everybody dance la!

25 years

INSPIRED BY THE LIFE OF GABRIELLA AXELRAD

Transforming Lives and Communities Through the Power of Dance



EDLA! 2025/26 Impact Report

Welcome

I'm honored to share Everybody Dance LA!'s 2025/26 Impact Report. As we celebrate 25 years of transforming lives and communities through the power of dance, I'm inspired by the thousands of young people who continue to discover their creativity, build confidence, and realize their potential through our programs.

This year, more than 95% of our students reported improved self-esteem, and all graduating seniors chose to pursue higher education or military service. Our programs also earned an "Excellent" rating for program quality based on the Search Institute survey results, affirming the positive impact of our work.

These achievements would not be possible without our dedicated Board of Directors, teaching artists and staff, school and community partners, and generous supporters. Thank you for believing in our students and helping us make high-quality dance education accessible to young people across Los Angeles.

- Alex Dilks Pandola, Executive Director





"Our 25th anniversary reminds us how our family's love for Gabriella has grown into a lasting source of opportunity for generations of youth in Los Angeles. As Board Chair, I am deeply proud of the community that has sustained this vision and the students whose confidence, creativity, and aspirations bring it to life every day. Honoring this legacy means carrying it forward and ensuring that the next generation has access to the transformative power of dance."

- Melissa Smith Axelrad, Board Chair

People

EDLA! is proud to have **9 staff members** who have been part of our organization for **more than 10 years**, as well as **11 staff members who are alumni of our programs**, a testament to the lasting impact of our work and the strong community we build with our students.



Joe Axelrad, Melissa Smith Axelrad, Board Chair, Liza Bercovici, EDLA! Founder, and David Axelrad

Board of Directors:

Melissa Smith Axelrad (Chair)
Amanda Moose (Secretary)
Sean Lubens (Treasurer)
Charlene Achki-Repko
Susan Baumgarten
Leah Fischer
Larry A. Ginsberg
Susan Gurman
Allan Haldeman
Joan Herman
Jane Jelenko
Todd Hawkins
Ida Levine
Kathleen McCaffrey
Toni Reinis
Tim Wahl

Teaching Artist Spotlight:

Zuleny Ordonez, an EDLA! alumna and teaching artist, earned her BFA in Dance from UCLA. Now a professional performer with Versa-Style Next Generation Street Dance Company, Zuleny teaches Tap and Ballet in EDLA!'s After-School Program and choreographs Hip Hop and House pieces for Youth Performing Company 2. Zuleny's journey from student to teaching artist reflects the lasting impact of arts education and the power of investing in young artists.



Staff Leadership:

Alex Dilks Pandola
Executive Director

Tina Banchero
Program & Artistic Director

Pamela Bash
Director of Development & Communications

How We Dance

EDLA! brings rigorous, culturally responsive dance education directly into the communities we serve. No student is turned away because of an inability to pay. We make this possible through our shared-investment model which combines philanthropy, school and community partnerships, and modest program-service revenue.

In-School Programs are free to students and families. Participating partners typically cover approximately 70% of costs, while EDLA! raises the remaining 30%.

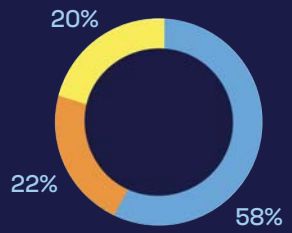
After-School families pay a participation fee of $15 per month, about 10% of the annual cost of serving each student. EDLA! raises the remaining 90% through foundation, corporate, government, event, and individual support.



Financials

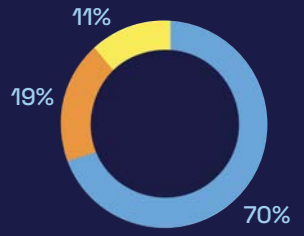
How We Sustain It

Income: $3,075,550



- Foundation and Government Grants 58%
- In-School Program Contracts and After-School Participation Fees 22%
- Individual Contributions and Special Events 20%

Expenses: $2,205,150



- Programming 70%
- Fundraising and Events 19%
- General and Administrative 11%

Students Served

7,470+

In-School	After-School
6,800	670

Total Locations

33

In-School Locations	After-School Locations
28	5

"Everybody Dance LA! has positively impacted each of my children in different ways. For Elijah, dance has been a wonderful physical outlet. It has given him a way to stay active, express himself, and build confidence. For Giannah, this was her first year in dance, and it has been beautiful to watch her confidence grow. She has become more comfortable expressing herself, participating, and feeling proud of what she can do."

- Nieves R., EDLA! Parent

Where We Dance

33 Program Locations throughout Los Angeles County

28 In-School Locations, 5 After-School Locations



"At Gabriella Charter Schools, dance is a core component of our academic day. With our after-school partnership with Everybody Dance LA! - at both our Echo Park and Historic South Central campuses - our students get more time in the studios, and they close out the year with an extra opportunity to perform on a professional stage, building confidence that stays with them long after the curtain closes at their recitals. EDLA! and Gabriella Charter share a powerful purpose, and we're grateful for the chance to partner for our kids and community."

Rhonda Baldenegro,
Executive Director,
Gabriella Charter Schools



After-School Program

670 students served

during the 25/26 program year

at **5 locations**



EDLA!'s annual Spring Recital, *Trolls*, brought together more than 3,000 family members and friends for seven performances at USC's Bing Theatre. Every student took the stage in a custom EDLA! costume, showcasing the skills, discipline, and artistry developed throughout the year.

Senior Quote:

"Looking back on my years at Everybody Dance LA!, I've realized that what began as a place to dance became a space where I discovered my voice, resilience, created lifelong memories, and the courage to believe in myself."

- Keisi C., 2026 EDLA! graduate and freshman at USC

EDLA!'s Watts Saturday program held its recital at Magic Johnson Recreation Center, marking the culmination of a year of dance education and celebrating the growth and achievements of every young dancer.



Some of the colleges our recent graduates are attending:

- CalArts
- Point Park University
- University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Southern California (USC)

In-School Program

Over 6,800 students

served during the 25/26 program year



"Everybody Dance LA!'s Teaching Artists have worked very hard to teach our students rhythm, movement, and the art of listening while moving their bodies to music. Dance promotes creativity and more than anything, it builds character. It pushes our students to take risks so that they learn to believe in themselves. When they struggle with a move or a pose, students might wonder "Should I just give up? Do I let life just happen to me?" Or do I pick myself up and work harder and take control because I believe in myself. Dance gives us an opportunity to see ourselves as capable, as risk takers, and as creators who can create beauty in our lives through every twist and turn that we face."

- Carmen Ramos, Principal, Accelerated Charter Elementary, an EDLA! In-School Program Partner



Teaching Artist Spotlight:

Lu Arrospide has been a teaching artist with EDLA!'s In-School Program for three years. Originally from Lima, Peru, Lu trained in Flamenco and earned her AOS in Dance Theater from AMDA, American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Los Angeles. An accomplished dancer and choreographer, she has performed in productions including the Pan American Games Opening Ceremony and the 2026 Super Bowl Halftime Show with Bad Bunny. At EDLA!, Lu shares her passion for Latin dance, inspiring students to dance with confidence, creativity, and cultural pride.

Enrichment Programs

EDLA!'s Enrichment Programs help middle and high school students grow as artists, leaders, and future professionals. **Students participate in advanced training, performance, mentorship, leadership, career exploration, and teaching opportunities designed to build the confidence, discipline, and skills needed to succeed on and beyond the stage.**



EDLA! middle and high school students participated in two "Day of Dance" programs hosted by the USC Kaufman School of Dance. Students took classes with Kaufman faculty, toured the school's facilities, and attended a BFA performance at the Bing Theatre, providing a firsthand introduction to college-level dance training and the university experience.

Our Program Partners

LADP · BODY · Royal Ballet School · Heart of Los Angeles · West Side Ballet · USC Kaufman Glorya Kaufman School of Dance · Versa-Style Ballet Dance Company

"My mentor was a very big part of helping me write my college essays. It was a really stressful time for me. We spent a lot of time together on it, and it ended up working because I got into every school I applied to!"

- Stephanie R., 2026 EDLA! graduate and freshman at UCLA

"I have loved being a mentor with EDLA! The program gives you flexibility with your mentorship to meet your mentee where they will best be served. I also find the resources that are provided, and the meet-up opportunities are helpful in forming a relationship with my mentee. Something as simple as going to her EDLA! showcase or her high school musical, I can tell how much it means to her."

- Callen G., EDLA! Mentor



EDLA! Students participate in the 8th annual LA Dance Project/EDLA! Summer Intensive

25th Anniversary

EDLA!'s 25th Anniversary Celebration, co-chaired by **Allan Haldeman** and **Kathleen McCaffrey**, was held at The Skirball Cultural Center and hosted by **KTLA's Melvin Robert**.



Everybody Dance LA!'s 25th Anniversary Celebration was more than a milestone; it was a powerful testament to what is possible when a community invests in young people. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, children across Los Angeles are discovering confidence, creativity, resilience, and a sense of belonging through the transformative power of dance. As we look ahead to the next 25 years, we remain committed to expanding access to exceptional, equitable arts education that opens doors, inspires dreams, and transforms lives; one student, one classroom, and one performance at a time.



As part of EDLA!'s 25th Anniversary, Board members hosted a series of special gatherings that brought our community together and created new opportunities for our students. We are deeply grateful to **Charlene Achki-Repko, Leah Fischer, Larry Ginsberg, Jane Jelenko**, and **Ida Levine** for hosting memorable events that celebrated our staff and teaching artists while reconnecting us with former Board members and welcoming new supporters.

Because of you, Possibility takes Center Stage

Because of your support, more young people across Los Angeles have a place to discover their strengths, express themselves, and belong. Your generosity helps Everybody Dance LA! bring high-quality, culturally responsive dance education to communities where financial barriers and limited school resources too often put these opportunities out of reach. By bridging the gap between what families and schools can afford and the true cost of instruction, you give students more than dance classes. You provide a safe, supportive space to build confidence, nurture creativity, form lasting connections, and imagine new possibilities for their futures. Thank you for believing in our students and ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to thrive.



"EDLA! is an incredible organization driven by a collective mission, a passionate staff and board, and most importantly the desire to serve kids with high-quality dance education. When you give to EDLA!, there is a measurable impact in the community we serve and the lives of the children in the program and community."

- Allan Haldeman, EDLA! Board member and supporter

To support Everybody Dance LA!

scan this QR code to make a donation online OR mail a check to:

EDLA!
3183 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 196 #K22
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Scan to Support a Dancer

Our Funding Partners

Paramount · The Herb Alpert Foundation · National Endowment for the Arts · Los Angeles County Arts & Culture · The Louis L. Borick Foundation · Joseph Drown Foundation · Four Friends Foundation · The Green Foundation · The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation · Cathay Bank · Johnny Carson Foundation · California Arts Council · DCA Department of Cultural Affairs City of Los Angeles · The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation · Levitt Foundation · Harris Ginsberg LLP · Luttrell Wegis · Elizabeth R. Koch Foundation · The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation · The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation · JS|HELD · Meridian Finance Group · Nike · Perenchio Foundation · Play Equity Fund · UTA · Warner Bros. Discovery · Edward A & Al O Shay Family Foundation · Dwight Stuart Youth Fund · City National Bank



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