



Dance Data Project® Research Summary

The following document contains key findings from DDP's 2023 research. Read all of our Reports in full on our website [here](#).

2023 Artistic and Executive Compensation Report

December 2023

- In FY 2022, female executive directors within the Largest 50 were paid 3 cents less per dollar than their male counterparts, and female artistic directors earned 17 cents less per dollar than their male counterparts.
- Within the Largest 50 companies:
 - An artistic director's compensation was an average of **2.50% of the total expenses**.
 - An executive director's compensation was an average of **2.44% of the total expenses**.
- Within the Largest 150, **23 artistic directors and 26 executive directors' compensation increased from FY 2020 to FY 2021, despite their company budget decreasing in FY 2021.**
 - 4 artistic or executive directors received a compensation increase of greater than 50% from FY 2021 to FY 2022.
 - 11 artistic or executive directors received a compensation increase of greater than 50% from FY 2020 to FY 2021.

2023 U.S Dance Festivals Report

December 2023

- **61.5% of the festivals studied were led by women**, compared to 36% led by men.
- 50% of the works recorded were choreographed by women.
- 46% of the works programmed at U.S. festivals were choreographed by women.
 - This is an increase from 30% in the first Festival Report in 2019.
- **Notably, the number of full-length works by women decreased significantly from 47% in 2021 to 29% in 2023 between the 24 shared festivals.**

2023 Largest 75 U.S Contemporary and Modern Dance Companies

November 2023

- In FY2021, the Largest 75 contemporary and modern dance companies operated with a combined total expenditure of \$109,832,394, a **21.41% decrease from 2020**.
- In FY2021, the Largest 50 contemporary and modern dance companies operated with **\$101,449,871, accounting for 92.37% of total expenditures**.
- The Additional 25 contemporary and modern dance companies operated with \$8,382,523, accounting for 7.63% of total expenditures.
- Preliminary findings for FY2022 show that the Largest 75 contemporary and modern companies operated with \$134,206,679, a 22.78% increase in expenses from 2021.
 - Our preliminary dance sector-to-sector comparison indicates that **the economy of the ballet world is growing at a greater rate with a 49.74% increase in expenditures**.

The Largest Ballet & Classically Based Companies Leadership Report

October 2023

- **Of the 153 Artistic Directors at the Largest 150 companies, 66 are women (43.1%), 86 are men (56.2%), and 1 is gender expansive (0.7%).**
- Artistic leadership continues to be **more equitable among the Next and Additional 50 companies** in comparison to the Largest 50.
- As of September 2023, there are **4 female Artistic Directors within the Largest 10**.
 - This number has doubled since 2022 and increased fourfold since 2021.
- Of the **115 Executive Directors at the Largest 150 companies, 68 are women (59.1%)** and 47 are men (40.9%).
- The gender distribution of Executive Directors continues to be more equitable than Artistic Leadership.
- Within the Largest 150 companies, there are more women holding the positions of Assistant/Associate Artistic Directors (30 women, 63.8%), Heads of Schools (81 women, 76.4%), and Rehearsal Directors (62 women, 59.0%).

2022/2023 Season Overview

August 2023

- **Within the Largest 150 U.S. ballet and classically influenced companies, 32.1% of works were choreographed by women.**
 - A slight increase from 29% in 2021/2022.
- **In the Largest 50 companies, 22.9% of all works were choreographed by women.**
 - A decline from 27% in 2021/2022.
- In the Next 50 companies, 37.0% of all works were choreographed by women.
- In the Additional 50 companies, 44.1% of all works were choreographed by women.
- **Within the Largest 10 companies - which represent 58% of the Largest 150's total expenditures in FY 2020 (\$225,635,870) - women choreographed 14.9% of all commissioned works.**
- Within the Largest 50 companies, 83.7% of non-premiere works were choreographed by men. Men choreographed 75% of non-premieres in the Largest 50 in the 2021/2022 season and 82% in 2020/2021.
 - This indicates that, within the Largest 50 companies, **company repertoires are nearly exclusively comprised of male-choreographed works.**

The Largest Ballet and Classically Based Companies

August 2023

- **In FY 2021, the Largest 150 US Ballet and Classically influenced companies operated with a combined total expenditure of \$441,886,534.**
 - This is a 31.62% decrease from 2020.
 - This decline is larger than the 11.07% decrease between FY 2019 and FY 2020, **underscoring the more pronounced impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ballet industry in FY 2021.**
- In FY 2021, the **Largest 50 companies operated with \$391,881,659 - 88.68% of the Largest 150 aggregate.**
 - This is a 33% decrease from 2020.
- The Next 50 operated with \$37,537,748 - 8.49% of the Largest 150 aggregate.
 - This is a 14% decrease from 2020.
- The Additional 50 operated with \$12,467,127 - 2.82% of the Largest 150 aggregate.
 - This is a 32% decrease from 2020.

The Largest U.S Contemporary & Modern Dance Companies

June 2023

- **There are 137 artistic directors, including 9 co-directors within the largest 127 US contemporary and modern companies.**
 - Of these, **87 (63.5%) are women**, 48 (35%) are men, and 2 (1.5%) are gender expansive.
- The Largest 127 U.S. contemporary and modern dance companies were **founded by a total of 153 people.**
 - Of these, **93 are women (60.8%)**, 58 are men (37.9%), and 2 are gender expansive (1.3%).
- Within the Largest 127 U.S. contemporary and modern dance companies, DDP identified **96 total executive directors: 64 women (67%)** and 32 men (33%).
- Despite having similar total numbers to the Largest 50 ballet companies within each leadership role, this demonstrates that **women are afforded more leadership opportunities within the modern and contemporary dance industry.**
 - However, as noted in the *2023 Global Leadership Report*, the budget size is orders of magnitude smaller.

2023 Global Leadership Report

April 2023

- **Of 198 artistic directors of classically based companies globally, 58 (29%) are women and 140 (71%) are men.**
 - This is a decrease from the 2021 Report, in which 59 (33%) of 179 artistic directors were women.
- Globally, women represent:
 - **71%** of heads of schools, **52%** of executive directors/CEOs, and **57%** of assistant/associate directors
- **Of the Largest 30 companies, each with more than 75 dancers:**
 - **8 are led by female artistic directors (27%)**
 - 22 are led by male artistic directors (73%)
- This emphasizes the lack of female artistic leadership at large-scale, influential companies around the world.