

edla!

Together we MOVE



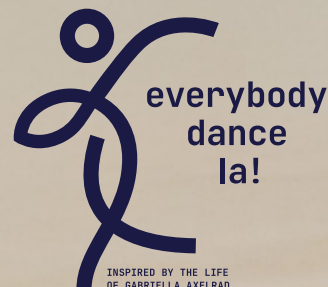
They carry more than backpacks.

They carry expectations. Labels. Hope. Silence. Joy.

And then they dance. And something shifts.

They carry rhythm into equations and essays. Courage into conversations. Discipline into everything they do. Movement becomes meaning. **And the way they're seen—and feel—changes.**

Everybody Dance LA!



Our Work, Our Impact

In Our Founding Year:

35 STUDENTS Served

1 AFTER-SCHOOL Location

Today, We have Grown To:



7,030 STUDENTS SERVED



33 PROGRAM LOCATIONS

6,392 IN-SCHOOL Program Students

28 IN-SCHOOL Locations

638 AFTER-SCHOOL Program Students 136 who participate in Enrichment Programs.

5 AFTER-SCHOOL Locations throughout the LA Metro Area.

30 TEACHING ARTISTS

360 DANCE CLASSES Taught Weekly

358 PARENT VOLUNTEERS 2,910 Volunteer Hours Completed.

How We Go Beyond Dance

- ✓ Leadership and college readiness training
- ✓ K-8th grade mindfulness curriculum embedded in school day
- ✓ Culturally relevant instruction rooted in identity, expression, and resilience

25 Years of Movement. Carried Forward, Every Step.



It began with a child who loved to dance, 13-year-old Gabriella Axelrad, who died in a tragic accident. In her memory, her mother, Liza Bercovici, founded Everybody Dance LA! (EDLA) — a tribute that has become a movement grounded in equity, creativity, and belonging.

At EDLA! we bring rigorous, low-cost dance into schools and after-school programs across Los Angeles — from pre-K and through high school. Because confidence isn't built in a day. Because creativity grows in community. And because when students move with purpose, the world takes notice.

When our students thrive, their communities are transformed.

We build more than dancers—we cultivate collaborators, communicators, and leaders. Through mentorship, leadership training, and pre-professional opportunities, we prepare young people for more than performance. We prepare them to thrive — and when they do, the impact ripples outward, shaping stronger, more vibrant communities across Los Angeles.

Message from Melissa Smith Axelrad



As Board Chair, I'm honored to lead EDLA! as we celebrate 25 years of transforming lives through dance. What began as a single program founded by my remarkable mother-in-law, Liza Bercovici, inspired by her love and loss, has grown into a movement that empowers thousands of young people across Los Angeles each year. I'm deeply grateful to our students and families, staff and teaching artists, board members, and supporters who make this work possible. As we launch our 25th Anniversary campaign—"Together We Move"—we invite you to stand with us, ensuring that young people can continue to experience the creativity, confidence, and community that dance provides—for the next 25 years and beyond.

Click to Donate Online

Donate online or Mail a Check to EDLA:
3183 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 196 #K22, Los Angeles, CA 90010
Contact Pamela Bash: pbash@everybodydance.org

GIVE MORE WHERE THERE'S LESS

As you consider your year-end giving, remember that across Los Angeles, there is simply less.

Less funding for dance. Less support for nonprofits that sustain young people. And less for families already carrying the heaviest burdens.

At Everybody Dance LA!, we turn less into limitless. Your gift doesn't just restore what's been cut—it builds what's next.

If you've given before, please consider increasing your gift. If you haven't yet given, 2025 is the time.

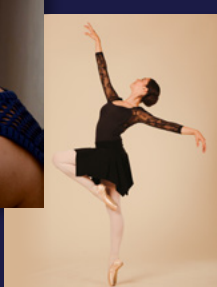
Because when our dancers rise, Los Angeles rises.

Together we Move.



EDLA! ALUMS Move into the Real World

Interview with former EDLA! students Norbert De La Cruz III and Haylie Rivera.



Norbert is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance at Point Park University where Haylie is a first-year student pursuing a BFA in Ballet.

Photo credit: Lorrin Brubaker

How did you first realize that EDLA! was truly making a difference in your life?

Norbert: I was a very quiet kid, and EDLA! helped me come out of my shell. I learned to express myself, and along with that came confidence and a sense of belonging. It was truly transformative.

How has EDLA! connected you with opportunities you might not have otherwise encountered?

Haylie: EDLA! gave me so many opportunities from auditions to scholarships and summer intensives. It was an amazing introduction to the dance world.

Norbert: When I was at EDLA! Carol Zee encouraged me to apply to Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, which is where I graduated from.

Haylie: Ms. Tina meets with all the seniors to talk about

college, and she was the one who encouraged me to apply to Point Park University.

What do you hope students and families will experience at EDLA?

Norbert: I think the most important thing EDLA! offers is the opportunity to be your true authentic self, to move in a way that's authentic to you, and create discipline as well.

How would you describe the impact EDLA! has had in your life?

Norbert: I don't think I'd be where I am today without their support. There was never any judgment—only encouragement, care, generosity, and compassion. It's such a truly welcoming environment.

Haylie: It's so hard when you leave, but when you come back, it's so rewarding because it never changes. It's like home.

With this campaign, we mark 25 years since Everybody Dance LA! first brought dance into Los Angeles classrooms.

To mark this milestone, EDLA! is launching a bold, citywide campaign: **Together We Move** — celebrating the organization's legacy and transformative impact, elevating visibility, and securing the resources needed to sustain and grow EDLA! for the next 25 years.



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