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INSPIRED BY THE LIFE OF  
GABRIELLA AXELRAD

# EDLA!



TRANSFORMING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE POWER OF DANCE

**“EDLA! is one of those fairy-tale stories in which heart and hard work actually pay off in more ways than one.”**

Mary McNamara, Los Angeles Times



Scan to read the full article about EDLA! in the LA Times



TRANSFORMING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE POWER OF DANCE

When asked how he feels when he dances, Yosef replied, “I feel joy.” Yosef’s story began at the age of four when he was encouraged by his late mother and older sister, Ivys, to start taking dance classes at EDLA!. Ivys, who also danced, shared, “Our late mother found out about EDLA!’s After-School Program through some friends. I loved to dance for as long as I can remember, but finding dance classes in our community was challenging. Becoming a part of EDLA! was life-changing for both Yosef and me.”

Yosef’s first dance classes were hip-hop and movement. Over the years, he expanded his dance education to include ballet, tap, modern, and breaking.

**“Becoming a part of EDLA! was life-changing for both Yosef and me.”**



Joy!

Yosef shined last year as Bruno in EDLA!’s *Encanto*. He has performed in 11 EDLA! recitals, including his incredible performance in *Aladdin* when he was only ten years old.

**“My favorite performance of the year is the Spring Recital.”**

“I feel very proud when I watch Yosef dance. I can see his passion through his dancing and am happy to see his love for this art form. He is a talented artist, and I cannot wait to see what the future has in store for him.” said Yosef’s sister, Ivys.



Today, Yosef is a tenth-grade student at Ramon C. Cortines School of the Visual and Performing Arts in downtown Los Angeles who plans to continue dancing and dreams of one day touring with celebrities. When asked what he would tell someone about his time at EDLA! Yosef said, “It has been a lot of fun and insightful.” His advice to young dancers, starting with EDLA! is to always “be themselves.”

Yosef finds inspiration from professional dancers Leigh Foaad, aka “Breeze Lee,” founder of Versa-Style Dance Company, and Frankie Tan, aka “Teacher Frankie,” his favorite Teaching Artist at EDLA!.

“Yosef has grown and matured immensely in the past 3 years I’ve worked with him. He is focused and brings positive energy into the classroom that spreads to the other students,” said Ernesto Galarza, Hip Hop 4 Teaching Artist, “He has a passion for dance. I enjoy watching how he is shaping up to be a great next-generation artist!”

**“Dance helps me to express myself and connect with people.”**

Yosef participates in several of EDLA!’s Enrichment Programs, including partnership programs between EDLA! and professional dance companies including LA Dance Project and BODYTRAFFIC. Yosef was also invited to join EDLA!’s Company Program, representing the organization at community events and performances.



**EDLA! is a family affair.**

Ivys joined EDLA! at age 14 and studied ballet, jazz, and contemporary, and, like Yosef, was also a member of EDLA!’s Company Program. “Ballet was my favorite dance form and the teachers at EDLA! gave me the greatest dance training experience.”

Dance brought Yosef and me closer; Ivys said, “Yes! All we talk about is dance. Dance has helped us create a bond we cannot explain. When we hear music, we look at each other and start dancing. Dance has been the best thing that has ever happened to us.”



Like several alumni, Ivys is now a proud member of EDLA!’s staff: “EDLA! is an amazing program that doesn’t just provide high-quality dance training for youth, but also prioritizes discipline and education.”

“My late wife and I wanted an activity to keep our kids busy, and they fell in love with this art form. I would advise other parents to join EDLA! it is a nice and healthy activity,” said Yosef and Ivys’ father, Arternio. “I feel excited, happy, and admired watching my kids dance. We must support this program because EDLA! strives to give our kids a good education.”

**Why do you feel EDLA! and dance education is important to the communities we serve?**

I believe dance education provides a strong foundation for growth in many aspects of kids’ lives. Everybody Dance LA! is a vibrant and diverse community that offers a safe and supportive environment for our youth to learn.

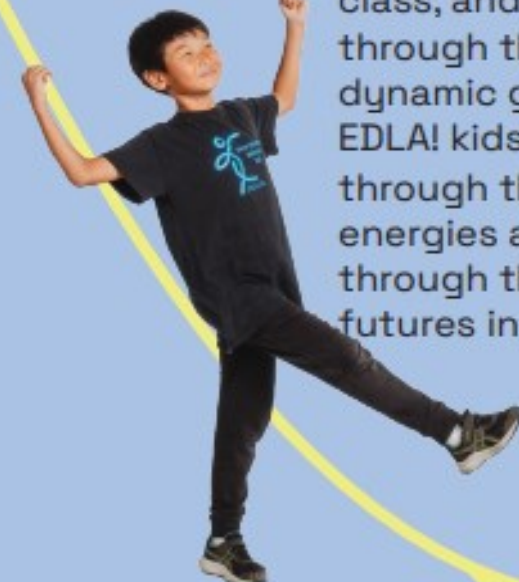


Through dance, we aim to cultivate lifelong skills of collaboration, discipline, and self-expression so our youth become confident and engaged in their education, career, and community. EDLA! is committed to helping our students reach their fullest potential, and we witness their transformation every day!

Charlene Achki-Repko, EDLA! Chair, Board of Directors

**Why do you support EDLA!**

I give to EDLA! because there is nothing arm’s length about supporting this organization; you see and experience the benefits provided by giving to EDLA! in every activity, class, and performance through the energy and dynamic growth in the EDLA! kids and families and through the knowledge that our dollars and energies are manifested in innumerable ways through these kids, their growth, and their futures in real-time.



Larry A Ginsberg, EDLA! Board Member

Scan to watch a video



**EDLA! Students remain in our program for an average of 7-14 years!**

**FINANCIALS: 2022-23**

**EDLA! EXPENSES**

- 70% Program
- 15% General Administrative
- 11% Fundraising
- 6% Special events

**EDLA! INCOME**

- 12% Contributions
- 49% Grants
- 24% Program Income
- 15% Special Event



**“Teaching a new generation what it means to be disciplined and dedicated which are skills they can carry with them for life.”**

~Kathy Vera, NBC4 LA



Scan to watch the full NBC4’s Life Connected piece about EDLA!

**STUDENT ETHNICITY 2022-23**

IN-SCHOOL 2022-23	AFTER-SCHOOL 2022-23
84% Latinx	84% Latinx
9% Asian American	9% Asian American
4% African American	4% African American
.05% Caucasian	0.5% Caucasian
2.5% Other ethnicities	2.5% Other ethnicities

**EDLA! provides year-round, high-quality dance programs!**

**EDLA! BY THE NUMBERS 2022 -23**

**STUDENT AGES: 4-19**

**IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
• 7,525 Students

**IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM LOCATIONS**

- 38 District, Charter, and Catholic Schools

**SUMMER 2022 PROGRAM**

- In-School - 557 Students
- After-School - 147 Students
- Summer Dance Camp - 44 Students
- Total 748 Summer Program Students

**AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

- 443 Students
- 2 Locations: Koreatown, AND Pico-Union
- 75 Classes Taught Weekly
- 75 Hours Of Instruction
- 122 Youth In The After-School Program Study More Than One Type Of Dance.

**ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

Over 179 students in our After-School Program have participated in our Enrichment Programs this year!

- Mentor Match
- Student Interns
- Student Teacher Education Program (STEP)
- Student Leadership Team
- Field Trips
- Master Classes

**PARTNERS**

EDLA! appreciates our program partners who provide our students with professional dance experiences.

- LA Dance Project
- Bodytraffic
- Versa-Style
- USC Glorja Kaufman School of Dance

**DANCE FORMS**

Ballet, Modern Dance, Hip Hop, Breaking, JAZZ, Tap, Salsa, and Mexican Folklorico

**True Cost to EDLA!: \$1,500 per child, annually. Your support keeps them dancing!**

**100% of EDLA!’s high school seniors graduated on time and were accepted into college.**

**dancePARTNER Program**

EDLA! is unique in that its After-School Dance Program is not tuition-based. Enrolled families contribute \$15/month per dance style, with discounts for multiple classes and siblings. Enrollment also includes participation in EDLA!’s Enrichment Programs, including Mentor Match, Student Leadership Team, Master Classes and Field Trips to professional dance performances. Your donation to EDLA!’s dancePARTNER program enables us to provide valuable and accessible dance and enrichment programming to the youth we serve.



To become a dancePARTNER TODAY, scan this QR code



Alex Dilks Pandola, EDLA!’s Executive Director

**Why EDLA! needs financial support from the community.**

Our donors are the next generation of leaders in their communities. Through dance and enrichment programs

that serve youth through their formative years, EDLA! empowers our students to reach their fullest potential. Your gift gives our youth the power to make their dreams come true.

