

SAINT LOUIS **BALLET**

GRATITUDE REPORT 2021-2022





Cover photo: SLB's Lori Wilson and Mark David Bloodgood at Touhill PAC in "Hallelujah Junction" by Peter Martins, Feb. 12, 2022

Above: SLB Dancers at the Grandel Theater in "In Reel Time" by Brian Enos, May 2022. Photos by Kelly Pratt

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from THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Your support of Saint Louis Ballet enables us to continue our tradition of bringing the highest level of classical ballet to the St. Louis community. Thank you for your partnership and for your commitment to making the arts a vital part of our region. For the first time in a year and a half, Saint Louis Ballet completed a full season of live performances.

Throughout its history, the company has been revered for its classical ballets, presenting performances that have captivated audiences in the St. Louis metro area and surrounding regions.

We thank you for your tremendous support of the ballet this past year. We hope you enjoyed watching our performances as much as we did performing them. Your contribution goes a long way in helping us maintain our high-quality programming.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for their trust in my leadership. Thank you also to all who invest in our organization for your commitment and devotion to Saint Louis Ballet and this community.



Gen Horiuchi
Executive and Artistic Director
Saint Louis Ballet



MISSION

The mission of Saint Louis Ballet Company is to provide metropolitan St. Louis with a permanent, professional, resident ballet company capable of performing classical and contemporary works of the highest quality for the cultural enrichment and enjoyment of the entire community.

VISION

With the vision of supporting artists and dancers, celebrating expression and engaging the community, Saint Louis Ballet will be the preeminent institution in the region for creating, performing, and teaching ballet.



SLB dancers Lauren Kot and Fletcher Weld at the Grandel Theater in "Impressions" at New & Next, May 2022. Photo by Kelly Pratt



the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Pictured above:
Tom Voss, Board President
Background L-R: SLB dancers
Zoe Middleton, Colin Ellis,
Ethan Maszer and Elaine Rand*

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Gen Horiuchi
Saint Louis Ballet Executive & Artistic Director

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**Saint Louis Ballet was pleased to welcome these
new members to the Board of Directors in 2021-2022.*



SAINT LOUIS BALLET COMPANY

Top Row

Mark David Bloodgood | Joined 2016 from Seattle, WA
 Michael Burke | Joined 2016 from Mexico, MO
 Lauren Christensen | Joined 2013 from Kansas City, MO
 Olivia Cornelius | Joined 2020 from Melrose, MA

Middle Row

Rebecca Cornett | Joined 2014 from Simsbury, CT
 Colin Ellis | Joined 2017 from McHenry, IL
 Emily Fugett | Joined 2018 from Tinley Park, IL
 Elliott Geolat | Joined 2000 from St. Louis, MO

Bottom Row

Rachel Harrison | Joined 2019 from Arlington, MA
 Julia Heiss | Joined 2020 from Dallas, TX
 Amy Herchenroether | Joined 2013 from Pittsburgh, PA
 Lauren Kot | Joined 2019 from Howell, MI



Top Row

Elizabeth Lloyd | Joined 2014 from Rutherfordton, NC
 Ethan Maszer | Joined 2021 from Andover, MA
 Zoe Middleton | Joined 2021 from Oak Park, IL
 Elaine Rand | Joined 2020 from West Lafayette, IN

Middle Row

Matthew Rusk | Joined 2016 from Tucson, AR
 Sean Sessions | Joined 2018 from Columbia, MD
 Roxy Shackelford | Joined 2019 from Macon, GA

Bottom Row

Fletcher Weld | Joined 2021 from Seattle, WA
 Lori Wilson | Joined 2008 from Lubbock, TX

28 WEEKS
 DANCERS' CONTRACT

21
 COMPANY DANCERS

21
 PERFORMANCES

2021-2022 SEASON

The biggest accomplishment for the company in 2021 was the return of live performances as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. Attendance numbers quickly returned to pre-pandemic numbers even though the lingering public health concerns remained. The final ticket count for “The Nutcracker” was 11,389 with a revenue of \$509,899 compared to 8,589 with \$415,264 in revenue in 2019. SLB also had one of the largest crowds to date attending the company’s “Shorter Tale” of “The Nutcracker” for young audiences. The company was also able to debut new ballets for St. Louis such as a wildly creative “Alice in Wonderland” by choreographer Brian Enos. Despite the impact of the pandemic on audiences throughout the country, the financial picture at Saint Louis Ballet was strong due to the Dancers’ Relief Fund Campaign and relief funds provided by the small business administration such as PPP loans, the Employee Retention Tax Credit, and the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant.

Saint Louis Ballet is grateful to Kelly Pratt, whose photos of Saint Louis Ballet dancers and all productions grace this report.

Alice in Wonderland

Choreography by Brian Enos
Music compiled by Grand Rapids Ballet
from various artists

Touhill Performing Arts Center | October 2-3, 2021
Attendance: 1,356

Saint Louis Ballet opened its season with a bang, wowing audiences with its energy, bold choreography, and a renewed appreciation for the community that supported it during the pandemic.

The season opener, *Alice in Wonderland* by choreographer Brian Enos, was particularly impressive, with its use of projections by former Pixar/DreamWorks artist Luis Grané and a variety of dance forms and theatrics.



SLB dancer Rebecca Cornett is tossed high in the air by Saint Louis Ballet dancers in the opening performance of the season, “Alice in Wonderland”.

The Nutcracker

Choreography by Gen Horiuchi
Music by P. Tchaikovsky

Touhill Performing Arts Center | Nov 27-28, Dec 17-23
Attendance: 11,389

After a year of virtual performances, Saint Louis Ballet celebrated the holiday season with 11 LIVE performances of the most popular holiday production in the region, Gen Horiuchi’s *The Nutcracker*. Company dancers and guest performers, in collaboration with students of the Saint Louis Ballet School, presented a spectacular rendition of the classic, complete with stunning sets, hundreds of colorful costumes, special effects, and exquisite dancing, all set to Tchaikovsky’s classic score.



Saint Louis Ballet dancer Amy Herchenroether as the Sugarplum Fairy greets Saint Louis Ballet School student Chloe Sehy as Clara in “The Nutcracker”.

Old Loves → New Loves

Choreography by Tom Gold,
Peter Martins and Gen Horiuchi
Music by John Zorn, John Adams, and Johann Sebastian Bach
Touhill Performing Arts Center | February 12-13
Attendance: 580

Old favorites and new works by former New York City Ballet director Peter Martins and Saint Louis Ballet director Gen Horiuchi. The night also included a revival of Tom Gold's *Oasis*. *Hallelujah Junction*, by Peter Martins was created for the Royal Danish Ballet, and performed by Saint Louis Ballet for the first time. The ballet was described by New York City Ballet as "a living locomotive of propulsive vitality, set to a pulsing John Adams score."



SLB dancers (L-R) Olivia Cornelius with Colin Ellis, Julia Heiss, and Roxy Shackelford perform in the annual Valentine's weekend performance.

Cinderella

Choreography by Gen Horiuchi
Music by Sergei Prokofiev
Touhill Performing Arts Center | April 29-May 1
Attendance: 3,109

This audience favorite featured music by Sergei Prokofiev and choreography by executive and artistic director Gen Horiuchi, as well as spectacular dancing, special effects, and lavish sets and costumes. Gen Horiuchi's *Cinderella* was a stunning retelling of the classic tale, performed before the largest audiences in the history of Saint Louis Ballet.



SLB dancer Lori Wilson as "Cinderella" charms Matthew Rusk as the Prince in the spring production.

New & NEXT

The Grandel Theater | May 20
Attendance: 226

Saint Louis Ballet's closing performance of the season at the Grandel Theater showcased what is "new" and "next" for Saint Louis Ballet. Without fancy costumes, sets or special effects, the talent and creativity of the dancers and choreographers took center stage in smaller ballets. Miriam Mahdavian, a former dancer with the New York City Ballet restaged her ballet *Correlazione*. Choreographer Brian Enos, created a piece *In Reel Time* for the company with music by Philip Daniel, Nova, Outland, and Spearfisher. And Saint Louis Ballet company members Michael Burke, Rebecca Cornett and Sean Sessions tapped into their choreography skills and set pieces for their fellow dancers.



Saint Louis Ballet dancers have an opportunity to perform smaller ballets in an informal space and try their hand at choreography. Pictured are SLB dancers in "In Reel Time" by Brian Enos.

2022 GALA KICKOFF

April 7 | Neiman Marcus

For the fourth time since 2018, Saint Louis Ballet has collaborated with Neiman Marcus to kick off its gala in style. Saint Louis Ballet dancers modeled apparel and accessories in preparation for the Starry Night Gala. Hosted at the Neiman Marcus Town & Country store in April 2022, the fashion review was followed by a reception featuring champagne and hors d'oeuvres. The Saint Louis Ballet dancers were on hand to model several designer gowns, accessories and tuxedos.



Saint Louis Ballet dancers (L-R) Rachel Harrison, Lauren Christensen, Emily Fugett, Roxy Shackelford, and Sean Sessions model Neiman Marcus couture at Kickoff.



L-R: Board Members Mark Eggert and Christine Altholz



L-R: Jennifer Martin, Lori Wilson, Kristine Wasson, Jenny Bartlow



Board Member, Susan Bindler speaks with fellow patrons



L-R: Grace Markarian, Annette Markarian, Board Member Sarah Glasser, and Morgan Howard



Above: Laurie Lock, Gala Advisory Chair, speaks prior to the runway show.

Mann Family DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Saint Louis Ballet broke all previous GiveSTL records thanks to the giant boost from The Mann Family Foundation. In May, Saint Louis Ballet raised \$18,353.25, \$15,000 of which was matched by the foundation. The challenge grant inspired 80 people to donate to the SLB@GiveSTL campaign, which raised funds for live music.

"Since I was a little girl, I have been attending Saint Louis Ballet performances with my dad, and I have many beautiful memories from those experiences. I was so inspired by the performances that I began dancing myself. Now, as a competitive dancer, I marvel at the level of artistry and professionalism of Saint Louis Ballet. Thank you, Saint Louis Ballet, for blessing me as a daughter and inspiring me as a dancer!"



Kaitlyn Mann, 17, and father Brandon Mann, enjoy a performance at the Touhill.

Since 2006, Brandon Mann and his daughter Kaitlyn have attended Saint Louis Ballet performances. Kaitlyn shares a personal story about how attending ballet performances with her dad has inspired her and created wonderful memories. As a little girl, Kaitlyn had always enjoyed watching dancers on stage. After attending Saint Louis Ballet performances with her father, she realized she wanted to dance herself.

2022 SPRING GALA

May 14 | Chase Park Plaza Hotel



Saint Louis Ballet raised a record-breaking \$267,000 at the Starry Night Gala, featuring a special tribute to Mary Strauss. The honoree has been a dedicated donor to the company and to Saint Louis area arts organizations. The best attended and most successful SLB gala in history raised funds to expand studio space and incorporate live music into ballet performances. Held at the Chase Park Plaza, the event featured a live performance by company dancers and a successful auction with prizes such as ultra luxury bags, hotel stays, trips and more.



Long-time SLB friend Miran Halen and Andrew Strauss applaud honoree Mary Strauss.



Above (L-R):
Laurie Lock, Advisory Chair
Miran Halen, Chair
Carol Voss, Chair
Patricia Whiteside, Chair
Sarah Glasser, Auction Chair



Above: Jasmine Huda of Fox 2 as Event Emcee

Major Sponsors:
Ameren, Chase Park Plaza, Fox Associates, Gazelle Magazine, Greensfelder, Heartland Coca-Cola, Holman Motor, Neiman Marcus, Suntrup



Louise Lane proudly raising her paddle in support.



SLB dancers Zoe Middleton, Olivia Cornelius, and Julia Heiss attend the Gala



340
GALA ATTENDEES

\$267,000
RAISED

2021-2022 GRATITUDE REPORT

For THE COMMUNITY

POINTE TO SUCCEED



The Pointe to Succeed program gives underserved students in the St. Louis area the opportunity to experience the joy, wonder, and discipline of ballet. This is achieved through a two-pronged strategy.

- **In The Theater:** Teachers are given free tickets and bus rides to Touhill Performing Arts Center ballet performances for their students. Saint Louis Ballet provides these students with a meaningful and enriching experience that they would not have had otherwise.
- **In The Classroom:** Students learn about the world of ballet through interactions with professional dancers in the classroom through storytelling, hands-on activities, and interactive seminars.



Students from St. Louis The King School getting ready to watch "The Nutcracker" at the Touhill.



121
STUDENTS ATTENDING

IN THE THEATER

Due to pandemic restrictions, the Saint Louis Ballet dancers were unable to visit local schools for in classroom experiences as they had in previous years. Instead, Saint Louis Ballet was able to give students from St. Louis The King School free tickets and transportation to a condensed showing of The Nutcracker at Touhill Performing Arts Center. Director of Education and Outreach CiCi Houston shares a touching tale of a live performance that amazed a young audience member who had never seen one before.



CiCi Houston of SLB preparing students from St. Louis The King School to watch "The Nutcracker" at the Touhill.

“After the performance of “The Nutcracker: A Shorter Tale,” a kindergarten student tugged on my shirt and asked, “Were the people real?” Most of her arts education had been virtual due to the pandemic, and she had never been to a live performance. She assumed the dancers on stage were on a giant movie screen. I explained: “The dancers were in the room with you; while you were sitting here, they were dancing for you.” She stood in amazement as her mind wrapped around the concept that the people were with her, not on a screen.

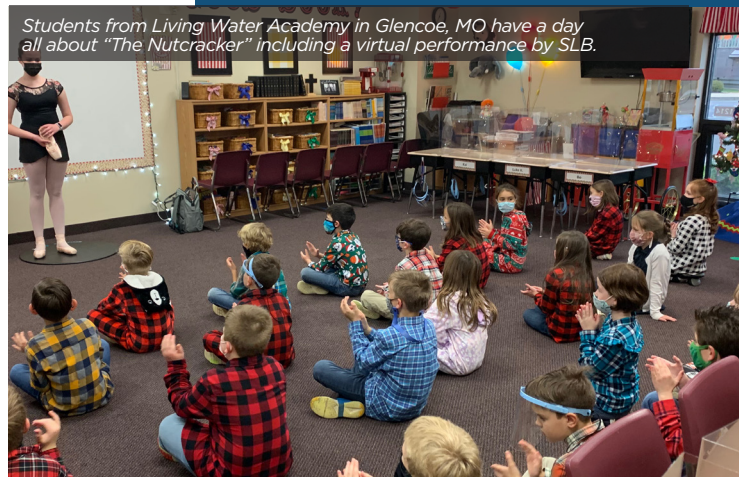
We are grateful to Heartland Coca Cola for its support of our Pointe to Succeed program, which has helped over 1200 students during the 21-22 season. This transformative experience would not have been possible without their generous sponsorship.

1,085
STUDENTS SERVED
VIRTUALLY

IN THE CLASSROOMS

This year, over 1,000 students watched the “Alice in Wonderland” and “The Nutcracker” ballets virtually through our streaming for teachers content, Ballet 101. In addition, we provided educational resources to teachers for classroom use to introduce the world of ballet and educate our young audiences on this art form. This allowed us to bring the beauty and wonder of ballet to students during our absence from classrooms due to COVID restrictions.

Students from Living Water Academy in Glencoe, MO have a day all about “The Nutcracker” including a virtual performance by SLB.





Alice in Wonderland



Old Loves New Loves



The Nutcracker



New & Next



Cinderella



21
PERFORMANCES



16,660
TICKETS SOLD



7
ST. LOUIS
PREMIERES



398
GENEROUS
DONORS



21
ARTISTS
EMPLOYED



4
WORLD
PREMIERES



17,541
EBLAST
SUBSCRIBERS



\$722,065
TICKET
REVENUE

SAINT LOUIS **BALLET**

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES AND SUPPORT

Ticket Sales	\$722,065
Contributions and Grants	\$303,188
Events	\$146,657
Merchandise and Other	\$32,353
Other	\$15,284

Total Revenues and Support **\$1,219,547**

EXPENSES

Program	\$1,081,028
General and Administrative	\$93,948
Fundraising	\$79,766

Total Expenses **\$1,254,741**

**Change in Net Assets
From Operations
(\$35,194)**

EXTRAORDINARY REVENUE AND SUPPORT

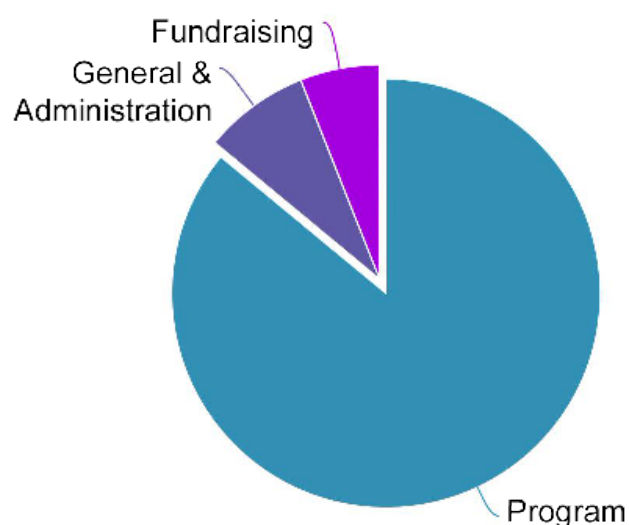
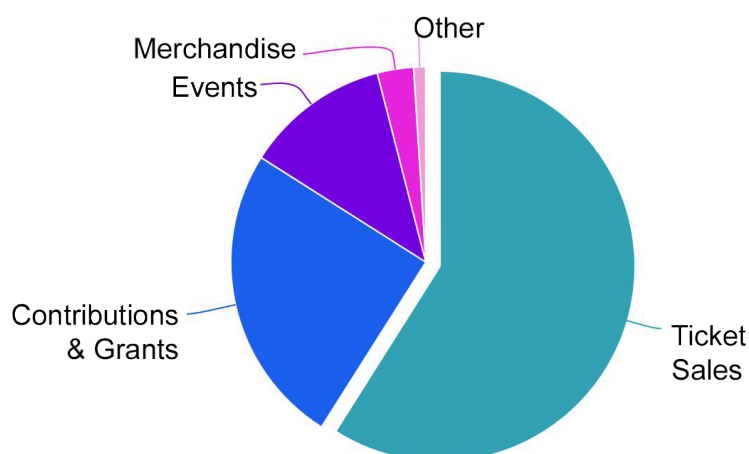
Disaster Relief Support **\$440,724**

NET ASSETS

Net Assets, Beginning of Year **\$282,517**

Net Assets, End of Year **\$688,047**

Change in Net Assets **+\$405,530**



SLB dancers Liz Lloyd and Sean Sessions in Tom Gold's "Oasis"



ANNUAL FUND

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

\$75 and Above

Saint Louis Ballet is indebted to the individuals, foundations and corporations that support annual operations.

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*SLB dancers Olivia Cornelius
and Colin Ellis in "Hallelujah Junction"*

*SLB Dancer Colin Ellis
in "Alice in Wonderland"*

