kansas City premiere of internationally celebrated stager Anna-Marie Holmes' *Don Quixote*. The season concludes in May with *FUSION*, a collection of four short dance works. The beloved holiday classic, *The Nutcracker*, and *New Moves*, an annual favorite showcasing new choreographic works, also return in December and January, respectively.

Dancer Amaya Rodriguez. Photo by Kenny Johnson.



Young families will have a new opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of dance with the Ballet's **FAMILY SERIES** debut of *Beauty and the Beast*. The classic fairy tale will be brought to life by our talented Second Company dancers in February 2025 at the Folly Theater. Guest choreographer Bruce Wells, who began his career as a dancer under the direction of George Balanchine, has created an entry-level family matinee production that tells the centuries-old story swiftly for younger audiences.

KCB II Dancers Audrey Lynn and Ben Workman. Photo by Beeh Moynagh.

Kansas City Ballet is excited about what lies ahead in 2024-2025, and with your **GENEROUS SUPPORT**, we can continue to elevate the art of ballet, inspire audiences and make a lasting impact on Kansas City's cultural landscape. Your contributions are essential to our mission: to inspire and engage through the beauty, power and passion of dance, and to create outstanding dance experiences for all.

Dancer Emily Mistretta with company dancers in Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's Tulips and lobster. Photo by Brett Pruitt & East Market Studios.





Kansas City Ballet Dancers in George Balanchine's Diamonds.

FINANCIALS

Kansas City Ballet Operating Statement of Activities & Changes for the year ending June 30, 2024

Earned Income

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Tickets | \$4,680,922 |
| School (Academy, Open Division) | \$1,206,529 |
| Summer Programs | \$792,606 |
| R.O.A.D. | \$16,628 |
| KCB II | \$4,416 |
| Partnership | \$3,648 |
| Endowment Income (5% Draw) | \$831,163 |
| Rental & Other | \$217,287 |

Total Earned Revenue **\$7,753,199**

Contributed Income

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Individuals | \$667,110 |
| Corporate | \$230,825 |
| Foundations | \$1,341,500 |
| Government | \$265,962 |
| Guild | \$425,000 |
| Events/Misc. Income | \$229,269 |
| In-Kind Donations | \$30,260 |

Total Contributed Revenue **\$3,189,926**

Total Revenue **\$ 10,943,125**

Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Production | \$4,710,887 |
| School (Academy, Open Division) | \$1,621,601 |
| Summer Programs | \$507,724 |
| KCB II | \$154,669 |
| R.O.A.D. | \$137,156 |
| Partnership | \$41,774 |
| Marketing | \$1,265,398 |
| General and Administrative | \$1,141,678 |
| Philanthropy | \$804,725 |
| Building Expenses | \$658,482 |
| Box Office | \$137,473 |
| Endowment Campaign | \$70,209 |

Total Expenses **\$11,251,776**

Operating Revenue Over (Under) Expenses **(\$308,651)**

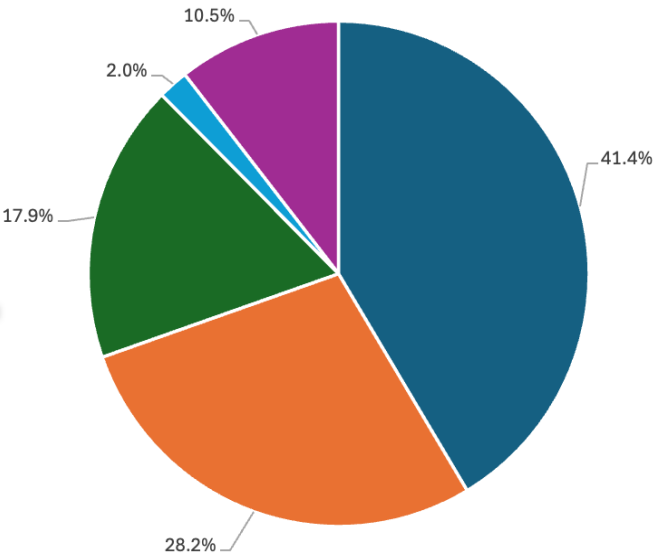
Spending Escrow Support \$358,837

Total Revenue Over (Under) Expenses **\$50,186**



Kansas City Ballet Dancers in Val Caniparoli's Jekyll & Hyde.

2023-2024 REVENUE

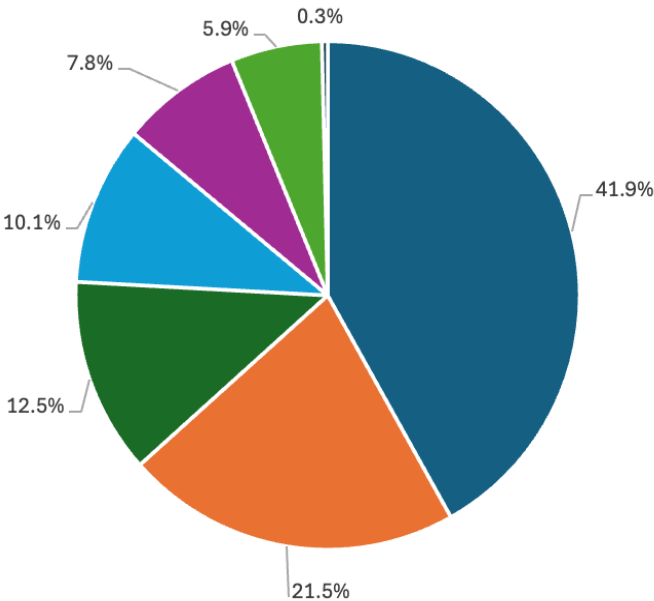


| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Tickets | \$4,680,922 |
| Contributions & Grants | \$3,189,926 |
| School | \$2,020,179 |
| Rental & Other | \$ 220,935 |
| Endowment | \$ 1,190,000 |

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Total Revenue | \$11,301,962 |
|---------------|--------------|

- Contributions & Grants
- School
- Tickets
- Rental & Other
- Endowment

2023-2024 EXPENSES



| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Production | \$4,710,887 |
| School | \$2,421,150 |
| Marketing & Box Office | \$1,402,871 |
| General & Administrative | \$1,141,678 |
| Philanthropy | \$874,934 |
| Building Expenses | \$658,482 |
| Partnership | \$41,774 |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Total Expenses | \$11,251,776 |
|----------------|--------------|

- Production
- School
- Marketing & Box Office
- General & Administrative
- Philanthropy
- Building Expenses
- Partnership

KANSAS CITY BALLET STAFF

ARTISTIC

Devon Carney
Artistic Director

Kristi Capps
Rehearsal Director

Parrish Maynard
Rehearsal Director

Christopher Ruud
*Second Company Manager
& Rehearsal Director*

Ramona Pansegrau
Music Director & Conductor

Jordan Voth
Company Pianist

ADMINISTRATIVE

David Gray
Executive Director

Kevin Amey
Chief Operations Officer

George Hans
Chief Financial Officer

Gregg Markowski
Finance Director

Mary Allen
Office Manager/Executive Assistant

Glenn Lewis
Facilities Manager

PHILANTHROPY

Jennifer J.E. Wampler, MBA, CFRE
Chief Philanthropy Officer

Rebecca Zandarski, CFRE, CSPG
Director of Gift Planning

Chris Roady
*Associate Director of
Individual Giving*

Grace Ingham
Manager, Events & Philanthropy

Kelly Leahy
*Manager, Philanthropic
Communications*

Natalie Sextro
Manager, Research & Stewardship

Maya Momon
Philanthropy Assistant

MARKETING & PATRON SERVICES

Karen Badgett
Chief Sales & Marketing Officer

Savanna Daniels
Design & Digital Marketing Manager

Beeh Moynagh
Creative Content Producer

Nicole Dolan
Social Media Specialist

Ellen McDonald
Publicist

Mark Volk
Patron Services Manager

Kim Toigo
Assistant Patron Services Manager

PARTNERSHIP

Kim Trudell
Partnership Specialist

PRODUCTION

Amy Taylor
Director of Production

Scott Parks
Technical Director

Laura Krus
Stage Manager

Jennifer Carroll
Costume Supervisor

Betti Jo Diem
Assistant Costume Supervisor

April Madden
Costume Shop Assistant

Maddie Brasgalla
Assistant Stage Manager

**IATSE LOCAL #31,
STAGE CREW**

Greg Brown, Head Electrician
Emeritus

Margaret Spare, Head Electrician

Josh Beasley, Head Carpenter

Dale Klamm, Head Properties

Rick Knapp, Programmer

Ryan Lewis, Steward & Head Flyman

Phil Rebel, Audio Engineer

IATSE LOCAL #810, WARDROBE ATTENDANTS

Desiree Story, Head of Wardrobe

SCHOOL

Oliver Till
School Director

Kimberly Cowen
Principal & KCYB Director

Lauren Fadeley Veyette
*Daytime Principal &
Competition Coordinator*

Taryn Ouellette
*Principal, South Campus at
Meadowbrook*

Dmitry Trubchanov
*Men's Program Coordinator &
KCYB Associate Director*

Courtney Collado
School Operations Manager

Sean Duus
R.O.A.D. Residency Coordinator

Miyesha McGriff
R.O.A.D. Program Administrator

Rachel Grisi Dugan
Summer Intensive Coordinator

Nora Burkitt-Davis
*Children's Program & Adaptive
Dance Coordinator*

Megan Robinson
Bolender Center Administrator

Jacob Thomas
Academy and R.O.A.D. Pianist

PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS/RECEPTION

Adrienne Anderson

Iyonna Barris

Allay Freeman

Erin Oyler

Sarah Wilczewski

Susan Williams



Maya Momon, Chris Roady, Grace Ingham, Jennifer Wampler, Natalie Sextro, Rebecca Zandarski and Kelly Leahy.
Photo by Tom Styrkowitz/53 TOM LLC.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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YOUR PHILANTHROPY TEAM

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KANSAS
CITY
BALETT

DEVON CARNEY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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