everybody dance la!

INSPIRED BY THE LIFE OF GABRIELLA AXELRAD

Transforming Lives and Communities Through the Power of Dance



Yenah's Story



At EDLA!, Yenah, 14, is discovering how far her love of dance can take her. Through EDLA!'s Ballet Conservatory, Company 2, and Mentor Match Program, she is building confidence, pursuing challenging goals, and imagining her future. Full scholarships to summer programs at The Royal Ballet School, BODYTRAFFIC, Pointeworks, and Westside School of Ballet have opened new doors. Alongside her sister Mina, who also dances and develops leadership skills at EDLA!, Yenah has found a community where donor support helps turn dedication into opportunity.

When Yenah first arrived at Everybody Dance LA! for pre-ballet, she was reluctant to go inside. Shy around new people, she felt nervous about joining the class. But Yenah kept coming back, and as her love of dance grew, so did her confidence, allowing her to build meaningful relationships with her teachers and fellow dancers.

"Now I use dance to connect with my friends and meet new people," Yenah reflects.





That growing confidence gave her the courage to audition for EDLA!'s Company 2 Program. Company 2 students proudly represent EDLA! at community events and performances, sharing their love of dance with the broader community. But without experience in jazz or hip-hop, Yenah was certain she wouldn't be selected. Then she saw her name on the bulletin board.

For Yenah, being invited to join Company 2 was about more than dancing. It helped her realize that she could step outside her comfort zone and accomplish more than she ever imagined.

The lessons Yenah has learned through dance extend far beyond the studio. Her teachers have taught her how to manage performance nerves through breathing and stretching- tools she uses to help navigate difficult situations like preparing for final exams.

Through dance, supportive relationships, and opportunities to challenge herself, Yenah has found a place where she belongs at EDLA!.



"EDLA! is my second home," she shares. "My friends, teachers, and the studio. It's a place where I can express myself without any judgment."

Your generosity helps make that second home possible.

For Yenah's family, EDLA!'s subsidized dance program makes it possible to nurture her passion without the burden of prohibitive costs. Donor support bridges the gap between what families can contribute and the true cost of providing high-quality dance education, dedicated teachers, mentorship, and meaningful opportunities to perform, grow, and thrive.

"My family doesn't have to worry about affording the cost of the classes and can fully support me in what I love doing," Yenah explains.

In their own words

Reflections from our 2026 graduating seniors

Yosef De Leon

13 years at EDLA!

Attending the University of California, Irvine, studying aerospace technology



"As I moved into the role of a student choreographer, it taught me that creating dance is so much more than putting movements together. As a performer, I focused primarily on my own execution and artistry, but as a choreographer, I learned how to communicate a vision, collaborate with others, and bring out the strengths of each dancer."

Stephanie Medrano

9 years at EDLA!

Attending Chapman University, studying psychology



"EDLA! has always provided a space where I could forget everything else going on in my life and focus fully on dancing. It gave me a way to express my creativity through movement."



Your Partnership in Possibility

What began more than 25 years ago as a tribute rooted in love has grown into a community where young people discover their strengths, find belonging, and imagine new possibilities. Today, Everybody Dance LA! reaches **more than 7,000 students annually**, 95% from low-income families. **Your generosity gives students a place to express themselves, caring adults who believe in them, and opportunities to discover what they can achieve.**







For an After-School Program student

a family's $15 monthly participation fee opens the door to dance education that costs approximately $1,500 per year to provide. Your gift helps bridge that gap, sustaining exceptional instruction, mentorship, and opportunities to perform and lead. With your support, financial circumstances never have to determine whether a student can participate.



Please make your year-end gift today

Help a student take that first uncertain step into class, experience the pride of stepping onstage, and carry newfound confidence into school and everyday life. Together, we can give more young people the support to find their voice and the courage to pursue their potential.

Donate online today

Scan the QR code or mail a check to **EDLA!**
3183 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 196 #K22,
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Contact Pamela Bash:
pbash@everybodydance.org

Save the Date

2027 Everybody Dance LA! Celebration

Saturday, June 12, 2027

6PM Reception 7PM Dinner and Student Performances

Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles