

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 511**Are you a 501(c)3 organization in good standing with the IRS?**

Yes

According to your 501(c)3 letter, in what town is your official office located?

Hartford

Where will your project be performed or exhibited?

Hartford

Will this activity occur after November 1, 2025?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

198520-Roberts2022

Organization Name

Ballet Hartford

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

813230414

Principal Contact Name

Leyna Doran

Title

Executive Director

Emailldoran@ballethartford.com**Phone**

(949) 680-6402

Address

224 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105
United States
[Map It](#)

Website<https://www.ballethartford.com/>

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 511**Amount requested this application**

\$12,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

Ballet Hartford, a leading ballet company located in the heart of Connecticut, pursues excellence in ballet by presenting performances that are rooted in Truth, infused with Beauty, and propelled by the common Good.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

Ballet Hartford began in 2016 as Vivid Ballet under the leadership of Elizabeth McMillan. In the first two seasons, the roster of dancers tripled in size and the company garnered national and international recognition. In an effort to more closely identify with the city, the company rebranded as Ballet Hartford in 2018. In line with the mission to provide excellent, high-caliber art, Ballet Hartford employs twenty-three professional dancers to perform in classics and newly created ballets for the Greater Hartford region.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director, Claire Kretzschmar - former soloist of the New York City Ballet - the company has also toured to New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Michigan performing her choreography. The organization has an accompanying pre-professional school - the School of Ballet Hartford - that serves students and families from ages three to adult. Students are included in the company's mainstage performances in the Greater Hartford area with our professional dancers providing inspiration and mentorship. The company does outreach to local libraries, nursing homes, public and private schools, and local festivals performing excerpts of upcoming shows and offering a glimpse into the rigors of the life of a ballet dancer. Ballet Hartford targets underprivileged communities - visiting and inviting others into our studios to inspire and educate in the art of ballet.

Describe the demographics of your audience/people served by your activities.

Our audience is comprised of children 20%, seniors (65+) 20%, adults (18-35) 35%, adults (36-64) 25% and come from: West Hartford, Bristol, Torrington, Stamford, Hartford, Derby, Wethersfield, Plainville, Farmington, Bridgeport, New Haven, Middletown, Vernon, New Britain, Flanders, Glastonbury, Redding, Granby, Manchester, Meriden, Plainville, Middletown, Wallingford, Niantic, Windsor, Harwinton, Rocky Hill, Branford, Southington, Chaplin, Simsbury, Wolcott, Hamden, Cheshire, Naugatuck, Waterbury, Danbury, East Hartford

Describe your organization's governance.

Ballet Hartford is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of nine individuals. Our leadership team is comprised of an Executive Director, Artistic Director, and Company Manager. Our company/school faculty and marketing team is managed by the leadership team.

Our Board holds a minimum of six meetings each calendar year with an average of 95% of board members present at each meeting. Since we last applied, we now have our Board financially contributing to our organization each year.

Ethnicity/Race + %

Asian 11%

Ethnicity/Race + %

Pacific Islander 11%

Ethnicity/Race + %

Caucasian 78%

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Female 78%

Ethnicity/Race + %

Male 22%

Ethnicity/Race + %

0%

What percentage of your board makes personal financial contributions to your organization?

100% of our board makes personal financial contributions to Ballet Hartford.

Project Name

Ballet Hartford's Spring Performance 2026: Giselle

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

Ballet Hartford presents the classical ballet, Giselle, choreographed by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, with adaptations by Claire Kretzschmar. The performance will take place on Friday, May 15th, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Theater of the Performing Arts in Hartford.

Through this performance, Ballet Hartford will challenge its dancers in reaching new peaks of technicality and artistry. The community is invited to a performance showcasing excellence in a variety of ways: through storytelling, the artistic and technical prowess of the dancers, and the overall quality of scenic and costume design. As we pursue this performance series with excellence, we are confident it will bring a rich and vibrant experience to all involved (staff, dancers, and viewers alike).

Total estimated project budget

\$49,344.00

Project start/opening

02/23/2026

Project end/closing

05/15/2026

Project venue

Theater of the Performing Arts

Project town

Hartford, Simsbury, Middletown

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

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The house at Theater of the Performing Arts in Hartford holds 625 seats. Adults \$50/ticket, Children (12 and under) \$20/ticket, Students (with valid ID) \$25/ticket. We estimate selling 500 tickets and offering 20 comp tickets to organizations that supported the project. The project will be presented to seniors at McLean Community and to the public at the Wadsworth Mansion. We estimate 40-80 seniors will be in attendance at Simsbury and 100-200 audience members in Middletown.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

Giselle will be marketed through our weekly e-newsletter, social media platforms (instagram/facebook), website, online ads and press releases (e.g. Patch, we-ha.com, Middletown Press), and printed posters spread around the Greater Hartford area. We also advertise through an interview on Fox61 and the radio station, WMNR. Additionally, we will bring select groups of our dancers to advertise at local libraries and schools through lecture-demonstrations.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

Funding from the Roberts Foundation will be used toward the expenses of the theater rental, scenic and costume design, and our studio rentals.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

A full page ad in the programs handed out at the performance will highlight the Roberts Foundation and its support. Additionally, the director will publicly thank the Roberts Foundation for making this performance possible. We will also highlight the foundation in our e-newsletter (reaching an audience of over 900 individuals), press release, and on our social media platforms.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

Ballet Hartford defines artistic excellence as a commitment to pursuing, creating, and cultivating artistic expression of high caliber. From rehearsal to the stage, every moment is worthy of excellence. Our leadership team models this as they not only act with integrity, but also provide programming with a cohesive and captivating vision that uplifts and inspires. This spirit of excellence trickles down the line to our faculty, professionals, and all the way to the youngest dancer-in-training. We have experienced the transformative power of art to bring hope, healing, joy, escape, inspiration, reflection, awareness, and acceptance; and it is from this place that we seek to impact our community. We believe that artistic excellence is found in honoring what went before us while simultaneously creating in innovative ways. Part of our mission is recognizing the past, celebrating those achievements, and then building upon that knowledge in the creation of something new.

How does this project align with that definition, and how does it advance your mission?

Giselle aligns with commitment to artistic excellence by bringing a timeless tale of love and forgiveness to the dancers, supporting artists, and audiences of Ballet Hartford. Claire's expertise in choreographing and coaching will bring out further excellence within our company - pushing and encouraging our professionals to reach new heights in technique and artistry. Our tagline of promoting art full of the true, the good, and the beautiful is embodied in this performance as we share a stunning classical ballet and story with audiences in the Greater Hartford area. We plan to take excerpts of this program into libraries and nursing homes giving students and seniors the opportunity to see how a ballet is built and rehearsed.

How will your audience and the community benefit from this project?

This program will meet the need our community has for good art: art that can speak into a person's soul, in essence, excellent. Our audience is captivated by ballet at a professional caliber and has continuously shared how refreshing, uplifting, and stirring our programming is. Bringing Giselle to the Hartford theater venue meets the need for entertainment and wholesome

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programming in the community. Showcasing excerpts of it at public schools and libraries will benefit individuals who are aspiring to dance or have not had opportunity to be exposed to the art form. Our plan to bring the ballet to senior citizens at a senior center gives them a chance to reminisce over familiar music and enjoy the beauty of our professionals.

How will this project be evaluated?

We will rely on ticket sales for the ticketed events to help determine the ways we meet the community's needs through Giselle. We will assess the data noting any trends within ticket holders to better understand the needs we are meeting. Holding brief Q+A sessions at events where excerpts of the ballet are shared will help us with audience receptivity. Our Board will meet to discuss the final outcome of the project: percentage of population reached, response from the ticketed and non-ticketed events, networking opportunities from guest choreographers, and growth in the dancers of the company.

Cover letter

- [Roberts-Foundation-Cover-Letter.pdf](#)

Board list

- [Board-of-Directors-List.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [BH-IRSLetter.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [Ballet-Hartford-990-EZ-06.30.24.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [Budget-2024-2025.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [Cash-Flow-Projection.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [StatementofFinancialPosition-1.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [Roberts-Foundation-Budget-Total-Expenses.pdf](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 511**Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?**

Yes

Strategic plan

- [Strategic-Plan.pdf](#)

Grant Report

- [Ballet-Hartford-Grantee-Reporting-Form-.pdf](#)

Other materials?

- [A-Message-From-Claire.pdf](#)

Have you contacted the Executive Director by email or phone to discuss this proposal?

Yes

Is your cover letter signed by your senior executive? on your letterhead? with your official office address?

Yes