



BALLET
ARKANSAS
Guild

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE BALLET

The Ballet Arkansas Guild, also known as “Friends of the Ballet,” supports the mission of Ballet Arkansas by building strong, engaged communities of families and volunteers, strengthening the organization’s impact across Central Arkansas through philanthropy, cultural engagement, and volunteer leadership. Guided by its dedicated committees—Philanthropy & Community Engagement, Sales, Productions, and Special Events—the Guild fosters inclusive performance opportunities, supports artist residencies, assists with productions and special events, and champions initiatives that bring the transformative power of dance to the widest possible audience.

Leadership and oversight are provided by Michael and Catherine Fothergill, Directors of Ballet Arkansas, who guide the artistic and operational vision of the organization, with Ballet Arkansas board member Sarah Mathews serving as Chair of the Ballet Arkansas Guild, providing leadership for all Guild activities.

Membership is open to all ballet enthusiasts and community members, ages 18 and older, who may join for a nominal annual fee of \$50 per year. A one-year, renewable term of service is offered to all approved applicants.

As a valued member of the Ballet Arkansas Guild Alliance, you will enjoy exclusive benefits that connect you more deeply to the artistry, community, and mission of Ballet Arkansas. Member benefits may include discounted tickets to select productions throughout the season, invitations to open rehearsals and special events, recognition on the Ballet Arkansas website and in select print programs and guild materials, and priority access to volunteer opportunities and Guild-hosted events. Members also receive quarterly Guild updates and newsletters featuring insider information, as well as early registration access for community programming, and discounts on select Ballet Arkansas merchandise.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Members of the Ballet Arkansas Guild Alliance have the opportunity to volunteer in a wide variety of ways that directly support the success of the organization. Volunteers may assist with performance support by helping backstage during School for Dance and Community Cast productions, including costume changes, prop transitions, and cast organization. They may contribute to costume and wardrobe preparation through fittings, repairs, labeling, and organization, or provide front of house support by greeting guests, ushering, and ensuring a welcoming environment for patrons. Additional opportunities include fundraising and sponsorship outreach to help secure local partners and steward donors; hospitality and events support through providing meals for rehearsals or guest artists and assisting with set-up and clean-up; and summer intensive support by coordinating meals, welcome bags, and events for visiting artists and students. Finally, members may help with merchandise and souvenir sales at performances and special events or simply offer their time and talents wherever the Guild’s needs are greatest. All members of the Guild will support the planning and execution of at least one fundraising or donor appreciation event per season, with guidance and support from the Ballet Arkansas Board of Directors.

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of the Ballet Arkansas Guild, I hereby commit to uphold the mission, artistic vision, and core values of Ballet Arkansas. I pledge to treat all board members, staff, dancers, students, families, volunteers, sponsors, and patrons with the utmost respect and kindness, fostering a positive and inclusive environment.

I will maintain confidentiality when appropriate and as directed, safeguarding any private or sensitive organizational information to which I may become privy through my involvement in the Guild. I understand that breach of confidentiality may result in dismissal from the Guild and loss of associated privileges.

I agree to represent the Guild Alliance and Ballet Arkansas with professionalism at all times—whether at rehearsals, events, meetings, or in communications with the public. I understand that I am not authorized to speak on behalf of Ballet Arkansas in any official capacity, nor may I act independently of the Guild, bind the organization to any verbal or written agreement, or commit Ballet Arkansas to any business arrangement, financial or otherwise.

I understand and agree to release, hold harmless, and indemnify Ballet Arkansas, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and affiliates from and against any and all claims, liabilities, demands, damages, or causes of action arising out of or related to my participation in Guild activities, including but not limited to activities that may involve physical labor, whether occurring on or off Ballet Arkansas premises.

As a proud member of the Ballet Arkansas Guild, I support the work of Ballet Arkansas in expanding access to the arts, enriching lives through dance, and uplifting our community through service, collaboration, and a shared passion for the performing arts.

SUPPORT THE GUILD

In addition to annual membership, we invite you to deepen your impact by contributing at one of the following giving levels. Every gift supports scholarships, artist residencies, production enhancements, and community engagement initiatives.

- Barre Supporter – \$10–\$49
- Tendu Circle – \$50–\$99
- Corps de Ballet Circle – \$100–\$249
- Soloist Circle – \$250–\$499
- Principal Circle – \$500+

MEETING TIMES

The Guild meets on the third Tuesday of each month, either in the evening or at lunchtime, as determined by the availability of the majority. When Ballet Arkansas productions occur during the scheduled week, meetings may be shifted to an alternate date and time. The inaugural meeting of the Ballet Arkansas Guild will take place on Tuesday, September 16th, time and location to be determined.

NEXT STEPS

Thank you for your interest in the Ballet Arkansas Guild! We are honored to have you join a growing network of families, friends, and supporters who play a vital role in enriching the Ballet Arkansas experience for students, community performers, and audiences across Central Arkansas.

Whether you attend our season performances, have a dancer enrolled in the School for Dance, or participate in our beloved Community Cast productions, your involvement makes a lasting impact. The Guild uplifts the experience of every participant through volunteer service, community-building events, fundraising, and production support.

We are excited to begin the 2025–2026 season together, featuring *Sleepy Hollow* in October, *The Nutcracker Spectacular* in December, *Cinderella* in February, and *American ICONS* and *Giselle* in April. With your help, Ballet Arkansas will continue to create meaningful opportunities for dancers and audiences statewide.

As a next step, we invite you to email guild@balletarkansas.org to learn more, express your interest in joining, and receive updates on meeting times and upcoming opportunities.

Thank you for being part of the Ballet Arkansas family. We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Warmly,
Sarah Mathews
Chair, Ballet Arkansas Guild

