

ACCESS

Despite the myriad challenges of working in a virtual world during the global pandemic, the Louisville Ballet Community Engagement (LBCE) team continued to deliver important services to the Louisville Metro area and beyond. Past, current and ongoing successes include:

- The LBCE team continue to contribute to national statistics for youth that participate in dance. These youths are 5 times less likely to drop out of high school, 2 times more likely to graduate college, and score 100+ higher points in the SATs.
- The LBCE team immediately pivoted to a virtual platform and led the entire Louisville Arts & Culture sector through the transition to online services.
- More than 20,000 students from around the state were able to see *The Brown-Forman Nutcracker*. Last year, 6,900 local students attended the in-theatre matinee.
- *Moving Stories* introduced students in more than 30 elementary schools to dance performance and the joy of dancing themselves. The program teaches youth that they have control over their bodies, it builds empathy, and it increases their ability to learn
- We launched *Ballet Bound*, a program specifically designed to address diversity in dance, and successfully fundraised all its first-year costs attracting increased corporate support and new donors.

Examples of initiatives that will demonstrate Louisville Ballet's commitment to Access, primarily through Community Engagement programming include:

BALLET BOUND – designed to build diversity in the world of ballet through scholarships for children from all across the city, including low-income families and students of color. Participants are selected through various LBCE in-school and after-school programs that take place at local school sites. The scholarship includes tuition to study classical ballet in a professional setting at LB's Downtown Studios, along with class uniform and LB performance tickets for families. Each season, 3-5 students are awarded a continuing scholarship to officially enter training at The Louisville Ballet School (LBS). The goal is to have Ballet Bound students in each level of LBS by the year 2025, diversifying student enrollment and eventually leading to a career in dance.

ADAPTIVE DANCE PROGRAMS - LBCE will continue to expand its adaptive dance programming by creating new partnerships with schools and social service agencies that serve children and adults with special needs. In doing so, LBCE will establish itself as a regional leader in the field of adaptive dance and build collaborations with other relevant institutions of national renown. The work will be made visible through articles, lectures, podcasts, internet broadcasts, etc.. In order to do so, LBCE teaching artists will rely on professional development opportunities, such as the LEAD Conference at the Kennedy Center, and receive training on the best practices in arts and disability. In addition, LB will continue providing annual Sensory Friendly Performances of *The Brown-Forman Nutcracker* and other select story ballet's from the company's current season repertoire.

DEI LEADERSHIP - LB's recently formed DEI Task Force is establishing goals and objectives to address the lack of diversity in staff, dancers, audience, School enrollment and Board membership. This includes providing DEI training to everyone who works at LB, creating programming on the stage that is reflective of Louisville's diverse community, hosting community events and collaborating with diverse cultures and organizations, and diversifying marketing channels. In addition, LB will form a community advisory board to help guide some of the decisions with regards to programming within LB, LBS and LBCE.