



Dance Data Project® Accomplishments Summary

Dance Data Project®'s Mission | *To promote gender equity in the dance industry, including but not limited to ballet companies, by providing a metrics based analysis.*

Through our research, programming, resources, and advocacy, DDP showcases and uplifts women throughout the dance industry. We focus on leaders, both artistic & administrative, and artists of merit: choreographers, photographers, lighting, costume, set designers, and commissioned composers.

About Us | Founded in 2015 as a database, Dance Data Project® (DDP) was officially launched as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2019. Since then, our team has released 39 reports, and 15 mini reports or "Data Bytes" that focus on a specific problem or issue. We have also produced multiple virtual interview series (and one episode in person!), several advocacy campaigns, and extensive resources, including recurring listings of grants, fellowships and residency opportunities.

Our Research | In July 2024, DDP released our sixth annual study examining the Largest 150 ballet and classically based companies in the U.S. This was our most comprehensive report to date as we expanded to include for the first time revenue, surplus/deficits, and annual expenditures.

In September 2024, DDP also released its first report examining the endowments and building book values of dance companies in the U.S., filling a crucial gap in available research on endowments within the dance community and providing valuable insights into the financial foundations of ballet companies. This report is the result of two years of collaboration with Smith College Data Science Capstone students.

In December 2024, DDP released our sixth annual compensation report of leadership roles for the Largest 150 ballet and classically based companies in the U.S. This report expanded on leadership roles surveyed and for the first time included self reported data from 39 companies. DDP is currently working with our 3rd cohort of the Smith College Data Capstone team to incorporate active data visualization with the compensation report. The goal is to offer an interactive and easy to use platform for company's and leadership candidates to assess cost of living and salary range for a variety of positions. We also published our 5th, greatly expanded leadership transitions study, which documents vacancies and appointments globally in the dance industry.

In honor of the women shaping the dance industry, DDP released the first ever "Women-Founded U.S. Ballet and Classically Based Companies Data Byte" listing 179 women-founded ballet and classically based professional companies in the United States between 1929 and 2024.

DDP continues to expand our global reach through our research. In January, we released the first-ever English-Speaking Company 2023/2024 Season Programming Report, examining season programming at ballet and classically influenced companies outside the United States. Additionally, DDP released the Global Leadership Report analyzing the gender distribution of ballet companies worldwide, and the Global Resident Choreographer Report.

Since 2019, our team has released 39 reports and 15 Data Bytes, 54 in total. 9 of these reports and 4 Data Bytes were released in 2024.

1. Compensation Report (December)
2. 2024 Largest Contemporary & Modern Companies Report (October)
3. Endowments & Building Book Value Report (September)
4. Largest Ballet & Classically Based Companies Leadership Report (September)
5. The Largest Ballet & Classically Based Companies 2024 (July)
6. 2024 Global Resident Choreographer Report (June)
7. Choreographic Competitions & Fellowships Report (March)
8. English Speaking Company 2023/2024 Season Programming Report (January)
9. English Speaking Company 2023/2024 Season Programming Report (January)

All reports can be downloaded and read [here](#).

Data Bytes: DDP's Data Bytes are "mini" reports designed to bring the latest customized metrics to our community through brief, easy-to-read formats. From most recent to oldest, these reports include:

1. 2024+ Leadership Transitions Data Byte (December)
2. Global Resident Choreographer Data Byte (June)
3. Women Founded US Ballet & Classically Based Companies Data Byte (April)
4. 2023+ Leadership Transitions Data Byte (January)

Programming | *Raising the Barre: Curriculum for the Next Generation of Leadership in Dance*
DDP completed the second season of *Raising the Barre* to expand upon the robust toolkit of resources, interviews, and deliverables that we offer our viewers. To develop a second season that builds upon the success of the first, we implemented feedback received from candidates, search firms, boards, and others in the dance ecosystem. This input has encouraged DDP to open the aperture of the equity lens to include the role of boards of directors in searches.

Episodes from Season Two of *Raising the Barre* in 2024:

- Kacie Sassano of The Proper Group and Elizabeth Yntema of DDP on the Do's & Don'ts of an 'Ask'
- Danni Gee, Director of Programming at Joyce Theater: Embracing the ZigZag: The Nonlinear Path of an Arts Career
- Rachel S. Moore, President and CEO of The Music Center: Creating the Performing Arts Center of the 21st Century

- Adam W. McKinney, Artistic Director of Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre: Creating an Effective Community Engagement Program
- Linda-Denise Fisher-Harrell, Artistic Director of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago: Rescue, Recovery & Re-Birth: Reimagining a Company
- Jowole Willa Jo Zollar, Company Founder of Urban Bush Women: Dream Big: Realizing A Vision By Founding a Company and Choreographing an Opera

All *Raising the Barre* episodes and their accompanying resources can be found [here](#).

[DDP Talks To](#) | DDP interviews with new & emerging talents as well as current leaders in the dance world: choreographers, art directors, journalists, dancers, set/lighting/costume designers, patrons, festival/venue programmers, etc.

DDP Talks To interviews from 2024 include conversations with the following leaders in dance:

1. DDP Talks To Ana Maria Alvarez – CONTRA-TIEMPO
2. DDP Talks To Heather Myers – Ballet BC
3. DDP Talks To Eduardo Vilaro – Ballet Hispánico
4. DDP Talks To Shira Greenberg – Keshet Dance Company
5. DDP Talks To Anna Lisa Wilkins – Ballet Rhode Island
6. DDP Talks To Vicki Parsons – Ballet Austin
7. DDP Talks To Allison Orr – Forklift Danceworks
8. Choreographer Profile: Jessica Lang
9. Choreographer Profile: Camille A. Brown
10. Director Profile: Francesca Zambello
11. Choreographer Profile: Stephanie Martinez
12. Director Profile: Phil Chan

View all DDP *Talks To* interviews [here](#).

[Newsletter](#) | Since expanding our Newsletter to encompass internal and external editions, it has grown to include significantly more interviews and features. Issues of *In the Wings* include summaries of our recent Reports and Data Bytes, interviews with our Board, Advisory Council, and Team members, and the latest DDP news and media features. These editions are regularly released in rotation with our original *Point by Pointe* Newsletter series, which has continued to feature interviews with women in dance, company profiles, and other news from the industry.

Since the fall of 2022, our Newsletter editions have received a combined total of 42,648 views. In 2024, DDP Newsletters were viewed 17,284 times. Editions from this past year include:

- ★ *In the Wings*: 2023 Accomplishments & Highlights Newsletter January 2024
- ★ *Point by Pointe*: Operas, Plays, and Theater Newsletter March 2024
- ★ *In the Wings*: Summer Newsletter June 2024

★ *Point by Pointe*: Community Engagement Newsletter September 2024

★ *In the Wings*: Fall Newsletter November 2024

Leaderboard | DDP's Leaderboard is an index of women leading in dance through both creative and administrative roles. It includes over 1,620 female artistic and executive directors, ballet company founders, choreographers, directors, producers, authors, lighting and costume designers, composers, film producers/directors, and more. It has been cited in international artistic director job searches, helping companies source qualified female candidates for leadership positions. View this catalog of female leaders [here](#).

Listening Tour | DDP's Listening Tour was started to create dialogue with artistic and executive leadership that promotes female leaders, artists, and dancers. Our President & Founder, Liza Yntema, has traveled to dozens of dance companies across the United States to learn about their practices, culture, and work.

This year, our Listening Tour took us to:

- ★ Oregon Ballet Theatre
- ★ A.I.M by Kyle Abraham
- ★ Atlanta Ballet
- ★ Kaatsbaan Culture Park

Bailey's Blog | In 2022, we launched [Bailey's Blog](#), which centralizes the comings and goings of the dance world, focusing on new choreographic commissions, world premieres, evening-length works, and programming featuring and/or honoring women. The weekly global roundup also tracks leadership transitions within companies, specifically in roles such as Artistic Director, Executive Director, School Director, and Resident Choreographer. The global update provides visibility to outstanding artists within the dance field and compiles opportunities for emerging artists. These roundups are also shared internally within the DDP team for review and archival purposes. Since the beginning of 2024, Bailey's Blog has brought attention to over 300 world premieres and commissioned works by female choreographers, recorded and reported over 154 leadership transitions within the industry, and highlighted over 100 outstanding artists within the field.

Social Media | This past year, our social media engagement saw huge growth, a reflection of our commitment to creating new campaigns and initiatives throughout our various social platforms.

Instagram – over 5,400 followers, 1,110+ new followers this year

Facebook – 734 followers, 74 new followers this year

Twitter – 745 followers

LinkedIn – 704 followers

Overall reach – >300,000 on Instagram, >24,000 on Facebook

DDP in the News | Since our launch in 2019, DDP has been heavily featured in the press. In 2024, DDP was cited, recommended, or commended in the following publications, programs, and articles:

Broadway World

SF Chronicle Datebook

*Dance/NYC Dance Worker
Digest
Teen Vogue
BNN Breaking
LA Dance Chronicle
WTOP
Classic Chicago Magazine
Lyrics Opera of Chicago
Oregon Art Beat*

*Orlando Sentinel
Dance Magazine
The Utah Review
The Spotted Cat Magazine
NBC News
KLCC
Ark Newspaper
Kera News
NewCity
Inside Philanthropy
Oregon Artswatch*

[Speaking Engagements and Podcasts](#) | Expanding our speaking engagements and podcasts further amplifies our mission of promoting gender equity in dance. By sharing our research and insights with diverse audiences, we spark meaningful conversations, inspire action, and broaden awareness of the systemic challenges facing women and marginalized groups in the industry. Through these engagements, we can connect with new partners, foster collaboration, and ensure that our data-driven advocacy reaches those who can drive meaningful change.

- Pennsylvania Dance Education Organization (PADEO) 2024 Summit
- 2024 Women in Dance Leadership Conference
- CI to Eye Podcast: Choreographing Change With Data
- International Parenting and Dance Seminar - Texas Tech University

[Academic Outreach](#) | At DDP, we are deeply committed to academic outreach as a facet of our mission to advance gender equity in the dance industry. By providing institutions with access to our meticulously researched and comprehensive reports, we not only facilitate scholarly research but also enrich academic curricula and foster critical conversations about systemic challenges and opportunities within the arts. Our data-driven insights are designed to serve as a catalyst for meaningful change, empowering educators, researchers, and students to champion equity and representation in their own spheres of influence.

As part of this initiative, we are proud to maintain and expand a rapidly growing network of academic partners and collaborators. For example, our visit to Texas Christian University in May 2024, reflects our dedication to engaging a diverse range of institutions, from prestigious universities to emerging arts programs, ensuring that our findings reach a broad audience with the potential to drive innovation and progress. By equipping academic leaders with actionable insights, we inspire and inform the next generation of advocates for equity and excellence in the arts, transforming the cultural landscape for years to come.

DDP Team | This past year, DDP was thrilled to celebrate a number of promotions. These talented faces are [highlighted](#) below:

Team Promotions:

- Maya Canestaro | [Senior Research Consultant](#)
- Aanika Khansaheb | [Researcher/Website Editor](#)
- Junyla Silmon | [Senior Research Consultant/Team Training Lead](#)
- Stephanie Wilkins | [Administrator/Hiring Coordinator](#)

Learn more and see the full DDP Team [here](#).

DDP Advisory Council:

- [Yessica Herrera](#)
- [Phil Chan](#)
- [Andrew Hoekstra](#)

Learn and see the full Advisory Council [here](#).

DDP Board of Directors

- [Alyssa Rapp](#)
- [David Mallette](#)
- [Israel Tannenbaum](#)

See the full Board of Directors [here](#).