

NPB

NORTH POINTE BALLET

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Making classical ballet accessible to everyone in our community.



Table of CONTENTS

A Letter from the Director	4
Our Mission	5
Programming	6
NPB Strategic Plan	14
The Numbers	16
Partners & Collaborators	18
Gratitude	19

Annual Report 2023

North Pointe Ballet
northpointeballet.org

A Letter from North Pointe Ballet's Executive Artistic Director



Dear Patrons,

It seems that 2023 has brought about a lot of turmoil and heartache globally and domestically. I sometimes wonder why I am "worrying about ballet" when there are so many "bigger problems" out there to be solved.

Then I walk into the dance studio on a weekend youth cast rehearsal, and the students are giggling with their NPB friends. I see the satisfaction and confidence on dancers' faces when they execute a difficult step and get cheers from fellow company members. I feel the energy in the room change when the music, movement, and artistry come together and all at once- everyone present feels something and shares in a collective joy.

For that brief moment, we escape the news, the politics, the sadness. Our collective consciousness is focused on the story, the art, the beauty of the moment. The power that we share as artists to transport ourselves and our audience to a new time and place, lowering stress levels, alleviating pain, is remarkable. It is the delight we are all seeking.

Art is powerful, art is valuable, art is necessary. Collectively, we can use this cultivation of joy not to forget--but to heal, and we can carry that with us beyond the studio and theater. I believe that it is because of this that NPB has experienced so much growth this year. Our Youth Cast reached a record number of over 140 participants. Our mission programs and professional company continue to thrive. We've added more staff members, board members, crew members, volunteers, and implemented committees as guided to establish by our 2022 strategic plan.

With growth often comes growing pains, which NPB is admittedly feeling. Both administrative and artistic staff are functioning beyond capacity with the need for more sustainable systems. Gratefully, our organization is in a position to be able to step back, assess and update these systems and policies, and use the guidance from our strategic plan to make clear, data-driven decisions about the future. I am very much looking forward to taking time this summer for strategic implementation, but not before spending the spring recreating one of my favorite ballets NPB has produced, *Peter Pan*. Artistic staff have already begun work on updating this ballet to better reflect our values, eliminating negative stereotypes of indigenous people and replacing them with magical, ethereal elements signature to traditional ballet divertissement.

It is with sincere gratitude that I thank all who made 2023 a successful year for NPB. Each artist, administrator, student, patron, donor, partner, supporter, and volunteer helped us fulfill our mission to make classical ballet accessible in both old and new ways, proving that we can overcome challenges with the power of art. I look forward to working with you to create more ways of using art to bring joy to our community in 2024.

Janet L Dziak

Janet L. Dziak
Executive Artistic Director

Our Mission

North Pointe Ballet's mission is to make classical ballet accessible to everyone in our community. NPB provides high-quality, professional ballet to Northeast Ohio through full-length theatrical events that are family-friendly and through initiatives that are inclusive of audiences and performers of all abilities and backgrounds. NPB is committed to increasing diversity and equity in the arts by addressing and removing barriers for underrepresented communities.



A Chance to Dance

We were so excited to begin an expanded A Chance to Dance on-site dance program with our friends of Murray Ridge School whose purpose is to deepen our already established community partnership. The Spring 2023 pilot program for intermediate and high school students provided weekly 45-minute classes in which the ballet-based content offered differentiation for the physical needs and learning styles of each participant. The program culminated with performance opportunities for both groups. We look forward to continuing this program in 2024 and adding a class for the primary students. The expansion of our programming with Murray Ridge School was made possible by our generous sponsors, CapWell Financial Advisors - Northwestern Mutual.

On-Site Education Programs

In 2023, our on-site education program grew in ways that allowed our participants to be better served. We had enough returning students at our Lorain partner site, El Centro de Servicios Sociales, to create an additional class so that those students could continue to progress while new students could receive the necessary introduction to establish their ballet foundation. The young dancers in this program participated in our *Beauty and the Beast* performance at Lakeview Park as well as welcomed our audience to *The Nutcracker* at The Lorain Palace Theatre with their pre-show performance.

Students at our Cuyahoga County partner site, Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center, performed alongside our professional company at their community center presentation of *Beauty and the Beast* as well as in our production of *The Nutcracker* at Berea-Midpark High School Performing Arts Center.

We were pleased to offer a six-week introductory ballet session in partnership with and hosted by Cleveland Public Library this spring, in addition to our ongoing on-site education at Douglas MacArthur Girls Leadership Academy.





2023 SEASON HIGHLIGHT

Beauty and the Beast

NPB continued to find ways to push boundaries of classical ballet interpretations but stay connected to classical foundations of the traditional artform. NPB's design team collaborated with Extreme Leap Motion Pictures to create a magic mirror special effect, utilizing technology to highlight artistry and communicate the story to audience members. The production featured live narration, 17 professional artists, 78 students, and 22 participants in NPB's A Chance to Dance programs. Local educators, libraries, and community organizations such as Girl Scouts participated in a Read to Win event, encouraging students to read 20 minutes a day for 30 days and receive a free ticket to the production.







Community Engagement



In 2023, NPB maintained its thriving community engagement programs. Both *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Nutcracker* field trip performances brought over 1200 students into the Lorain Palace Theatre.

NPB conducted a total of 19 workshop performances at schools, senior residences, and other community sites, reaching over 2500 residents across Lorain and Cuyahoga Counties.

Two performances in the park allowed hundreds of community members to enjoy ballet with no financial barrier in May and August.

Between arts festivals and sensory-friendly events, NPB participated in six community events with performance excerpts and ballerinas to pose with children for photos.



"There were students who went into the day thinking it was going to be boring, but left talking non-stop about their favorite parts. NPB is making such a difference in our community..."



▲ "Most of my students had never seen a live ballet performance. Many came into the day without an idea of what to expect. They left with an appreciation for dance that many of them didn't have before the show.

There are students who now want to start dance classes! There are students who now want to start going to ballets! There were so many students who asked me if we could go back next year. There were students who went into the day thinking it was going to be boring, but left talking non-stop about their favorite parts. NPB is making such a difference in our community by making dance accessible to everyone."

— Lorain County educator following NPB's Beauty and the Beast field trip performance

2023 SEASON HIGHLIGHT

The Nutcracker

NPB's 8th annual holiday classic featured new elements to engage both new and returning patrons. The design team updated the show's puppet theater set piece as well as costumes for Drosselmeyer's dolls in Act 1, the Candy Cane variation, and Mother Ginger's Bon Bons. The production also featured new choreography for both the dolls and Candy Cane variation.



Nutcracker 2023 also saw a new Cuyahoga County venue, Berea-Midpark High School Performing Arts Center. The newly-constructed 723-seat auditorium was sold out for both performances. NPB collaborated with Oberlin-based MAD* Factory Theater company to strengthen the production's signature live narration. Two weekends of performances featured 21 professional artists, 138 students in NPB's Youth Cast, 9 participants in NPB's A Chance to Dance Community Division program, and performing opportunities for partner program participants El Centro Servicios Sociales, Beyond Words: Music and Dance Center, and Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center.

> We appreciate everything NPB has done to make *The Nutcracker* an accessible family tradition in Northeast Ohio. NPB and MAD* Factory share a desire to stop the gatekeeping that can surround the performing arts, and we hope this will be the first of many more collaborations. The mediums of ballet and theater coming together bring the classic story of *The Nutcracker* to a new and wider audience.
>
> **Nina Fisher**
> *MAD Factory*



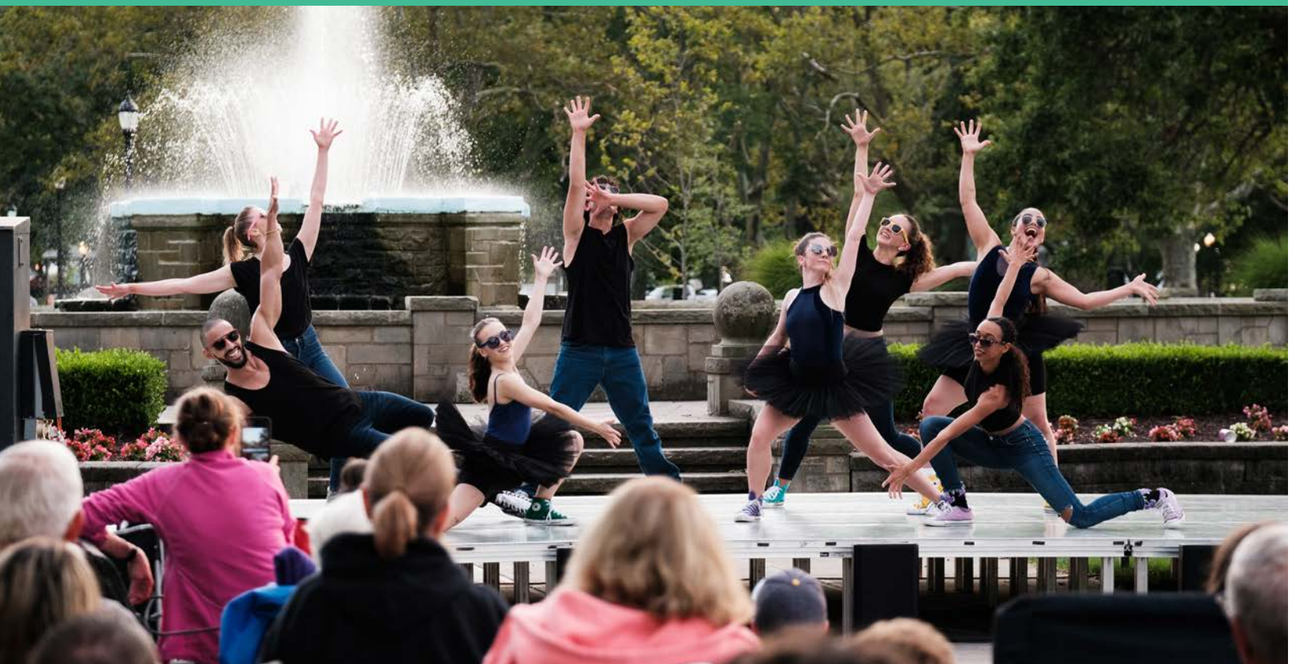
Strategic Plan Update & What's to Come in 2024

Currently at the halfway point, North Pointe Ballet is happy to report that progress has been made -- and continues to be made -- on several goals established by its 2022 Strategic Plan thanks to the dedication of the individuals on the established committees, including developing the professional company, increasing visibility, strengthening our board, increasing our budget, and sustaining our mission programs.

However, as we worked to strengthen NPB's internal infrastructure, the strategic plan highlighted several capacity issues, revealing that the *solutions* to alleviate the capacity issues have actually *increased* the workload on an already maxed-out team in the short-term.

At the guidance of its 2022 Strategic Plan, NPB recognizes the need to make some fresh assessments at this halfway point in order to maintain the integrity and excellence we've upheld for so long for our productions, programs, and operations. This reflection in 2024 will allow leadership to clarify the vision for the organization and take the time necessary to follow through on various strategic plan action items that will strengthen the internal systems of the organization. During this reassessment phase, patrons can expect a postponement NPB's annual repertoire concert until August 2025, adjustments to youth cast participation eligibility (including but not limited to number of participants), and modifications to partner programs.

"North Pointe Ballet provides much needed art, dance, and performance opportunities to the people of Lorain. Their presence in the community is felt and appreciated."
Max Schaefer | Director, Main Street Lorain



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to our Board and Administrative Staff

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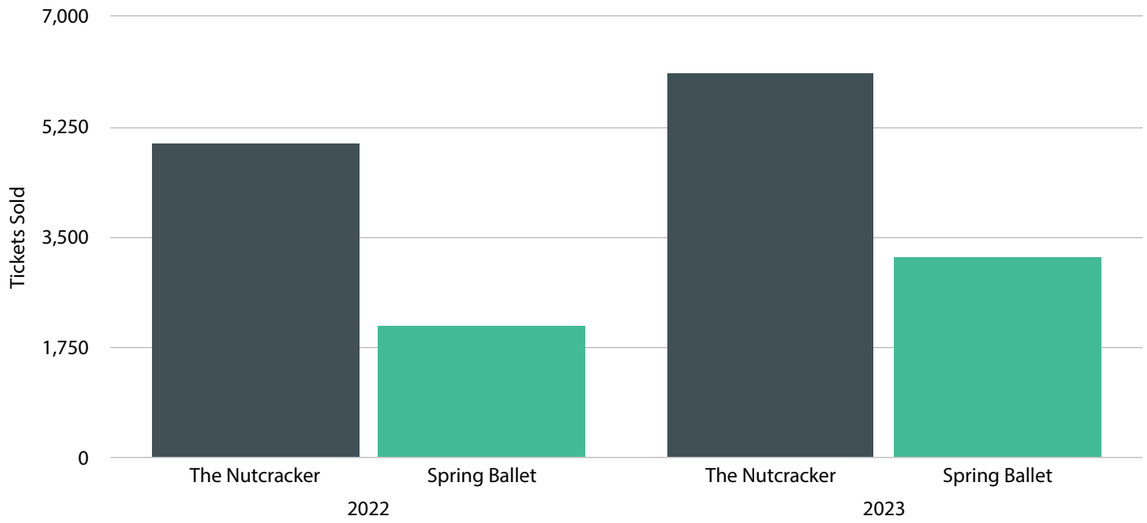
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BERNADETTE BENDA
2023 Annual Report Contributing Photographers

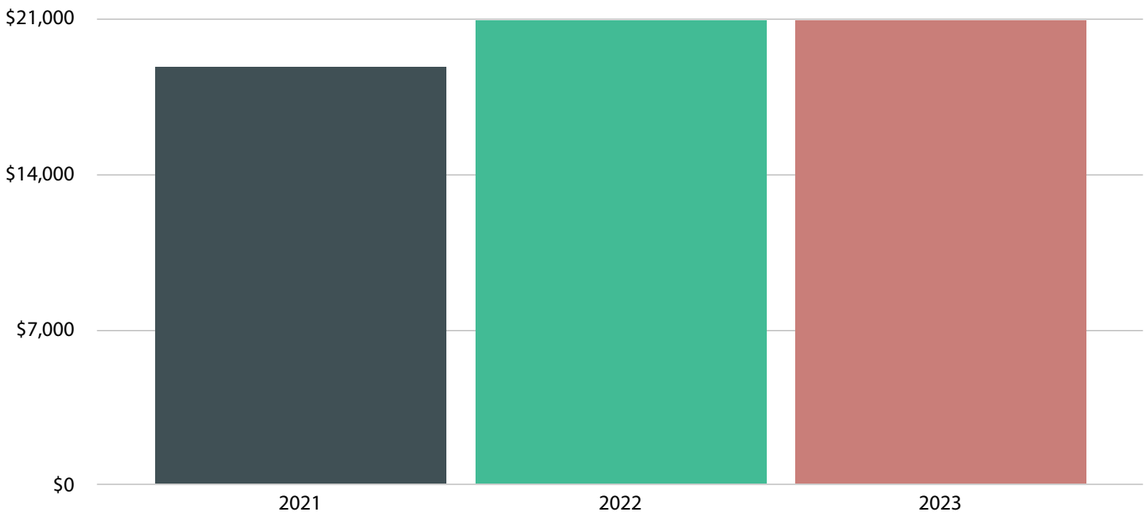
The Numbers

Box Office Sales

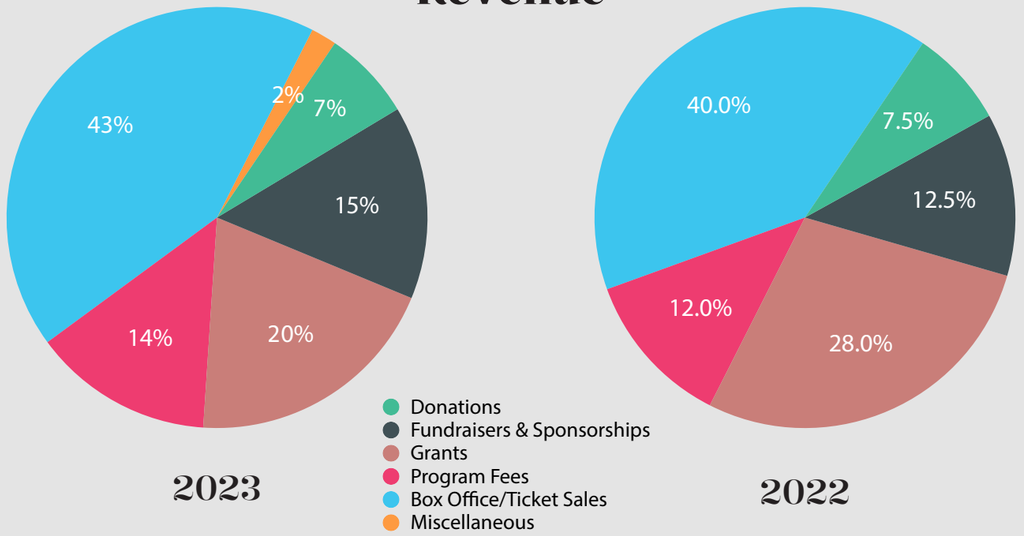


Individual Giving by Year

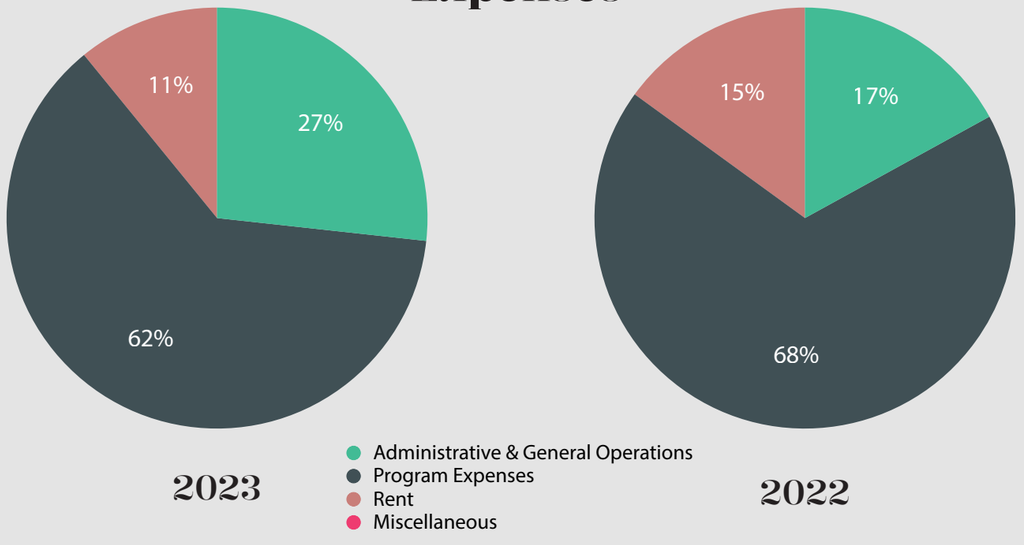
NPB is honored to have the support of so many who find our mission worthy of their gifts!



Revenue



Expenses



Assets
as of December 31, 2023

Total Bank Assets	$50,861.31
Total Fixed Assets	$2,588.31
Total Other Assets	$225,000.82
Total Assets	***$278,450.46***

$2,500–4,999

Ms. Carol Barnak

The Laura Parsons Charitable Fund in honor of Madalyn, Grace, & Charlotte Parsons

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$1,000-$2,499

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classic. contemporary. creative.

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Harter Dentistry

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