



ACCENT DANCE NYC

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2026



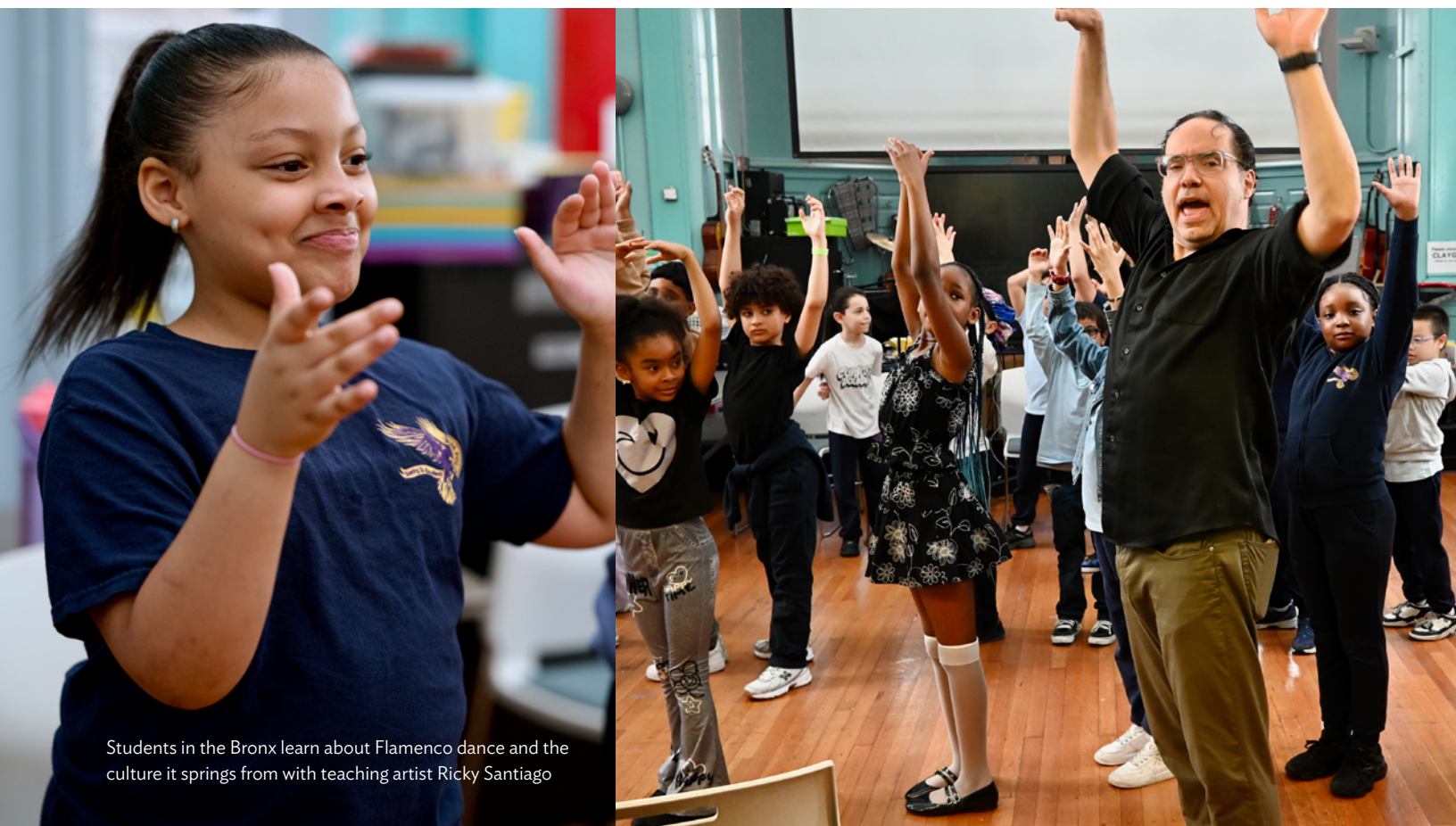
Dear Friends of Accent Dance NYC,

Despite the year's challenges, globally and at home, we chose to celebrate the light – bringing connection, inspiration, and hope to thousands of deserving young people as well as to our concert dance audiences over the course of FY '26.

In furtherance of our mission of making dance accessible to everyone, we achieved the following:

- **Reaching almost 15,000 students:** This represents almost **triple** the number of students we served two years ago. Programming took place in **34** schools and community centers across New York City and lower Westchester County, including the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Harlem, Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle, New York. **Of these 34 sites, 16 were new.**
- **New educational performances:** In addition to our signature Hispanic Heritage and Black History Month educational performances, we created a performance for K-12 students celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander month, featuring cultural dances from India, Tibet, the Philippines and Japan. The addition of this program greatly deepened and expanded our outreach in Queens County.
- **Second professional concert dance season:** We had our second professional concert dance season at the Ailey Citigroup Theater in March 2026. NEXT: New Voices, Shared Stories, featured three choreographers we commissioned through our emerging choreographer program, NEXT - Danielle Diniz, Will A. Ervin, Jr. and Miaotian Sun – alongside the extraordinary Pedro Ruiz, whose work has graced Lincoln Center and the White House. The evening also included a new work choreographed by Ashley Mingot, featuring our West African dance ensemble and live drumming.
- **Record revenue level:** We had gross revenue of \$489,034.03 in FY '26 which exceeded our prior year's revenue (\$405,000) by over 20%. This increased revenue speaks to the trust our private, governmental, and institutional donors have placed in us.

(continues)



Students in the Bronx learn about Flamenco dance and the culture it springs from with teaching artist Ricky Santiago

- **More dance for more people:** Our educational programming included more community workshops, multicultural festivals, master classes, dance residencies, family engagement workshops, in-school educational performances, and Juneteenth celebrations. Notably, several existing partner schools brought us back this year to do expanded programs, including PS 246x, PS 140x, PS 226x, PS 18x, PS/MS 161, Basis Independent School and IS 347.
- **School-wide programming:** Several of our school residencies served entire school populations, culminating in student performances showcasing student achievements. At PS 140 in the Bronx, for example, students from kindergarten through 5th grade shared with each other cultural dances from around the world, from jazz to African dance, flamenco to musical theater. At PS 246x, 2nd through 5th graders studied diverse dances and cultures, including West African dance and live drumming, flamenco, salsa, cumbia, and Hip Hop. At PS 343 in Queens, in addition to multi-grade dance residencies, we held master classes, family engagement workshops, and an Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) educational performance for the entire school community.
- **Neurally Diverse Learners:** We continued to expand our educational programming to include a wide variety of special needs students, including those in special education and Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) classrooms. These students participated in culminating performances with their classmates, boosting confidence and integrating them more fully into the school experience.
- **District-wide performances:** In May, our Latin dance residency students from PS 132 in Washington Heights participated in a District 6-wide event at the historic United Palace theater with an audience of over 3,000 people.
- **NEXT Emerging Choreographer Commissioning Program:** We completed our third year of the NEXT Emerging Choreographer Commissioning Program. For FY 27, we look forward to working with Ingrid Silva, former principal dancer from Dance Theater of Harlem as she delves into her Brazilian roots.
- **MTAC Approval.** After a two-plus-year process, Accent Dance NYC has been approved as a contracted vendor with the NYC Department of Education. As such, the organization will now be listed on the DOE's list of vetted vendors, which is shared with all public schools in New York City.

As we celebrate our eighth year, we would like to acknowledge the collective efforts of our amazing Board of Directors, passionate staff, artists, educators and the individuals who make our work possible. We also want to thank all our partner schools and community centers for deepening our collaborations.

Thank you for being part of the Accent Dance NYC family. Together, we are achieving our mission and remaining true to our core values of social impact, education, creativity and representation.



**Andrea Ziegelman**

*Executive and Artistic Director*

Accent Dance NYC

July 2026



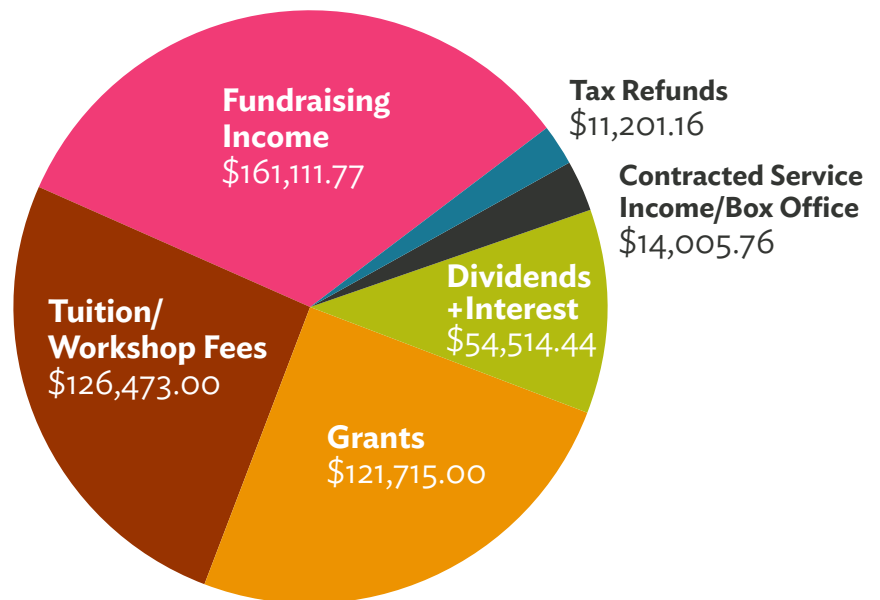


Elisa Toro Franky and Kevin Ortiz perform in Pedro Ruiz's *So Proudly We Hail*

## **Continued Growth + Engagement**

Over the course of Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026), our educational and community programming experienced robust growth. Our in-school educational performances, dance residencies, master classes, and family engagement programs reached almost 15,000 students, almost triple the number of students reached in FY '24.

On the revenue side, we received funding from the New York Department of Cultural Affairs of \$49,000 - an \$11,000 increase from the prior fiscal year. We also raised significantly more money from individual donors and our Board (\$161,028), the New York Council on the Arts (\$49,000), and ArtsWestchester (\$17,000), and earned tuition and workshop fees of \$126,473. Total FY '26 revenue was \$489,034.03. This represents more than a 20% increase in revenue from the prior fiscal year.





## ADNYC in the News

Accent Dance NYC received significant media coverage in FY '26, including a national segment [on Good Morning America](#) about the organization's Hispanic Heritage Month educational performances; [an AmNY article](#) about our in-school dance residency program; [a Rolling Out interview](#) with NEXT choreographer Wil A. Ervin, Jr.; and [an Op Ed article in AmNY](#) featuring NEXT choreographer Danielle Diniz about her commissioned work, *A Place for Us*. Additionally, Frank DiLella's *On Stage* (NY1) presented this year's spring season as a weekend theater "pick."



**amNY**



Will Ervin



Danielle Diniz





## **A Commitment to Students + Communities**

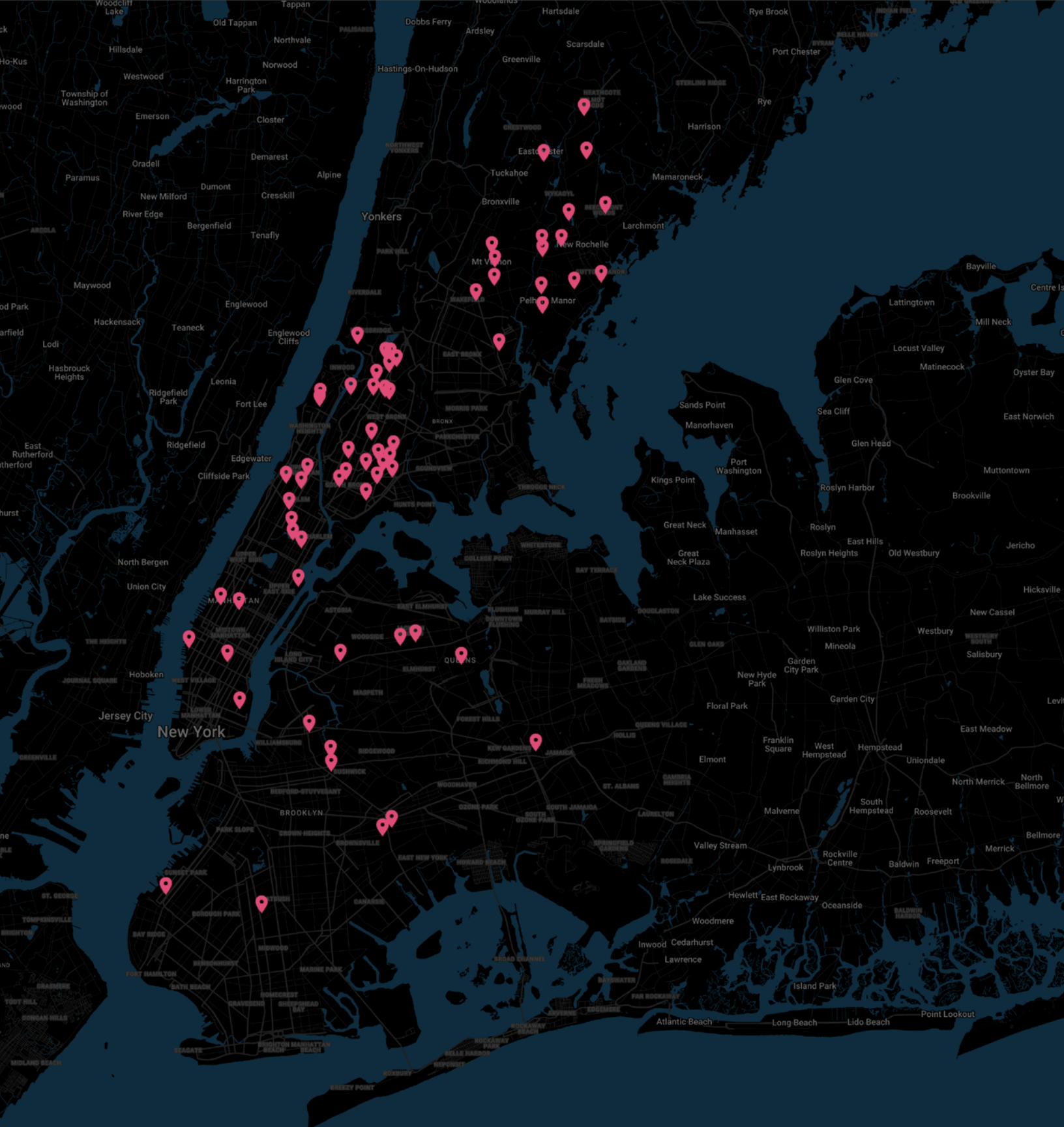
Accent Dance NYC's educational programs have enriched the lives of almost 45,000 students and audience members since its inception in 2018.

What makes our educational programming so powerful is both its structure and the people who deliver it. The residencies run across two models. Younger students immerse themselves in dance traditions from around the world – from salsa to Hip-Hop to ballet – as well as from their own cultures. High school residencies go deeper, using pieces from the company's professional repertory as a framework for exploring identity, immigration, and self-discovery, co-taught by two teaching artists, including a cast member from the original work. The teaching artists are professional dancers who bring the same rigor to the classroom that they bring to the stage, and who understand that a student's emotional state is inseparable from their ability to learn.



Teaching artist Jason Herbert leads students during a West African dance residency





## MORE DANCE FOR MORE PEOPLE

We expanded the geographic scope of our educational and concert dance programming to include Queens and continued to serve Manhattan, Harlem, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle, New York.



Miaotian Sun's *Echoes Between Us* was the 2025 *NEXT* commission; fusing traditional Chinese dance and hand movements with ballet and contemporary dance

## Our Professional Dance Company

Our spring season, *NEXT: New Voices, Shared Stories* at the Ailey Citigroup Theater in March 2026, featured three choreographers commissioned through our emerging choreographer program.

What struck us about this particular season is how differently each of these choreographers came to the same question: how do we honor where we came from while figuring out where we belong? Danielle Diniz drew from her grandmother's journey from Mexico and her grandfather's arrival from Portugal. Miaotian Sun, born and raised in China, looked back three thousand years to a lost civilization to ask what we inherited across time. Will Ervin turned the question inward, toward the mirror, toward the lifelong and difficult work of self-acceptance. And Pedro Ruiz's *May Y Tierra* drew upon Mediterranean influences, finding something universal in music that traveled across the ocean.

None of these works were made in response to what's happening in the news at this moment. They were made because these artists had something true to say. That they feel so urgent right now is not a coincidence. It's a reminder of what art can do.



## The Impact of Our Programming

In addition to serving a record number of students in FY '26, what also made this year stand out for us is hearing the feedback from our school partners as to the transformative impact our programming has had on their students.

**“First, thank you for the phenomenal AAPI performance your team presented at P.S. 222 last Tuesday.**

**Our students and staff were thoroughly engaged from beginning to end, and the cultural connections, artistry, and student interaction made for a truly memorable experience. The program was outstanding. As I also mentioned, I am interested in applying for the NYCPS Arts for Diverse Learners program and would love the opportunity to partner with Accent Dance NYC if selected. As you know, P.S. 222 serves students in Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade, and these are the students I am planning to target through the residency. Approximately 42% of our students are multilingual learners and 11% are students with disabilities.”**

**“Your commitment to our students has made a lasting impact. Through your programs, awards and support, our students were given opportunities to learn, grow, and explore new interests that many families may not otherwise have been able to afford. These experiences have enriched their educational journey and contributed greatly to their personal development and shows what giving back to the community represents.”**

—Pamela Smith, PS 246x, Community Coordinator

**“From the experience I am hearing from the teachers and also seeing the enthusiasm from the students, this was definitely a success. We are so grateful to have been able to work with this program so much that we are working on a new plan for next year so that we can keep this program in our school.”**

—PS 343Q Principal Cynthia Ramirez introducing ADNYC at the culminating performance June 2026.

In connection with the NYCPS Arts for Diverse Learners program noted above, this year, we served through this program some long-time partner schools, and hope to serve two new schools in FY '27, thereby expanding our engagement with students with special needs.



Teaching artist Devin Richey leads students in a Hip Hop residency, with each student receiving a hand-stenciled “graffiti” t-shirt



Students share their experiences in a video about our high school educational programs

### CENTRAL PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL IN HARLEM

Clear evidence of the effectiveness of our educational programming is highlighted by residency work at an East Harlem high school where a group of female high school students from immigrant families spent eight weeks learning about each other through dance. Each one brought something from her own family's history, her own culture, and her own story of how she ended up in that school.

One student had spent years quietly sidestepping the question of where her family was from. Her family was from Burkina Faso, in West Africa. Over the course of the program, she learned a West African dance. Then she stood in front of an auditorium full of her peers and performed it. Afterward, she said she had finally been able to show people where she was from and “the music that really makes us happy.” When she first heard about the program, she was skeptical enough to consider skipping it altogether. By the time it was over, she said she would go back “a hundred times.”

**“We should all love each other, try to understand each other, learn more about each other...so that we can become a beautiful nation and beautiful humans.”**

Another student, who had walked in convinced that people from different backgrounds were simply not meant to mix, said by the end that she realized her classmates' families had crossed the same borders and carried the same fears. “We're way more connected than I thought,” she said.

Another learned a classmate's dance rooted in a story of arranged marriage and flight across a border. She talked to that classmate about her family, about what had happened and how it had shaped her. “Now she's one of my closest friends,” she said.

Another described watching a friend perform and said that even though nothing was spoken, a student in the audience cried. “She just felt what we were trying to show.”



Here's what some of our other students had to say this year:

**"I learned my new favorite dance: Flamenco."**

**"Beyond the dance, it also brought us closer together with my family because we worked together."**

**"Elisa helped me by letting me express my feelings and making me feel great."**

**"I would go back and do the program 100 times."**

**"My experience was honestly great because growing up, I was all about energy and dance. The program helped me show that I can express myself even more – my weird self, my goofy self. And I learned to make better friends throughout it. I just like the energy I was getting from it."**

**"I get to learn another dance from another country that I didn't know before."**

**"I can learn about other people's cultures and know about the dance they do and not just knowing about our dances."**

**"The dance helped me to be brave about myself and to dance in front of other people."**

# Financial Overview

FY 26 (JULY 1, 2025-JUNE 30, 2026)

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Total Revenue .....      | \$489,034.04 |
| Total Expenditures ..... | \$390,075.91 |
| Net Revenue .....        | \$98,958.12  |

## BREAKDOWN OF REVENUE:

|                                            |              |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Tax Refunds .....                          | \$11,211.06  |
| Tuition/Workshop Fees .....                | \$126,473.00 |
| Contracted Service Income/Box Office ..... | \$14,005.76  |
| Dividends & Interest .....                 | \$54,514.44  |
| Fundraising Income .....                   | \$161,111.77 |
| Grants .....                               | \$121,715.00 |

## BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES:

|                                              |              |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Artistic Services .....                      | \$98,660.67  |
| Payroll and Related Expenses .....           | \$146,541.26 |
| Technical Production/Video/Photography ..... | \$12,970.14  |
| Other Outside Professional Services .....    | \$18,023.50  |
| Advertising/Promotion .....                  | \$17,928.66  |
| Dues, Subscriptions & Software .....         | \$9,146.73   |
| Equipment Rental/Supplies .....              | \$9,830.27   |
| Financial Fees .....                         | \$16,663.87  |
| Gala Expenses (without venue) .....          | \$13,650.70  |
| Space Rental Including Gala .....            | \$25,139.13  |
| Insurance .....                              | \$6,345.00   |
| Legal & Professional Fees .....              | \$14,996.00  |
| Travel/Meals .....                           | \$2,095.32   |
| Reimbursable Expenses .....                  | -\$1,915.48  |

TOTAL ASSETS = \$2,738,156.63



Council on  
the Arts





## Staff + Board of Directors

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## Looking Ahead

### FALL 2026 PERFORMANCE DATES

Manhattan    September 10 (Paul Taylor Studios)  
Manhattan    October 3 (annual fundraiser at Ailey Studios)

### WINTER/SPRING 2026 PERFORMANCE DATES

Manhattan    March 12 and 13, 2027 (Spring Season)

## Support ADNYC

DONATE

ATTEND THE GALA

<https://accent.dance>

**Professional Photography:**

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