



DANCING CLASSROOMS ST. LOUIS



2025
Annual Report

Our Mission

Our mission is to cultivate essential life skills in children through the joyful art and practice of social dance.

A Vision

Our vision is schools and communities throughout St. Louis and beyond, where every child is connected, respected and given an environment in which to thrive.



The Goal

The goal of each of our performance and competition events is to provide a safe and fun environment for children and families from all regions of our larger community to come together, to perform ballroom/social dances and to celebrate the impact that art and culture can have on humanity.

“

I noticed some students who sometimes struggled with peer interactions and class engagement become very excited to participate in class and even volunteer to show off their dancing skills.

”

- Jennifer Hunt, Music Teacher,
Mallinckrodt Academy of Gifted Instruction



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A Message to Our Community

Sixteen years ago, Dancing Classrooms – St. Louis began as a single pilot program in one classroom. Today, under our new name—Dance Moves STL—we are a vibrant, respected nonprofit arts-education organization serving more than 1,200 students annually in 30 schools across 20+ zip codes. While we remain a proud affiliate of the world-renowned Dancing Classrooms program, our new name reflects our broader vision: to move St. Louis students, schools, and communities forward by creating safe spaces, fostering meaningful connections, and empowering young people through the joyful practice of social dance.

Thanks to your support last year, hundreds of students across the St. Louis region experienced more than just the steps of the Foxtrot or the rhythm of the Rumba. They learned respect, empathy, and the value of working together. They discovered confidence in themselves, connection with their peers, and the power of expressing joy through movement. From school residencies to the Colors of the Rainbow Team Match Championship, we saw students step out of their comfort zones and into the spotlight—cheered on by their families, teachers, and communities. These lessons and moments will stay with them long after the music fades.

As we embark on a new chapter, all of us at Dance Moves STL are excited about what lies ahead. We are eager to expand our reach and dance with more children, including in under-resourced and under-served areas. We are also working to bring the transformative power of dance to younger students, with brand new programming for grades K-3. None of this would be possible without your generosity, advocacy, and belief in our mission.

On behalf of our team, our teaching artists, and—most importantly—the students we serve, thank you for being a part of this movement. Together, we are equipping young people with the skills, confidence, and resilience they need to thrive—and helping them move forward both in and out of the classroom.

Angie Brooks

Executive Director
Dance Moves STL



Letter from the Board Chair



As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for what we have accomplished together. Dancing Classrooms - St. Louis (now Dance Moves STL!) continues to grow as a beacon of creativity, confidence, and connection for children across the St. Louis region. None of this would be possible without your belief in our mission and your generous support.

Last year, our teaching artists worked with hundreds of elementary-aged students, guiding them through the joy of movement and the life lessons it inspires—teamwork, respect, resilience, and empathy. We saw shy students step into the spotlight with confidence, and classrooms transform into communities built on trust and encouragement. These are not just dance steps; they are the foundations for stronger futures.

Your partnership allows us to provide high-quality arts education to schools and families who might not otherwise have access. Because of you, we were able to expand our outreach, strengthen our “Costume Closet” initiative, and bring more schools into our Community Building Competition Events, where students from across the region come together to celebrate their growth and achievements.

The past two years with Dancing Classrooms – St. Louis have been an absolute joy. It has been a true privilege to serve this organization and to witness its exciting period of growth and transformation. As we mark the transition from Dancing Classrooms – St. Louis to Dance Moves STL, I am excited to welcome Andrea Luebbert as our new Board Chair. Andrea will do a marvelous job taking the organization to the next level.

I am proud of the dedicated staff, teaching artists, and fellow board members who share a passion for this work. I want to thank Angie Brooks, our marvelous teaching professionals, our school partners and our wonderful, enthusiastic and joyful kids who are now dancers for life! Above all, I am deeply grateful to you—our supporters—who make this impact possible.

Thank you for standing with us in this important work. Our kids, their teachers, and their families deserve nothing less. And remember—don’t ever stop dancing!

Vicki Piontek

Board Chair 2023-2025

Dancing Classrooms St. Louis Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vicki Piontek, Board Chair
Andrea Luebbert, Vice-Chair
Tyler Johnson, Treasurer
Robbye Toft, Secretary
Ken Lederle (Past Board Chair)

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Angie Brooks, Executive Director
Laura Maier-Schuepfer, Program Manager
Jim Kimker, Program Outreach Coordinator

TEACHING ARTISTS

Carrie Fernandez
Elise Kulik
Jenny Battenberg
Jordan Woods
Joyce Jones
Lauren Cram
Laurie Clark
Mauricio Villanueva



2024/25 Partner Schools

All Saints Academy - St. Ferdinand / Archdiocese of St. Louis
Blessed Teresa of Calcutta School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
Christ the King School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
Gateway Science Academy of St. Louis - South / Missouri Charter Public School
Grannemann Elementary / Hazelwood School District
Green Park Lutheran School / Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Gotsch Intermediate School / Affton School District
Hickey Elementary School / St. Louis Public Schools
Holy Family Parish School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
Incarnate Word Parish School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
Mallinckrodt School of Gifted Instruction / St. Louis Public Schools
Mason School of Academic & Cultural Literacy / St. Louis Public Schools
Our Lady of Guadalupe School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
Sacred Heart School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Ann Catholic School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Cecilia Catholic School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Frances Cabrini Academy / Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Gabriel the Archangel School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Gerard Majella School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Justin Martyr School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Margaret of Scotland School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Raphael the Archangel School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
St. Stephen Protomartyr School / Archdiocese of St. Louis
South City Catholic Academy / Archdiocese of St. Louis
Walbridge Elementary / St. Louis Public Schools
Washington Montessori / St. Louis Public Schools



“Gotsch Intermediate School has a very diverse population. We have students whose families are from Cuba and the Dominican Republic. I can see the spark in their eyes when they hear we are learning a dance from their culture.”

- Katie Burger, Music Teacher,
Gotsch Intermediate School

Havana Nights

On Saturday, November 9th, Dancing Classrooms - St. Louis hosted its inaugural fundraising event, Havana Nights, at The Edge of Webster. The evening was vibrant and full of energy—complete with fedoras, Latin music, Cuban cuisine, and plenty of dancing, of course! More than 100 guests came together to celebrate and raised over \$46,000 in support of our programs serving St. Louis-area students.

Live music from The Boogaloo Crew kept the dance floor lively as guests enjoyed mojitos and authentic Cuban favorites from Havana's Cuisine. One of the evening's highlights was our spirited Rumba Dance-Off, featuring Becca Toft, Jessica Schmitt, Heather Lewis, Chris Carezza, and Brian Dunlop—each stepping up with courage, rhythm, and heart to raise funds for a great cause.

We are deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, and community partners whose enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication made Havana Nights not only a success but also an unforgettable celebration of connection, culture, and joy through dance.



MOSHAPE Convention

Dancing Classrooms - St. Louis was honored to partner with the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education to present at the MOSHAPE: Better Together Convention, held November 14–17 at the Lodge of the Four Seasons in Lake of the Ozarks. The event brought together more than 450 Health and Physical Education teachers and professionals from across the state for a weekend of professional development, collaboration, and experiential learning.

Since 2009, Dancing Classrooms - St. Louis has served as a trusted resource for elementary educators—especially PE teachers—by providing high-quality, movement-based learning experiences that meet both national and state learning standards. Our Core Residency Program, designed for upper elementary students, aligns closely with Physical Education standards while

also supporting the development of vital social and emotional skills.

During each residency, students spend approximately 80% of class time engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity, improving balance, agility, strength, and coordination—all while learning teamwork, respect, and empathy through the joy of partner dance. Our participation in MOSHAPE provided an opportunity to showcase how dance serves as both an art form and a powerful tool for getting students moving, connecting, and growing together. We were thrilled to engage with so many passionate educators and to continue building partnerships that strengthen arts education, physical wellness, and student development across Missouri.



2024/25 Events

Colors of the Rainbow

On May 6th, the Touhill Performing Arts Center was filled with energy, excitement, and pure joy as eight schools came together for the 2025 Colors of the Rainbow Team Match Championship. Each team earned its place on the stage by advancing through the Fall and Spring Community Qualifiers, representing months of dedication, teamwork, and growth.

Before a cheering audience of families, teachers, and friends, students demonstrated not only their mastery of ballroom dance but also their poise, confidence, and ability to work together. From the elegant foxtrot to the spirited swing, every performance reflected the heart and determination of the young dancers who had trained, practiced, and supported one another throughout their journey.

We are proud of every student who participated—not only for the skill and composure they demonstrated on the dance floor, but for the sportsmanship, empathy, and school pride they exemplified throughout the event.

Events such as Colors of the Rainbow highlight the broader purpose of Dancing Classrooms - St. Louis. Our programs extend beyond the teaching of dance; they serve as a platform for building connections, fostering respect, and celebrating the personal growth and achievements of young people across our community. Each student's journey embodies the core values we strive to instill every day—teamwork, confidence, and the joy of movement.





DANCING CLASSROOMS ST. LOUIS

2024/25
School Year by the
Numbers

1000
Students Served



Provided \$68,500
in funding support
for programming.

Over \$50,000
in grant awards
received



Partnered with 66
Educators

43% of residencies
provided for free or
at reduced cost for
under-resourced schools.

47
Residencies
Facilitated

26 school
partners
across 22
zip codes



**8 Teaching Artists
on staff**

**8 Residency
Volunteers in
partnership with
UMSL**



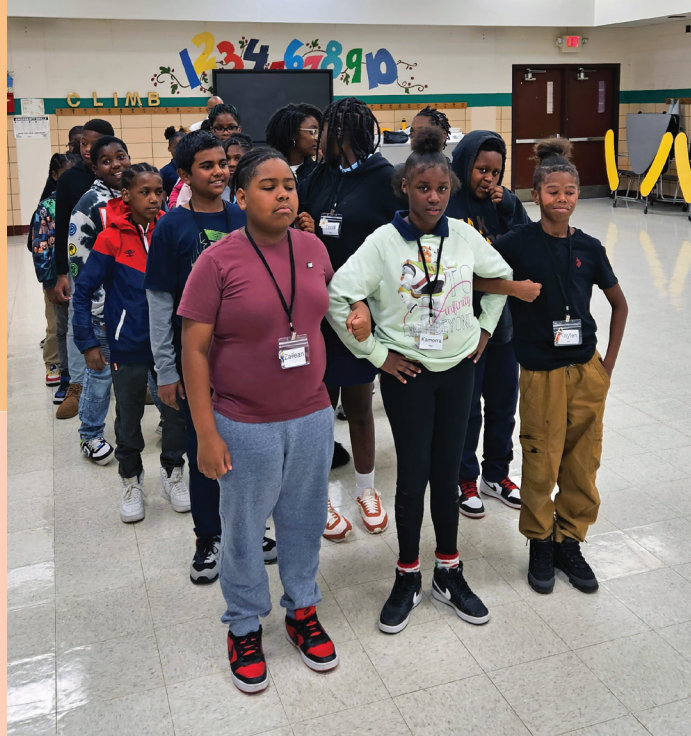
**8 schools participated
in the Colors of the
Rainbow Event**

**940
Hours of
Instruction**

**Provided clothing
and shoes to over
60 students from
the Costum Closet**

**Hired 6
paid
Teaching
Artist
Assistants**

**St. Louis Dancing
Classrooms
becomes
Dance Moves STL**

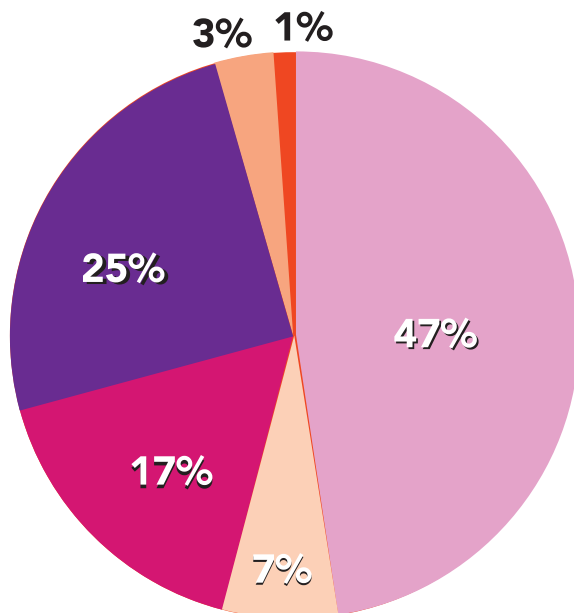


**Mallinckrodt School of
Gifted Instruction is the
2025 Colors of the
Rainbow Champion!**

**5 Community
Events Held**



Financials



FY 2025 Revenue

Individual Support	\$142,640
Program Income	\$74,500
Foundations/Grants	\$50,778
Corporate Contributions	\$19,669
Fundraising Income	\$10,366
Interest Income	\$2,795

Total Revenue: \$300,748

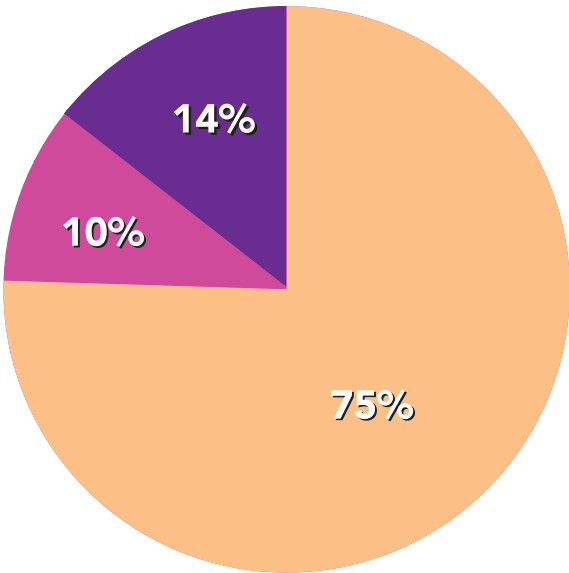


“

I saw a lot of my 5th graders who DID NOT want to do it in the beginning, really thrive! They were smiling and having fun. They had no problem by the end going into closed hold. I was so proud of them when they had to dance with kids from other schools, they were confident and proud!

- Pam Bates, Music Teacher, Sacred Heart Catholic School

”



FY 2025 Expenses

Programming Expenses	\$196,940
Fundraising Expenses	\$37,301
Management & General	\$27,075
Total Expenses:	\$261,316



Recognition and Support

COMPETITION EVENT HOSTS



IN KIND DONORS



VOLUNTEERS

Havana Nights Volunteers:

Chris Carenza, Brian Dunlop, Terry Fairchild, Lisa Forsyth, Rob Ketterer, Heather Lewis, Andrea Luebbert, Nancy Nyikes, Jessica Schmitt, Vicki Piontek, Becca Toft, Robbye Toft

UMSL Community Agency Partnership Volunteers:

Zahra Ahmad, Alexsis Bates, Kirsten Dolejsi, Shantavia Fuller, Lauren Gibbs, Annalise Johnson, Samantha Lattimer, Aaliyah Reed

Colors of the Rainbow Volunteers:

Helen Brooks, Terry Fairchild, Zach Jones, Robbye Toft & Rob Ketterer, Sharon Lederle, Andrea & Steve Luebbert, Eric Schuepfer, Lucas Schuepfer, Vicki & Jerry Piontek



CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

JK Group / Air Products

GRANTS

E Des Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative

Missouri Arts Council

Pi Beta Phi / Sign of the Arrow

Regional Arts Commission

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

PLATINUM LEVEL

Edward & Margot Monser

GOLD LEVEL

Rob & Lisa Forsyth

Steve & Andrea Luebbert

SILVER LEVEL

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David & Lelia Farr

Paul & Amy Inman

Rob Ketterer & Robbye Toft

Timothy Lawlor

Minogue Family Foundation

Mike & Nancy Nyikes

Jerry & Vicki Piontek

BRONZE LEVEL

Louis & Karen Aquino

Allyson Bass

Matt & Mary Ann Bauer

Cbabi Bayoc

Leah Beckmann

Alex & Sara Borodko

Rick & Anne Bresnahan

Tom & Pattie Butler

S Lee & Helen Brooks

Dan & Anne Carpenter

Freda Cook

Glenn & Susan Davis

Brian & Dorcas Dunlop

Tom Epps

Derek & Jaqueline Fairchild

Rachel Feinberg

Betty Foster

Robert Frost

Paul & Debbie Gardner

Dan Grassmuck

Glenn Hoffman

Martin Hoffman & Estella Lau

Janice Hooper

Gen & Tanya Horiuchi

Amber Howlett

James & Laure Hulverson

Amy Kottmeyer

Andrew & Sarah Krueger

Heather Lewis

Lawrence & Mary Linkul

Thomas Lombardo

James & Michele Maritz

Tim Mitchell

David & Anna Lee Nissenholtz

Meredith Perkins

Robert & Sally Roth

Ernest Salmi

Jessica Schmitt

John & Moira Steuterman

Martin & Becca Toft

Benjamin & Gwen Wesley

James L. Williams

Gerald Zagarri





DCSTL is now DANCE MOVES STL! Join the MOVEment!

While this change marks a new chapter for us, please know — our mission, our passion, and our programming remain exactly the same. We are still proudly offering the Dancing Classrooms Social & Emotional Learning Ballroom Residency to students in grades 4–6 across the St. Louis region. The same dedicated team, the same transformative curriculum — just with a fresh new name and look that better reflects our vision for the future.

Follow us on
Facebook and Instagram

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