

RESILIENCE DANCE COMPANY

A group of dancers in a dynamic pose, wearing earth-toned costumes, against a dark background. The dancers are in various poses, some reaching up, some leaning back, creating a sense of movement and energy. The lighting is warm and focused on the dancers, highlighting their forms against the dark background.

2025/2026 Annual Report

WWW.RESILIENCEDANCECOMPANY.COM

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear supporters, audience, friends, and community members:

This season marked RDC's 7th in St. Louis - 7 years since I dreamt up a company model that would put artists first in order to create exceptional dance. Thanks to you, RESILIENCE has experienced incredible growth and support, both in our home of St. Louis and throughout the Midwest.

Each time I meet someone who resonates with our work, I feel the joy of our mission all over again. The little impacts - a student's smile in class, a dancer seeking care instead of hiding injury, a choreographer confidently sharing their voice, a parent's realization that "dance" is a much wider, richer space than one style, an audience member's real, inexplicable reaction to a work - these are the heart of RESILIENCE and part of why our 25/26 Resonance Season felt uniquely special.

It was a season of risk - ambitious collaborations, unknown performance spaces, new university outreach, and more. But the person-to-person impact was unmatched. From our collaboration with the 12 singers of Continuum Vocal Ensemble, to a spontaneous improvisation with the 10 dancers of Hot Crowd, to the phenomenal energy of 40+ Lindenwood students in a Partnering class. RDC's outreach expanded further than ever before as we worked with 10 different groups - whether university, company, or studio - to bring 26 total performances, 4 tours, and 9 educational offerings to our community. As we fueled human connection through dance, I felt a renewed commitment to this work. The arts are a powerful, indispensable reminder of our humanity, and I am grateful for RESILIENCE's role in creating moments that resonate.

As you read our 25/26 Annual Report, I invite you to reflect on the ways dance or perhaps another art form has touched your life. By reading, sharing with a friend, attending an event, or donating - you help keep this critical work alive.



Emily Haussler, Artistic and Executive Director



OUR MISSION

To create exceptional dance experiences that fuel human connection.

OUR VISION

To advance the field of dance by fostering healthy, equitable work environments that nourish dance artists and the communities they serve.

OUR VALUES

Transparency, Integrity, Support, Wholeheartedness,
Authenticity, Artist-Forward





THE COMPANY & OUR WORK

RESILIENCE Dance Company (RDC) is a nonprofit, contemporary modern dance company with a mission to create exceptional dance experiences that fuel human connection. RDC's work is rooted in building healthy, sustainable dance spaces that put artists first and enable curiosity, play, and creative risk taking. The non-hierarchical company is comprised of unique artists who find cohesion through collaboration.

The 2025/2026 Company Dancers, and the year they joined, include (L to R): Lexie Hoehn (2025), Chrissy Clair (2021), Soraya Cohen (2025), Abbi LeBaube (2022), Ashlynn Woelbling (2022), Josiah Gundersen (2019), Michelle Parkhurst (2022), Nathan Krueger (2024), and Ana Velazquez (2025).

THE BOARD

President & Secretary

Gray Wilde (he/him)

Treasurer

Christina Cacciatore (she/her)

Vice President

Leah Cordiano-Siemens (she/her)

Ayana Scott-Elliston (she/they)

Elizabeth Hisaw (she/her)

from L-R, 1st row then second row



25/26 IMPACT SUMMARY



207

Dance Students

332

Class
Attendances

70

Artists Employed,
Contracted, or Paid
Collaborators

\$178,255

Paid to Artists

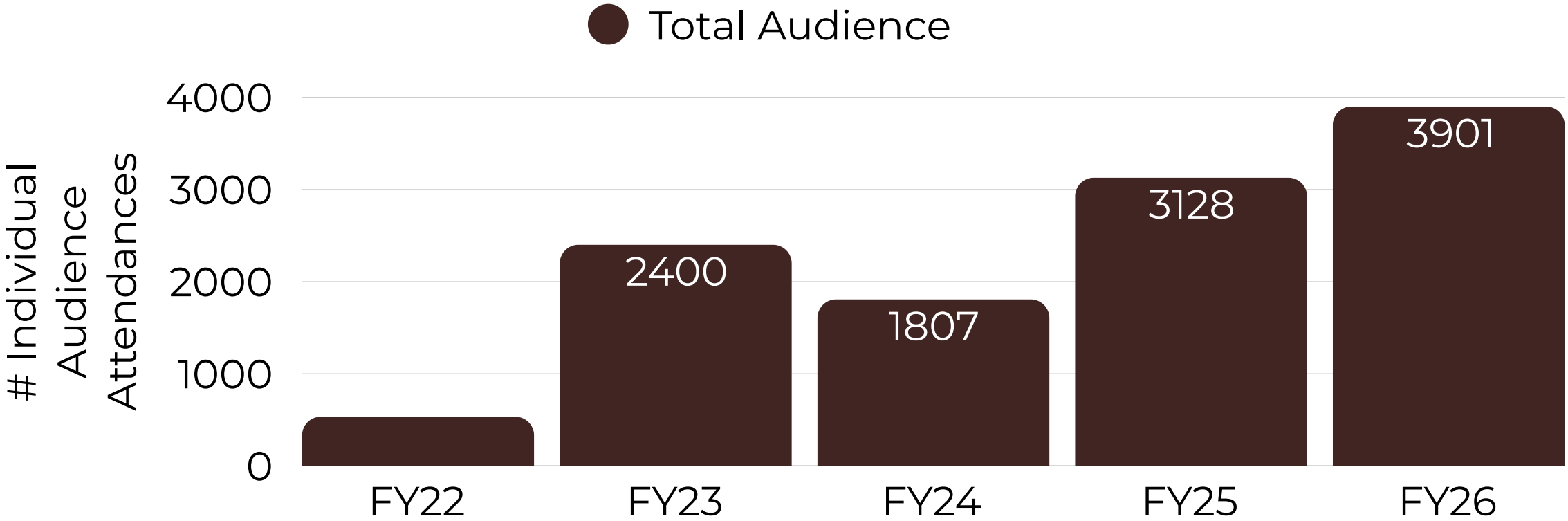
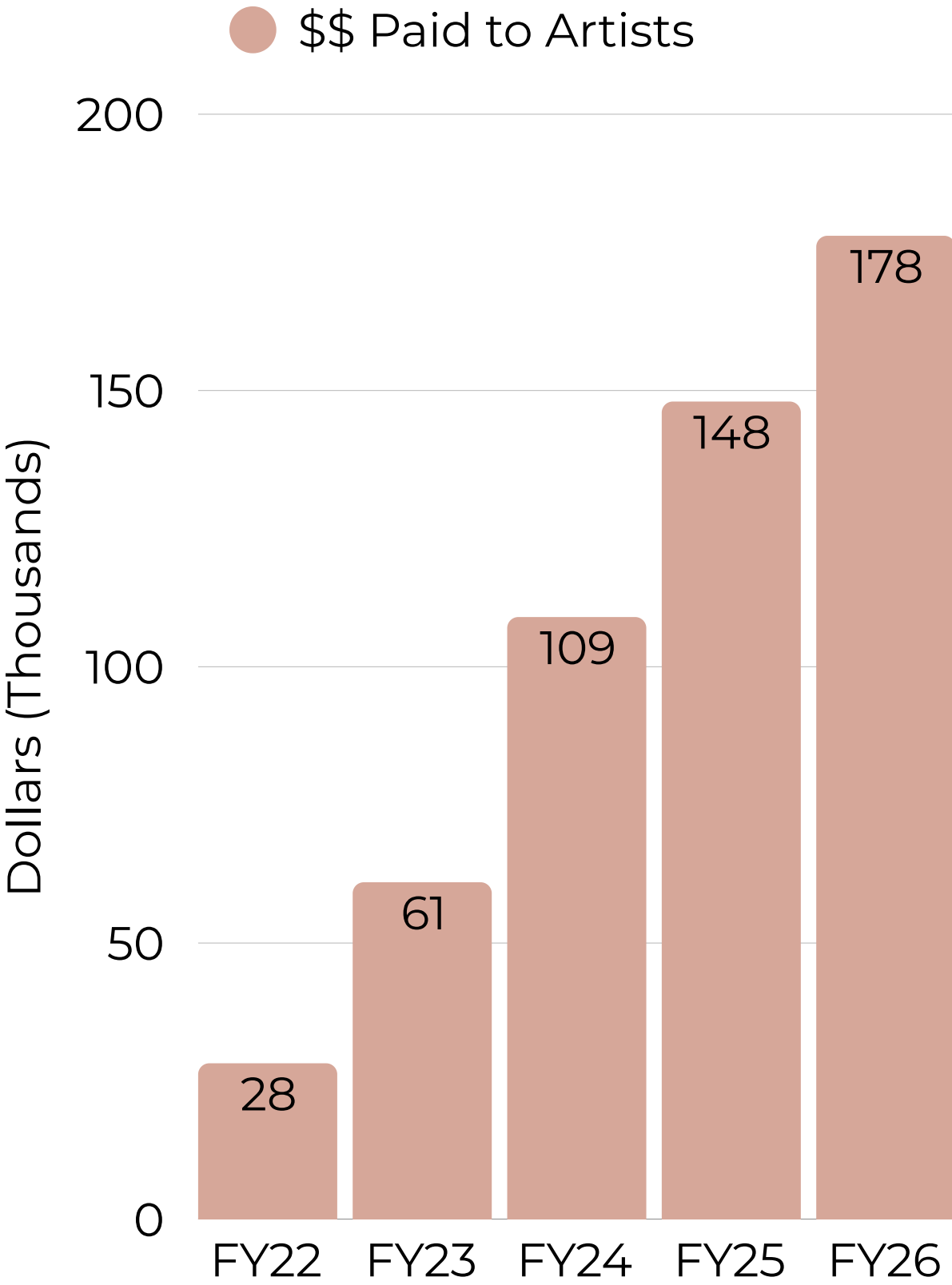
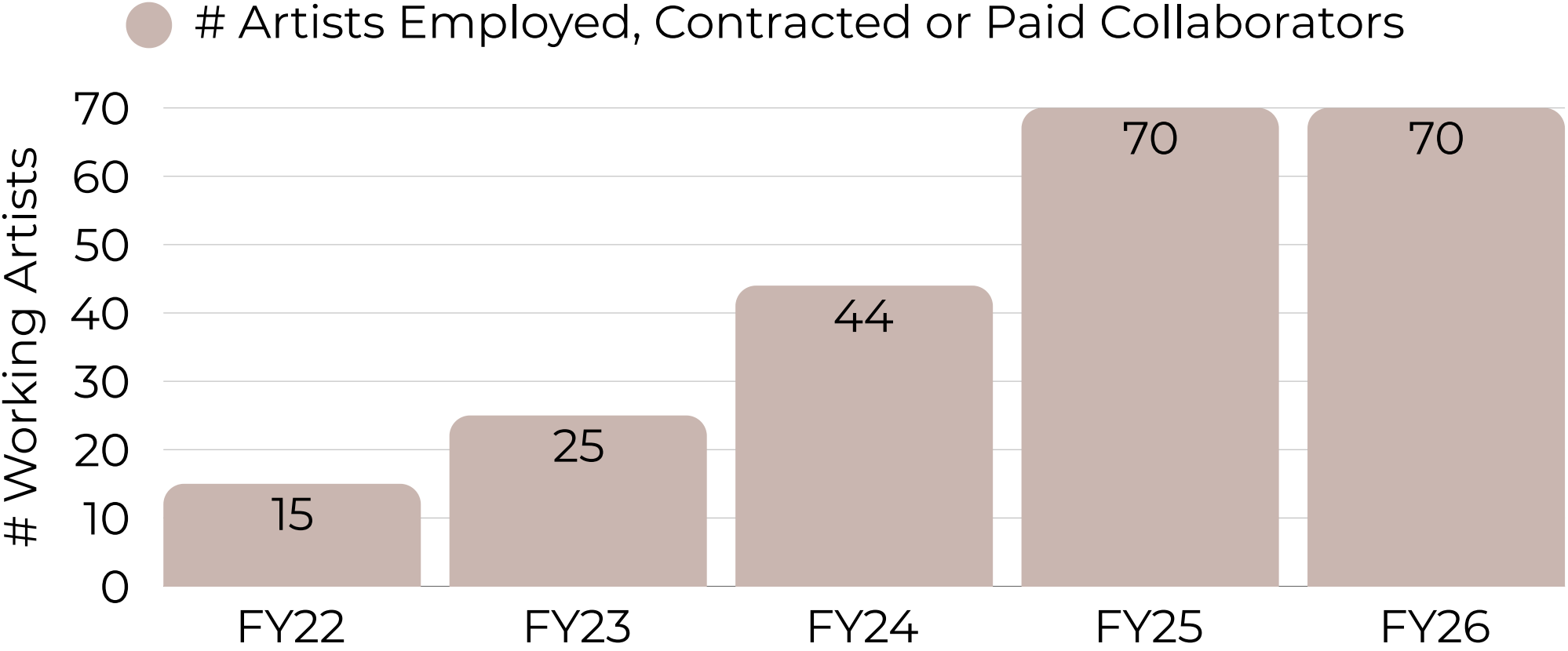
3,901

Total Audience

26

Performances

GROWING IMPACT: FY22 - FY26



Looking Back: *Enduring Partnerships & Programs*



RDC has built lasting programs and partnerships over the past 7 Seasons. Here are some highlights with totals:

- 15 Seen: STL Performances**
First one in February 2020 at The Link Auditorium; Served 77 St. Louis based choreographers, 100 dancers, and approximately 450 audience attendances
- 5 Entry Points Concerts**
First one in September 2021 at the Link Auditorium; 22 world premieres by 22 choreographers; 1,011 total audience attendances
- 4 Dovetail Events with Intersect Arts Center**
First one in March 2023 (Blue Hour, Fashion 5, Field Guide Interstitium)
- 3 St. Louis Contemporary Dance Festivals**
First one in June 2023 at Intersect Arts Center; 159 submitted works, 45 presented artists, 337 audience attendances
- 2 Collaborations with Collective Motion**
First one in May 2025 (In Courageous Form; This Moment that Makes Us)

Athletico Physical Therapy

The Official Provider of Physical Therapy for
RESILIENCE Dance Company since **2020**.

Brittni Johnson, LPC

Partner for Mental Health in Dance
since **2020** - individual & group sessions

Lauren Hendrix, LPC

Partner for Mental Health in Dance
since **2023** - individual & group sessions

Kip Taylor Massage Therapy

Partner for Massage Therapy
since **2023**

St. Louis Contemporary
Dance Festival - 2025



Collective Motion - 2026
This Moment that Makes Us



Entry Points - 2022
Cassie Wang



Intersect Arts Center - 2023
Dovetail Blue Hour



Seen: STL
2026 Intersect Arts Center (L) and 2019 The Link Auditorium (R)



2025 - 2026

RESONANCE SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



Evening-Length Touring

Thanks to a partnership with Chicago-based company Hot Crowd, RDC accomplished a 5-day, 4-show tour of Haussler's evening-length work, "Benchmarks 9.0", at Theater Wit in Chicago, IL - our first ever evening-length tour.



Building Lasting Rep

RDC attracts nationally and internationally renowned choreographers; in particular, award winning NYC artist Annie Rigney returned to expand "Just" - a 35min work both shown in STL and excerpted in NYC at the APAP conference.



Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations

RDC expanded collaborations, partnering with Continuum Vocal Ensemble, the Jazz Troubadours, and returning musician e-GoS for live singing & music in mainstage shows.



New University Connections

RDC increased university offerings, including: Partnering at Lindenwood; Improv, Comp, and Rep at Principia; and a Summer Residency at SIUE.

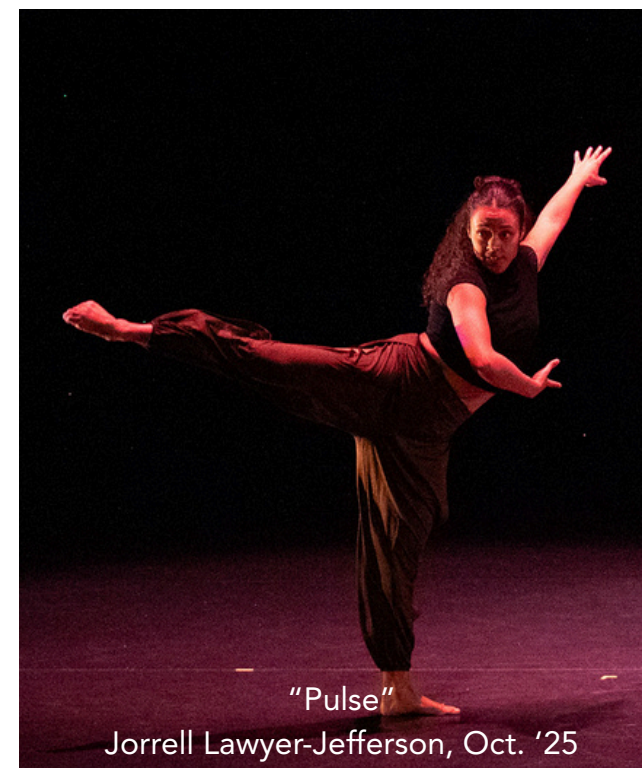


Growing Staff

Jorrell Lawyer-Jefferson joined RDC as Rehearsal Director and three new dancers - Soraya, Ana, and Lexie - expanded the main company to a total of 9. RDC is growing capacity & impact as a result.

MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES

12 WORLD PREMIERES, 1 RETURNING REP, 2 IMPROVISATIONS



SEASON FEATURE - *JUST*

AN EXPANDED WORK BY ANNIE RIGNEY

2024 Creation

Annie Rigney created the first, 15min iteration of “Just” in 2024. Set to music by David Lang and Caroline Shaw, “Just” uses the language of Gaga to explore the “emotional basement” that might exist between two people in love - the unseen weight of previous experiences, memories, or of things not expressed.



2025 Expansion

Celebrated as a “profound meditation on baggage, attachment, and humanity” by St. Louis Dance HQ, and having deeply touched audiences, RDC re-commissioned Rigney to expand “Just” into a 35-min work. A Living Room scene took shape, music expanded to include works by So Percussion, and a pivotal duet was formed.

2026 Touring

Company Dancers Abbi LeBaube and Josiah Gundersen joined Rigney’s Dancers for 3 showings in New York City, including for presenters at APAP and as part of Gallim’s independent performance.



2027 Plans

As one of the strongest, most well-developed, and impactful works in RDC’s repertory, we plan to perform it one final time in STL in April 2027 while actively pursuing presented touring opportunities.

More about:
Annie Rigney

More about:
Gaga Technique

SEASON FEATURE - *BENCHMARKS 9.0*



RDC'S 1ST EVENING-LENGTH TOUR

Ideation

RDC decided to partner with Chicago-based Hot Crowd in late 2024. Emily had crossed paths with Directors Brittany and Devon at several festivals, and they shared a mutual respect for each others' work. The theme was decided early on: how space, place, and time define our embodied histories and shape our present selves. Before stepping foot in the studio, Emily knew the piece would involve RDC's oldest prop - a green bench.



The quick, 8-week process began late February, 2026. A recent composition by Christopher Cerrone, *Don't Look Down*, emerged as a musical anchor. By the 3rd rehearsal, the company had generated 62 unique interactions with the bench through a prolonged improvisation. Nina Ganci was brought in to work with Chrissy Clair on costumes, resulting in unique constructions that would set the work apart.



Process

One month later, RDC toured *Benchmarks 9.0* to Chicago, IL for 4 performances at Theater Wit. Over 200 audience members met RDC, heard our mission, and saw our work. This tour was indisputably a season highlight for all involved.

CHI Tour

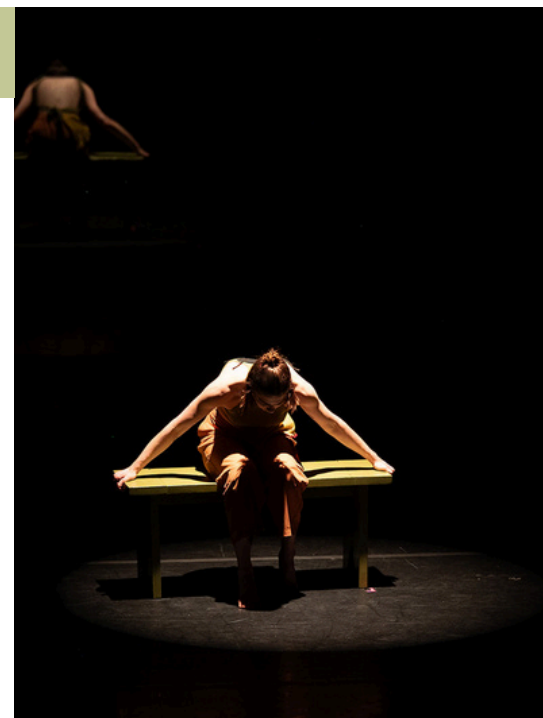


2027 Plans

Similarly to "Just," *Benchmarks 9.0* captures the company at their strongest. We plan to perform it in STL in April 2027 while actively pursuing presented touring opportunities.

STL Premiere

Clocking in at 48min, *Benchmarks 9.0* premiered in the split bill show *Once Here, Still Moving* alongside Hot Crowd's piece, *buildup*. RDC's first time at the Touhill's Lee Theater also happend to be the first time Haussler's evening-length work was shown on a proscenium stage. Audiences described it as "cohesive and beautiful"; "powerful and evocative."



Read the Review
[STL Dance HQ](#)

Watch a Trailer
[Benchmarks 9.0](#)

NATIONAL DANCE WEEK - HONORARY COMPANY

Free performances and master class for our community



National Dance Week is an annual event hosted in late Spring, featuring **40+ local dance groups** - from professional companies to schools and studios, spanning over a dozen genres of dance performance. Audiences coming and going can watch over 5hrs of dance - typically presented on a stage outdoors - **for free**. The 2026 event marked it's 27th year in St. Louis.

RDC has participated in NDW since 2024. This year, we were delighted to be named the **2026 Honorary Company** “for commitment to raising awareness of dance in America and celebrating its contributions to the wellbeing of mind, body, and spirit.”

As Honorary Company, RDC shared two performance excerpts by Jorrell Lawyer-Jefferson and Emily Haussler. In addition, Haussler lead a **Contemporary and Creative Process Master Class** at Washington University that was free and open to the public.

RDC IN THE COMMUNITY

- AUG 4 - 8 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Summer Residency ♦
- AUG 23 - SEPT 27 Fall Master Class Series ♦
- NOV 7 Cleveland Dance Fest in Cleveland, OH ♦
- NOV 16 Here I Am w/ St. Louis Women's Chorale ♦
- DEC 6 Seen: STL (12/6)*
- DEC 11 LHM Holiday Party ♦
- JAN 9 - 13 APAP Conference
- JAN 23 Partnering Workshop - Lindenwood University ♦
- FEB 10 Dovetail: Intertitium (Intersect) ♦
- FEB 14 Modern Night at the Gem in Kansas City, MO
- MAR 7 Pazazz Concert - St. Louis Academy of Dance
- MAR 15 RDC Audition Workshop ♦
- MAR 22 Seen: STL (3/22)*
- APR 1 - 2 Workshop Series - Principia College ♦
- APR 11 National Dance Week*
- MAY 1 This Moment that Makes Us (Collective Motion) ♦
- MAY 28 - 31 Once Here, Still Moving in Chicago, IL ♦
- JUN 22 - JUL 11 Youth Summer Programs ♦
- JUL 10 - 11 Festival Master Class Series ♦

Audience Reached:

2,918

Dance Student Attendances:

188

RDC participated in 19 educational, outreach, and touring programs in 25/26. Of these, 9 served students ages 11 - 22, 3 focused on professional development for artists 18+, and 14 had a professional performance component.

*Free and open to the public

♦Revenue-generating for RDC

HOLISTIC ARTIST WELLNESS PROGRAM



Kip Taylor Massage Therapy



Elizabeth Westland - Athletico PT



Brittni Johnson, LPC



Lauren Hendrix, LPC

In the 2025 - 2026 Season, RDC Company Artists received:

58 hours of **Massage Therapy**

33 hours of **Physical Therapy**

27 hours of **Individual Mental Health Therapy**

*all provided free of cost to the dancers,
with the exception of Individual Therapy (\$15/session dancer copay)*

25/26 Resources Beyond the Company

*RDC funded **16** Massage Therapy mini-sessions and **8** Physical Therapy mini-sessions for St. Louis Contemporary Dance Festival Participants. In addition, RDC hosted **3** injury prevention workshops and **2** Mental Health in Dance workshops during Summer Programs.*

"I couldn't have asked for a more generous experience. As an independent choreographer, I felt taken care of in a way I haven't experienced before. I received free physical therapy and massage, on top of a stipend to offset travel costs to the festival."

AUDIENCE IMPACT

Audience Testimonials, Data, Reach, and Growth



Testimonials

Once Here,
Still Moving

Cohesive and beautiful. Truly elevated performances from each dancer accompanied by brilliant choreography that had my jaw on the floor more than once. Resilience has a very rare talent of continually surprising its audience by keeping them on their toes through daring, brave moments.

STL Contemporary
Dance Festival

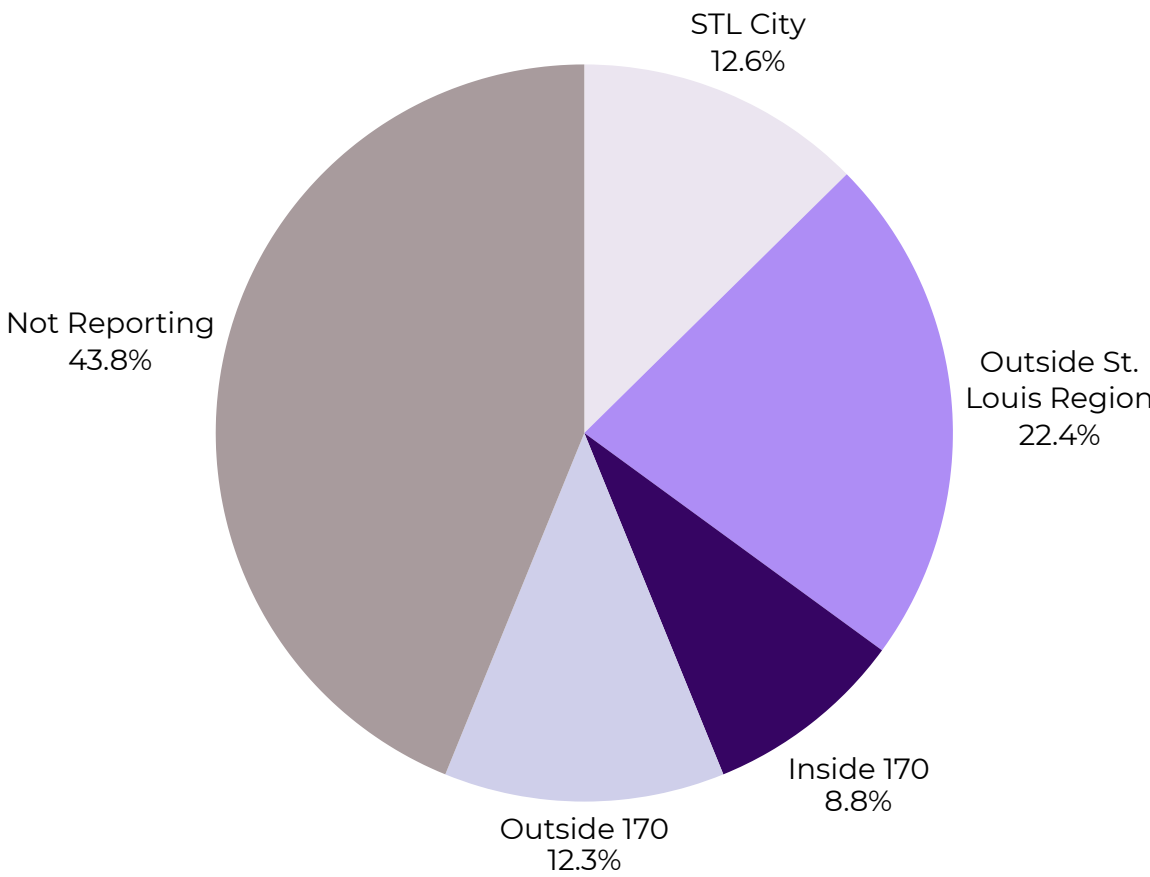
As a first-time attendee, I'd say it was a great experience. I didn't know any of the dancers, but watching their performances gave me an insight into who they are as artists. I loved how each performance created its own unique atmosphere and set the mood for the room.

Entry Points

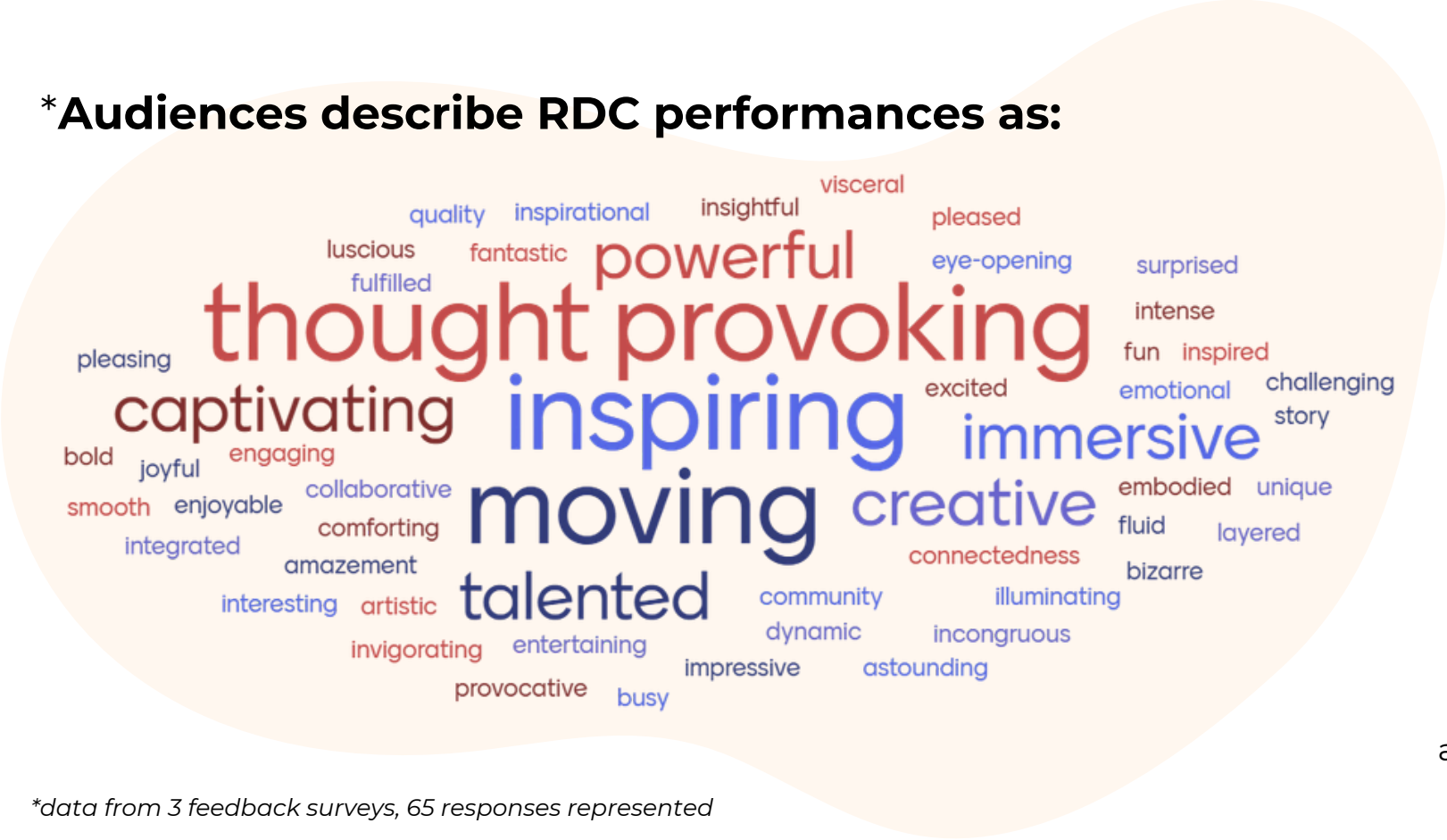
There was an intensity to and a oneness of the artists as they all contributed to the connection to the piece and the audience. A highly talented group.

25/26 Audience by Zip Code

Data from 1,195 Mainstage Attendees; 671 Reporting Zip Codes



*Audiences describe RDC performances as:



Total audience
attendances 2025-26

3,901

- Performances in St. Louis
- Performances Outside St. Louis



Total audience
attendances increased by

Total unique audience
member zip codes

24.7%

164

2025/2026 CHOREOGRAPHERS: *Platforming Creative Voices*

*work from previous seasons restaged in 25/26



Abbi LeBaube
St. Louis, MO
Speak Easy



Josiah Gundersen
St. Louis, MO
Speak Easy



Annie Rigney
New York City, NY
Entry Points, APAP



Jorrell Lawyer-Jefferson
St. Louis, MO
*Entry Points, Speak
Easy*



Hélène Simoneau
Montreal, Canada
Entry Points



Kayliani Sood
Allison Smith
Pittsburgh, PA
Festival



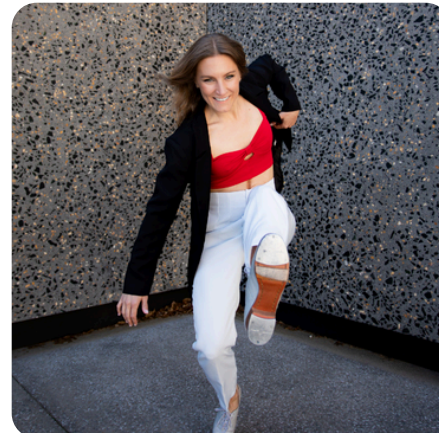
Lian Long Xuan
Pittsburgh, PA
Festival



Dale Ratcliff
Nikki Theroux
Brooklyn, NY
Festival



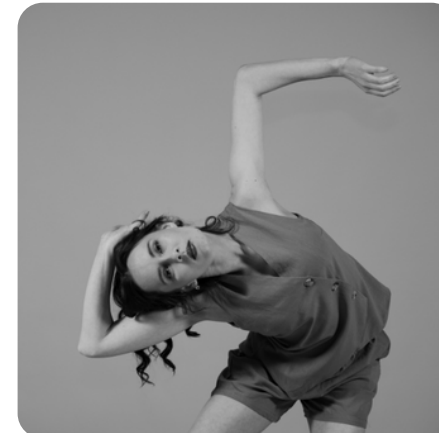
Emily Hausler
St. Louis, MO
OHSM, Speak Easy



Lorraine "Rain" Stippec
St. Louis, MO
Festival



Maddy Bailey
St. Louis, MO
Festival



Carly Vanderheyden
St. Louis, MO
Festival



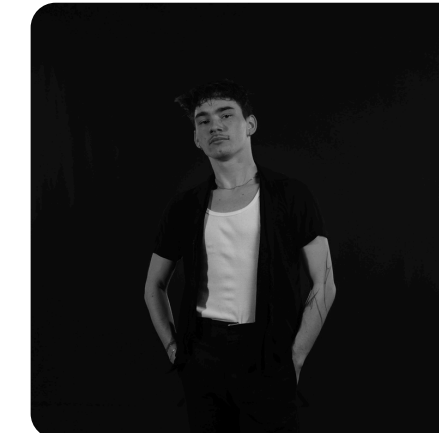
Jonathan Pattiwael
San Marcos, TX
Festival



Julianna Bramstedt
Washington, DC
Festival



Zoe DeYoung
St. Louis, MO
Festival



Isaac Knuteson
Madison, WI
Festival



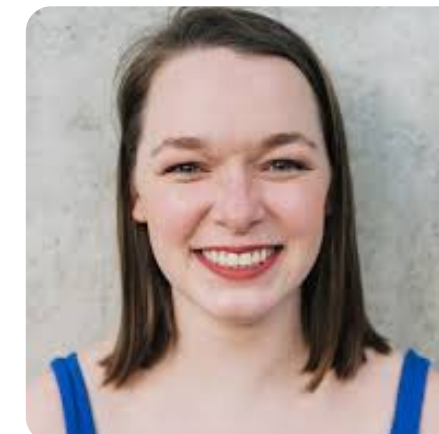
Will Brighton*
St. Louis, MO
Modern Night; Festival



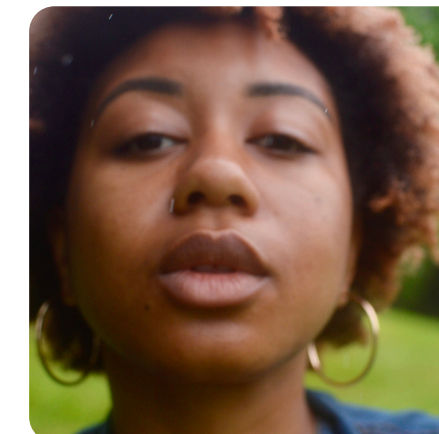
Mike Esperanza*
New York City, NY
Entry Points



Abby
Marchesseault
Mishawaka, IN
Festival



Emily Duggins Ehling
Columbia, MO
*Choreographic
Intensive*



Victoria Awkward*
Boston, MA
*Cleveland Dance Fest;
Collective Motion*



Rosanna Tavarez*
Los Angeles, CA
Pre-Pro Intensive



David Marchant
St. Louis, MO
Festival



Catherine Hayward
Calgary, Canada
Festival

2026 SUMMER PROGRAMS: *Uplifting Young Dancers*



"As a parent of a younger dancer the communication was excellent, and staff at check-in/out were always upbeat and welcoming. My dancer enjoyed the variety of classes and thrived being exposed to new dance techniques." -Sara W. (2026)

RDC's Summer Programs returned for a 4th year, this time at **Webster University**! With two beautiful studios, RDC opted to run the Summer Intensive and Pre-Professional Intensive simultaneously.

16 students from MO, IL, and IN participated. 10 Summer Intensive students, ages 11 - 16, made a new work with Company Dancer Abbi LeBaube while training in a variety of techniques including Modern, Floorwork, and Improvisation. They also completed and performed a Spontaneous Composition with Director Emily Haussler.

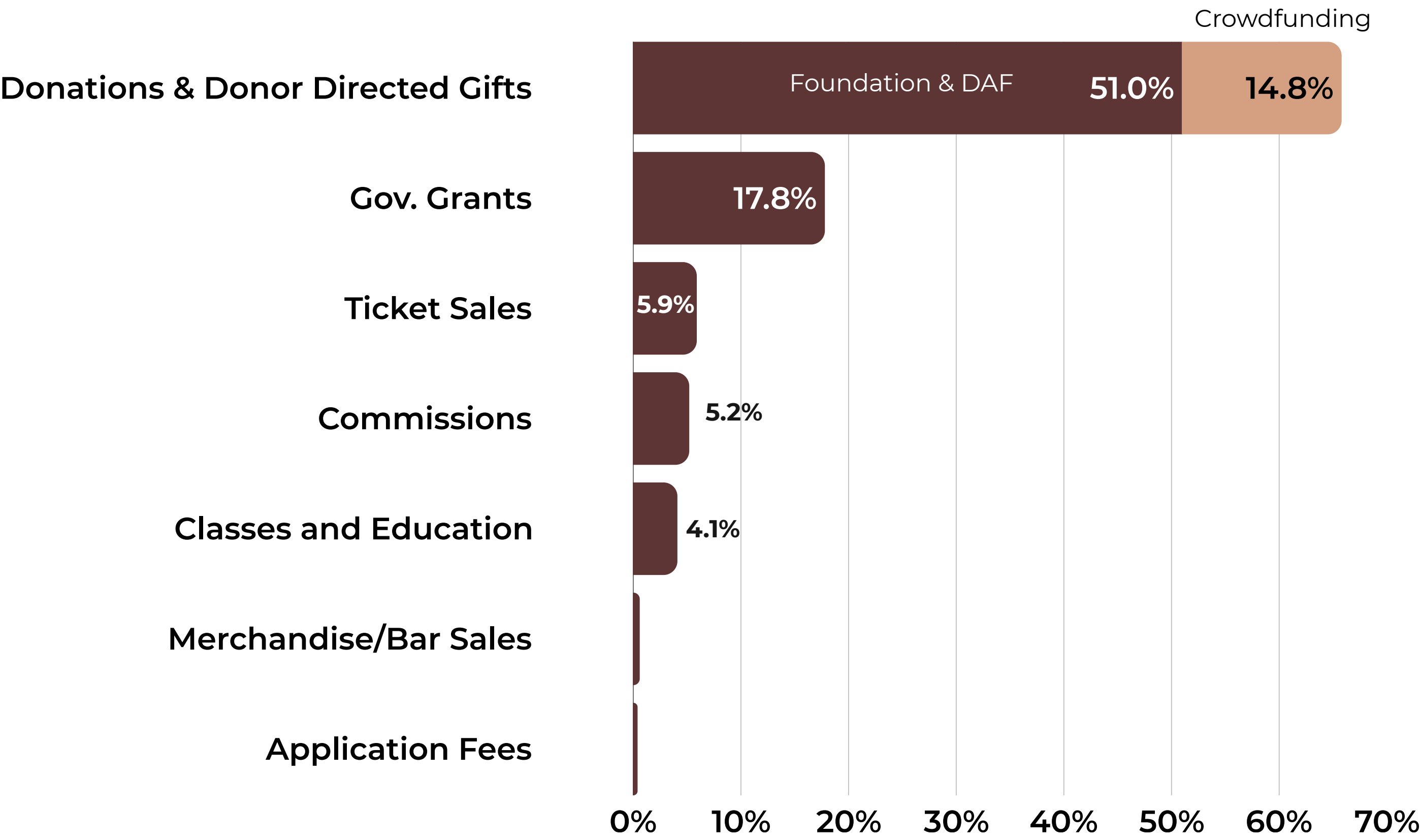
Six Pre-Professional students, ages 16 - 21 who auditioned for the program, learned 2023 repertoire (*deluge* by Rosanna Tavarez) and created a new work with Haussler. In addition to technique classes, these students took Partnering, Composition, and Professional Development.

Students from both programs participated in specialized workshops in **Injury Prevention and Mental Health in Dance**, lead by Athletico and Lauren Hendrix, respectively. The week concluded with a successful showcase performance, free for friends and family to attend.

RESILIENCE's Summer Programs emphasize holistic wellness, sustainable training, and realizing each student's artistic voice.

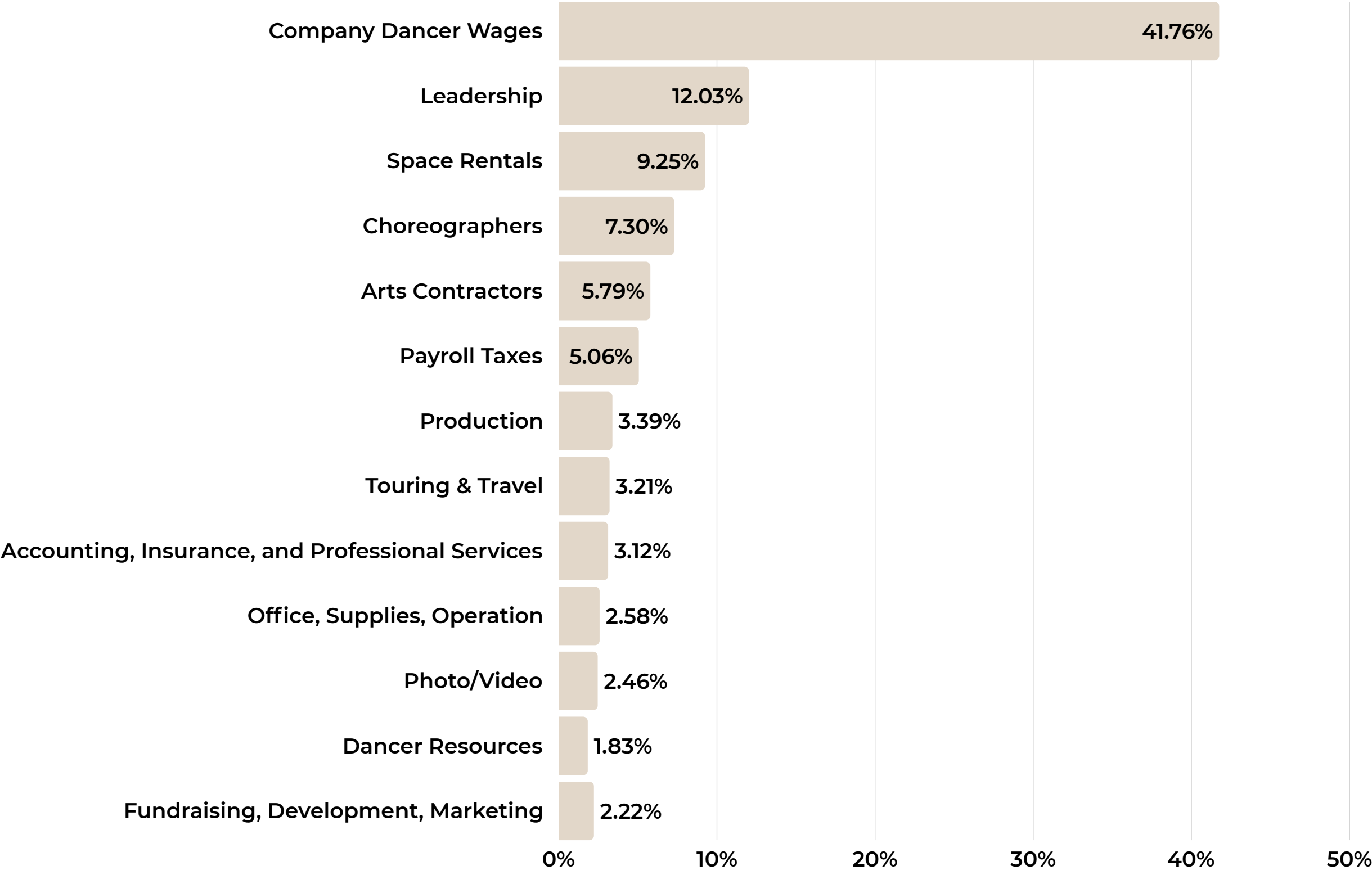


25/26 REVENUE



Annual Revenue
\$279,492

25/26 RESOURCE ALLOCATION



Annual Expenses
\$277,096

Program Services **83.6%**
Management and General **14.8%**
Fundraising and Development **1.6%**

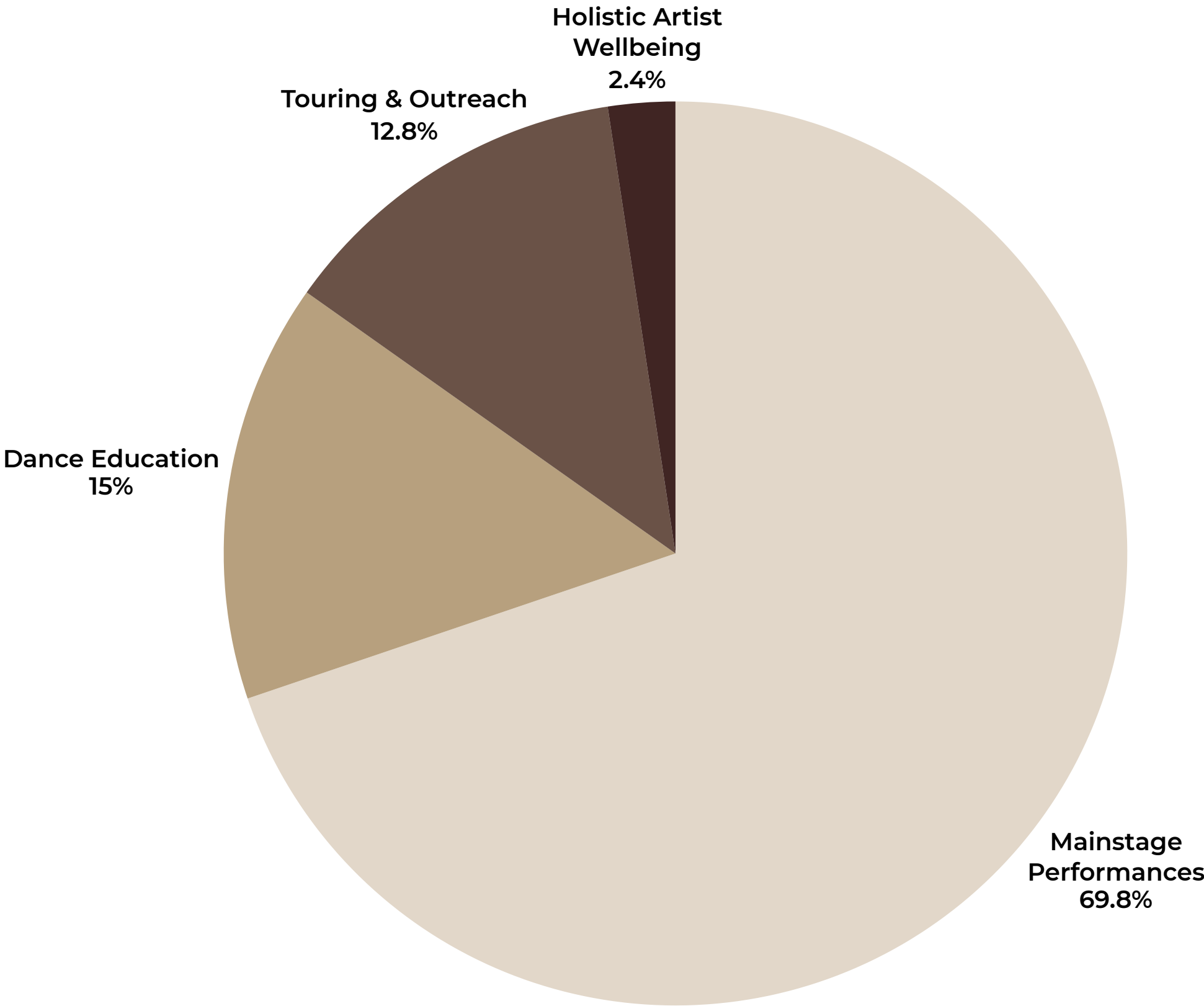
Artist Compensation accounted for
64.3% of total spending

25/26 PROGRAM SPENDING



Program Services Spending

\$231,575



IN-KIND & GRANT SUPPORT



RDC received in-kind support from local business, arts organizations, and community partners. Support ranged from discounted space, discounted marketing, pro bono legal and accounting help, discounted reception refreshments, raffle items, professional services, and production necessities including dance flooring and seating. RDC received annual grant funding from Regional Arts Commission and Missouri Arts Council.

In-Kind, Marketing, and Professional Support



Major Funders



Partner Organizations



Dimensions Dance Center
Studio Partner for Classes & Rehearsals



Elizabeth Westland
Official Physical Therapist for RDC



Arts Resources Partner



Studio Partner for
Classes & Auditions



Lumosco Photo
Partner for Photography

26/27 GOALS & FUTURE GROWTH

1

Expanding Holistic Artist Wellness Program

RDC will partner with Clayton Chiropractic to provide ongoing, regular access to chiropractic, acupuncture, and shockwave treatment - at no cost to Company Dancers. This addition expands our existing program, which currently offers Physical Therapy, Massage Therapy, and Mental Health Therapy.



2

National Touring

In the past two years, RDC has steadily built a national touring repertoire. Recent works highlight the company at their technical and artistic best. With all nine company dancers returning, plus the help of donors and our professional networks, RDC aims to tour beyond the Midwest - and generate earned revenue from these performances.

26/27 GOALS & FUTURE GROWTH

3

Organizational Longevity in St. Louis

RDC will continue to focus on long-term sustainability through strategic planning, conservative budgeting, new funding prospects, and investment in a growth-oriented reserve fund. Seasoned, returning staff members help drive programmatic impact and build toward future goals, further rooting the company in STL.



4

From Student to Professional: Serving Artists

RDC remains curious and engaged in how to support artists at each stage of their career. Growing Summer Programs help young dancers form healthy, balanced training habits. Continuing university workshops, residencies, and partnerships equip college dancers with artistic tools while redefining success in dance. The return of *Collective Realities* in 2027 will once again generate paid dance jobs for up to 28 dancers outside the company - providing valuable professional experience for freelance and emerging artists.

RESILIENCE Dance Company's 2026/27
PRISMATIC
S E A S O N



Artistic Director: Emily Haussler | Founded 2019

NOV. 6 - 8 | CATHERINE B. BERGES THEATRE

ENTRY POINTS

*Works by FLOCK, Hannah Garner, Cassie Wang, Faith Balderrama, and
VIM VIGOR*

JAN. 16 | THE HETTENHAUSEN CENTER

SPEAK EASY - MOVE LOUD

*Encore performance of RDC's 2026 collaboration with Continuum Vocal
Ensemble*

FEB. 5 - 7 | INTERSECT ARTS CENTER

COLLECTIVE REALITIES

*World premieres by RDC Company Artists, performed by STL
community dancers*

APR. 16 - 18 | CATHERINE B. BERGES THEATRE

BENCHMARKS 9.0 x JUST

*A double bill of returning favorites by Emily Haussler & Annie
Rigney*