

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 594**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 May 1, 2026 ?

Yes

Are you a recent grantee?

Yes

Enter your Report Code

GRF-T3-2025

Organization Name

Connecticut Ballet

Organization's IRS Tax ID #

061039302

Principal Contact Name

Brett Raphael

Title

Artistic Director & CEO

Emailctballet@ix.netcom.com**Phone**

(860) 293-1039

Address

750 Main Street, Suite 100
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
United States
[Map It](#)

Website<http://www.connecticutballet.org>

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 594**Amount requested this application**

\$15,000.00

What is the organization's mission/vision statement?

The primary mission of Connecticut Ballet is to enrich the cultural life of the greater Connecticut community, by providing the art of dance to its audiences, dancers, and students. In pursuit of this mission, Connecticut Ballet will maintain the highest standards of professional ballet performance and training while continuing to stimulate an appreciation of the dance medium and respond to Connecticut's developing interest in dance.

Provide a brief history of your organization and its activities.

The organization was founded in 1981 and operates year-round with performance seasons in Hartford and Stamford and a statewide summer tour to outdoor performance venues. Its Center of Dance Education has performed for over 300,000 students since its inception in 1991.

The goal is to continue the following components of a successful non-profit ballet organization:

- An artistic direction which animates the company and the community.
- A company of highly-talented, gainfully-employed professional dancers.
- Presentation of ballet performances to a developing Connecticut audience comprised of many constituencies and backgrounds.
- Providing opportunities for commissioned works of new choreography and staging classical ballets from the past.
- Exposing young people and less-advantaged segments of the population to art of dance, including classical ballet.
- Increasing the interaction between the community and the company through trustees, the media, staff, and volunteer support group, i.e. Friends of Connecticut Ballet.
- A sound business plan comprised of diverse revenue streams which provide stability for all of the above programs and services from season to season.
- Year-round professional leadership in areas of marketing, development, program management, education and outreach.

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

Our audience is composed of two major demographic groups: 60% are largely suburban Hartford residents who enjoy cultural offerings, are college-educated, and have incomes \$150,000+ and 40% are inner-city, working families who traditionally do not have access to the performing arts in downtown Hartford due to persistent economic, perceptual, and cultural barriers. Toward that end, we are working to ensure that all people have an equal opportunity to develop their artistic talent and skill sets.

Describe your organization's governance.

We are governed by a Board of Directors which meets monthly. Our board meetings are well-attended and board members each make a minimum contribution of \$250 annually to the organization in addition to supporting gala or special events. Other than election of Lisa Greene as Board Chair, there has not been any substantial change in our leadership since the last application period.

Ethnicity/Race + %

Caucasian - 75%

Ethnicity/Race + %

African-American - 0%

Ethnicity/Race + %

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Hispanic - 0%

Ethnicity/Race + %

East Asian - 25%

Ethnicity/Race + %

Male - 50%

Ethnicity/Race + %

Female - 50%

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

100%.

Project Name

Restoration of live music for Connecticut Ballet's annual 'Nutcracker' at The Bushnell - Year Two

Is this project related to the Visual Arts?

No

Project Description

Our project involves a high-level collaboration between Hartford Symphony Orchestra and Connecticut Ballet to bolster our annual production of 'The Nutcracker' by restoring live music after nearly twenty years of presentation to recorded music. Top administrators and board members for both organizations have worked together to forge this engagement at The Bushnell for four public shows (with an option to add more as demand grows). Connecticut Ballet has negotiated to engage 59 musicians and HSO conductor to continue to positively impact our ticket sales while entertaining our audience with a ballet and music performance of the highest caliber.

Total estimated project budget

\$491,107.00

Project start/opening

07/01/2026

Project end/closing

12/21/2026

Project venue

Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts

Project town

Hartford

Admission fees, attendance, and activity details

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We plan four public performances on December 19-20, 2026 with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. Estimated attendance is 3600 + another 500-700 'Share the Magic' student attendees. Last season, we distributed 350 comp tickets to a range of social-service agencies.

We have three tiers of ticketing for 'The Nutcracker', with a median prices of \$86.20 and plan a 10-15% ticket increase in the coming season for the higher-priced tickets only. We may add a fifth public performance on December 18, 2026.

How do you intend to promote/market this project?

We undertake a major marketing campaign for the annual production, including both print and online media outlets, radio and television spots and interview segments, 100,000 eblasts, 22,000 self-mailers, posterage throughout greater Hartford, cross-marketing with partners arts organizations, and special outreach to public, private, and parochial schools, and a separate group sale offer to area dance schools and conservatories.

How is your organization going to use Roberts funding?

We will utilize the Roberts funding to make possible the second year of our agreement with HSO to present Tchaikovsky's iconic 500-page score live to the public (as it was performed at the Saint Petersburg premiere in 1892). As we continue to afford this exciting partnership, underwriting continues to be necessary until we can maximize the revenue side (most probably thru added performances in the future). We are grateful for the Roberts Foundation support for last year's artistic program.

How will Roberts support be recognized?

We will provide Roberts Foundation with a 'Major Sponsor' designation for 'The Nutcracker' at The Bushnell in all program book materials, press releases, and on our website's 'Our Supporters' page. Additionally, a special lobby banner will publicly thank our sponsors and program book advertisers throughout the 2026-2027 season.

What is your organization's definition of artistic excellence?

We associate artistic excellence with the international standard for our art form, i.e. classical ballet. From the beginning, we have aspired to presenting the very best, time-tested choreography and theatrical productions according to the highest standard in American dance. We also cultivate new choreographic talent also according to a high standard of excellence in dance creation. Finally, we engage some of the finest male and female dancers in America to perform for our Hartford audiences annually.

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

The revival of live music for 'The Nutcracker' represents the penultimate expression of those standards of excellence (including ancillary components such as lighting, scenic and costume design which we invest in ongoingly). The provision of live music performed by HSO, a distinguished and well-established orchestra in its own right, is a huge step in advancing our mission as it relates to artistic excellence. Ultimately, all those elements come together for a multi-layered theatrical experience which appeals to audiences of all ages.

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

Our audience represents a wide cross-section of our community in greater Hartford. We are proud of the role 'The Nutcracker' plays in people's lives, from the 150 young children from greater Hartford who attain choice roles in the children's cast to the many vendors who support the production with their services and professional expertise. In the larger context, the mounting of this annual classic in downtown Hartford is a strong signal that the city continues to be the cultural capital of the region and

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houses theaters with rich performing arts offerings of tremendous cultural scope. On a personal level, our production provides families, couples, and singles of all ages and backgrounds a chance to celebrate around the holidays and witness the state's professional ballet company at its best.

How will this project be evaluated?

We do a thorough evaluation of all our programs at the conclusion of our season. We solicit feedback from staff, board members, and stakeholders as to the effectiveness of our many programs and special events. Programs are evaluated as to their ability to advance the mission and to generate sufficient revenue (contributed or earned) to sustain themselves financially. 'The Nutcracker' is the single biggest income-generator amongst ballet companies in the United States and Connecticut Ballet's 'Nutcracker' is no exception. We are more and more focused on what 'Nutcracker'-tested marketing tools we can further deploy to continue growing attendance across all our Bushnell performances.

Cover letter

- [RobertsFdnCvr.Ltr_.2026.pdf](#)

Board list

- [BoardList.ConnecticutBallet2025-2026.pdf](#)

IRS 501(c)3 determination letter

- [IRS-Determination-Ltr-Hartford.2012.pdf](#)

Financial statement

- [CB-Audited-FS-6.30.25.pdf](#)

Last year operational budget

- [CTB-Consolidated-Budget-to-Actual.2024-2025.pdf](#)

Current year operational budget

- [CTB-Consolidated-Budget-to-Actual-2025-2026-.pdf](#)

Balance sheet

- [Balance-Sheet-as-of-4-01-26.pdf](#)

Project budget

- [NutcrackerBudget.2026.xls](#)

Does your organization produce an annual report?

No

Excellence in the Arts : Entry # 594**Has your organization adopted a strategic plan?**

No

Grant Report

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

Other materials?

- [2025 45thSeason Program singles V14.pdf](#)

We appreciate your continued support for the performing and visual arts in greater Hartford. With your support, we look forward to another successful 'Nutcracker' season at The Bushnell.

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