

NPB

NORTH POINTE BALLET

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Making classical ballet accessible to everyone in our community.



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Annual Report 2025

North Pointe Ballet
northpointeballet.org

A Letter from North Pointe Ballet's **Executive Artistic Director**



Dear Patrons and Supporters,

This past year has been one of visible momentum and artistic achievement for our organization. Following a year of internal reflection and infrastructure building, we spent this season pushing the boundaries of what our company is capable of artistically and operationally.

We reached a significant milestone this year with our full-length production of *Swan Lake*. This was not only a gift to our audiences but a massive technical feat for our dancers. Mastering the precision and endurance required for such a foundational work of the classical canon challenged our artists to reach new heights of excellence, and they met that challenge with breathtaking grace.

Beyond our traditional venues, we took our mission into the community, touring a brand-new workshop production of *Peter and the Wolf*. Sharing this vibrant, narrated work allowed us to engage with new communities and continue our commitment to making ballet accessible and engaging for all ages.

Most significantly, we officially kicked off our tenth anniversary season with a celebratory concert of mixed repertoire. Revisiting the most impactful works from the past decade was a moving experience, serving as a testament to the diverse and evolving voice of North Pointe Ballet. These performances, culminating with our annual production of *The Nutcracker,* provided the backbone for our continued programs fulfilling our mission to make classical ballet accessible.

As we looked back on these ten years, I was asked what has surprised me most about this venture. My answer was simple, yet quite personal: I didn't think I could lead something this big. When we started, the mission was always clear, but the scale of what we have become is beyond my wildest imagination. This journey has taught me that we are often capable of far more than we give ourselves credit for. It is my deepest hope that our work inspires other dancers to believe in their own potential, and encourages others in our community to take risks, embrace their leadership potential, and drive meaningful change.

Thank you for being part of this decade-long dance. We invite you to explore the rest of this report to see the impact your support has made as we leap into our next chapter.

Janet L. Dziak
Executive Artistic Director

Our Mission

North Pointe Ballet's mission is to make classical ballet accessible to our community. NPB provides high-quality professional ballet productions that are entertaining, affordable, and inclusive of audiences and performers of all abilities. NPB is committed to increasing access to ballet for underrepresented populations through enriching community engagement programs.

Our Vision

North Pointe Ballet envisions a future where ballet flourishes as an art form, celebrated for its timeless traditions while evolving beyond its limitations.

Our Values

PASSION & POSITIVITY
We recognize the transformative capabilities of ballet and strive to share it with enthusiasm and joy.

COLLABORATION & TEAMWORK
We believe in the power of working together as a team to inspire and engage with both audiences and fellow artists.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
We celebrate the diversity of our community and strive to create inclusive programming that welcomes everyone.

INTEGRITY & RESPECT
We approach everything we do with honesty and respect, valuing ourselves, each other, and those we serve.



A Chance to Dance

Our A Chance to Dance program advanced our mission in 2025 by engaging up to ten dancers at a time in inclusive training and performance opportunities across the year, including our spring sensory-friendly performance of *Swan Lake* and the sensory-friendly performances of our *Nutcracker* weekends in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties. These dancers brought joy, representation, and connection to the stage, embodying our commitment to creating welcoming, high-quality ballet experiences for individuals of all abilities. Their participation remains a cornerstone of how we build a more inclusive arts community.



On-Site Education

The On-Site Education Program advanced NPB's mission of accessible arts education in 2025. At Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center, Emili Ramirez stepped into the instructor role and immediately strengthened family connections through her bilingual support. We also welcomed Westside School of the Arts as a new partner, bringing in-school ballet classes to kindergarten and first grade students for the full academic year. Program sites provided their own performance attire with NPB offering tights and ballet shoes where needed, and we shifted to dancewear that functions as both class attire and performance costumes, ensuring students have consistent, sustainable apparel for performances and ongoing training. Scholarships for two El Centro students further expanded access, integrating them into the youth casts of *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake* and reinforcing our commitment to inclusive participation.



NPB in the Community



NPB's artists carried ballet beyond the stage and into the heart of Northeast Ohio's communities through 21 workshop performances in schools, senior residences, and community sites across Lorain and Cuyahoga Counties in 2025. More than 2,400 residents experienced ballet in spaces where they live and gather. NPB also shared the beauty and joy of dance at major community celebrations, including Lorain's FireFish Arts Festival and Cuyahoga County's "Night to Shine," a national prom for individuals with disabilities, creating moments of connection, belonging, and inclusion for nearly 2,000 community members.



Swan Lake Highlights

NPB was thrilled to present a full-length production of *Swan Lake* after first sharing excerpts of Act II in a 2019 mixed-repertory concert. For this new staging, the directors reimagined the traditionally dark narrative by introducing Celestia, a unicorn princess, her rainbow corps de ballet, and Erasmus the Troll as narrator—elements that brought color, joy, and a clearer connection between movement and story. Iconic choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov was preserved to showcase the technical strength of the professional company, while other sections that did not support the artistic vision were removed to create a more concise, audience-friendly production. NPB also collaborated with Alice Blumenfeld of Abrepaso Flamenco, whose expertise enriched the character and choreography of the Spanish princess and extended to master classes for both professional dancers and youth cast members.



Swan Lake in the Park



NPB concluded its 2024–2025 performance season with its annual condensed production at Lakeview Park featuring Swan Lake, continuing our partnership with Lorain County Metro Parks. The performance featured NPB's signature narration with ASL interpretation and brought together 10 participants from the On-Site Education program at El Centro, performing alongside our professional artists. Approximately 425 community members experienced this free outdoor production.



Specialized Performances

In addition to NPB's accessibility efforts at every performance— making ballet approachable through live spoken narration, sign language translation, and affordable ticket pricing—NPB also offers specialized performances designed to create welcoming environments and meaningful arts experiences for all populations. These include a dedicated sensoryfriendly performance with each production run, as well as field trip performances for school-aged children across Northeast Ohio. Approximately 1300 students attended NPB's two field trip opportunities in 2025. NPB's sensory-friendly performances saw a 23% increase in attendance from 2024 to 2025 across its three offerings: one performance of *Swan Lake* and two performances of *The Nutcracker*.





Nutcracker Highlights

The iconic, larger-than-life character of Mother Ginger received a much-needed update this season. As one of our oldest set pieces, the original structure required significant reinforcement and modernization. Our set designer created a new version that is not only stronger and easier to break down and store, but also features a lift-gate system that makes the role accessible to wheelchair performers. This year's Mother Ginger was performed by Alexandra Martinez, Miss Wheelchair Ohio 2025, marking an important milestone in our ongoing commitment to inclusive casting. More than 6200 patrons—a record-setting audience for this production—experienced this new and fully accessible design.



For more information about upcoming performances, performance opportunities for dancers of all abilities, and other information please visit **www.northpointeballet.org.**



10th Anniversary Season Celebration



North Pointe Ballet marked its 10th anniversary with a special outdoor performance at Lakeview Park, celebrating a decade of accessible, community-centered dance. Artistic Director Janet Dziak welcomed patrons by reflecting on NPB's founding mission to make classical ballet accessible and expressing gratitude for the community that has supported that vision.

She also spoke about NPB's connection to Lakeview Park, recalling that when the pandemic moved performances outdoors, the company celebrated its five-year anniversary on the same lawn—an experience that sparked a meaningful tradition of offering free ballet in a welcoming community space.

The evening featured reflections from many voices in NPB's history, including Character Artist James Weir who shared that "[NPB] has been a constant source of inspiration… a place where artistry meets compassion, where every dancer, volunteer, stage crew, and audience member are part of a story bigger than themselves." His words captured the spirit of the evening's celebration as well as the community NPB has built over the past decade.

Advancement Committee

In 2025, the Advancement Committee focused on maintaining a steady community presence and laying groundwork for expanded outreach in the years ahead. The committee supported two Ballerina Pop-Ups at Lorenzo's Pizza in Lorain during the *Nutcracker* season, offering families local to our performance venue at The Lorain Palace Theatre a fun, approachable way to connect with NPB. These events served as early steps toward a broader strategy of community engagement, and the committee looks forward to building on this momentum with additional partnerships and outreach opportunities in Lorain and Cuyahoga Counties in 2026 and beyond.

2025 Season North Pointe Ballet Supporters

Up to $49

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$50-$99

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$100-$249

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$250-$499

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Anonymous
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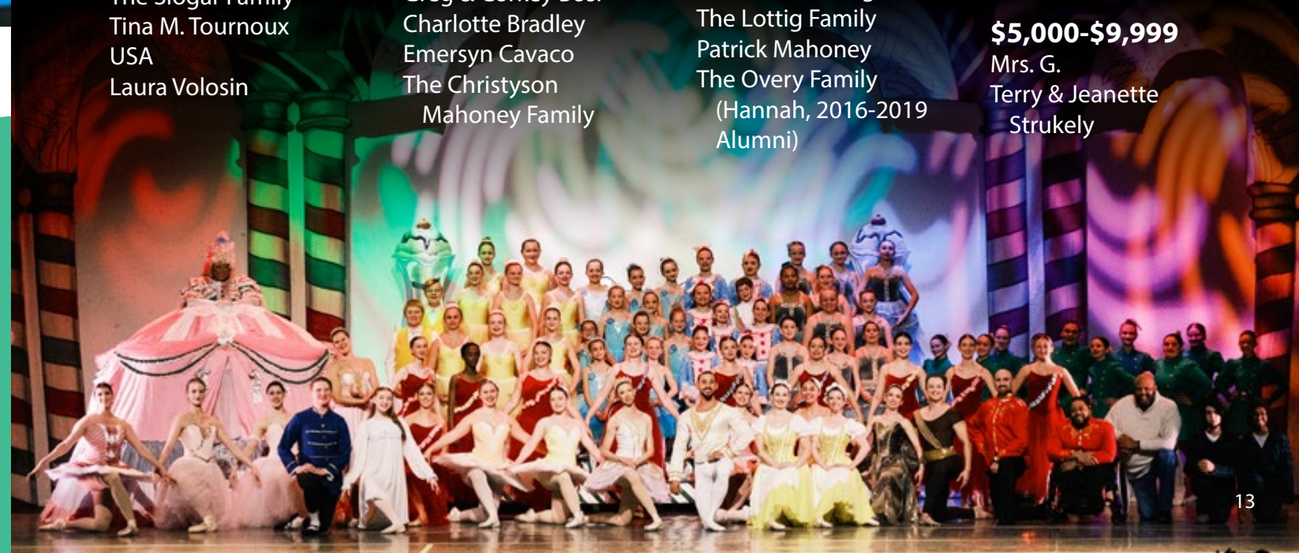
John & Mary Beth Kocianic

$2,500-$4,999

Carol Barnak
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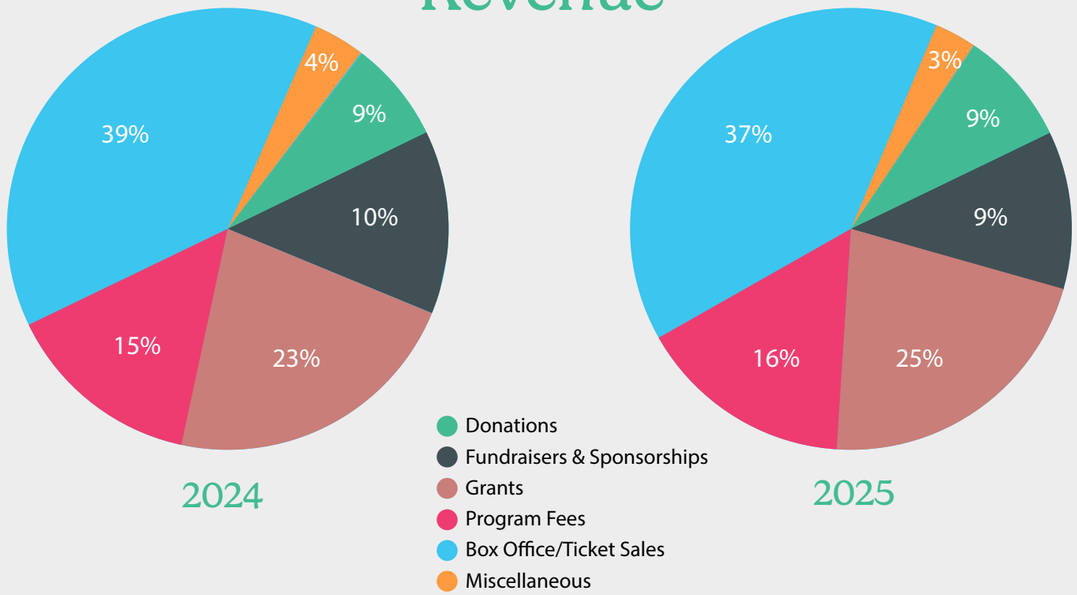
$5,000-$9,999

Mrs. G.
Terry & Jeanette Strukely

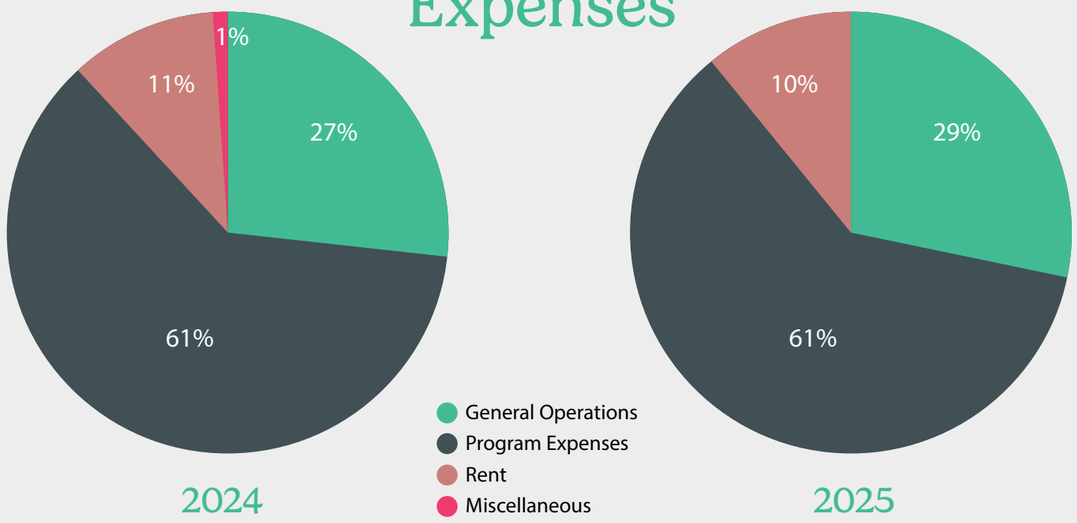


2025 FINANCIALS

Revenue



Expenses



Assets
as of December 31, 2025

Total Bank Accounts	$135,082
Total Fixed Assets	$4,078
Total Other Assets	$328,719
Total Assets	**$467,879**

Special Thanks
to our Board & Administrative Staff

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Thank you to North Pointe Ballet's 2025:

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cuyahoga arts & culture
strengthening community

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