

A proposal submitted to:
Arizona Commission of the Arts

March 2nd, 2026

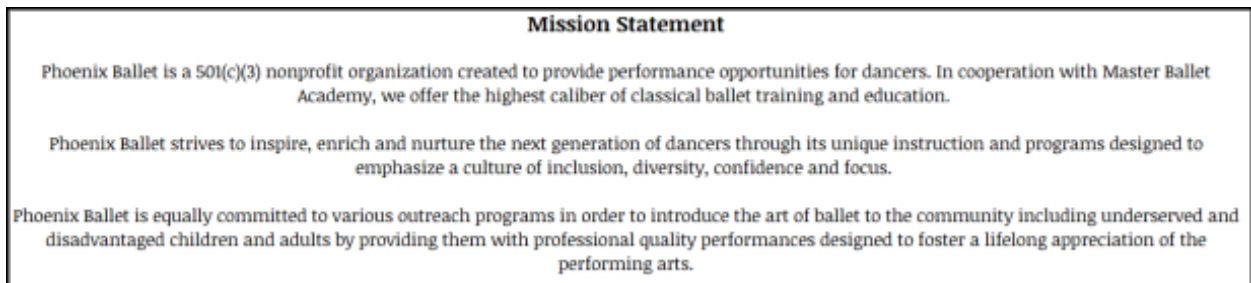
From:
Phoenix Ballet

Grant application:
Creative Capacity Grant

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1) Mission Statement

Phoenix Ballet is a non-profit ballet company based in Scottsdale, Arizona. This company was founded in 2007 by Slawomir Wozniak and his family who immigrated to the United States from Poland to start a ballet school called Master Ballet Academy. This ballet school would soon take the dance world by storm and lead Wozniak to create a non-profit organization called Phoenix Ballet. This is the company that Master Ballet Academy dances under when they have the chance to perform. Phoenix Ballet currently puts on 2 yearly productions, The Nutcracker and another show that varies each year during the spring. This last year during the 2024/2025 season the spring show was Snow White and this 2025/2026 season it is the Golden Swan Gala which features famous dancers from across the world.



[Phoenix Ballet Mission Statement](#)

2) Community Programs

- **Student Matinees**

We work with the local non-profit, [ActOne](#) to offer select ballets to local school children to help foster a love for ballet and the arts. ActOne creates and provides access to quality arts experiences enhancing the lives of Arizona's children and families. In past years we have had 4 - 6 student performances during our month-long production of The Nutcracker.

- **Veterans and Active Military Programs**

In order to show our love and support for our United States Military we offer free tickets to select shows to Veterans and discounted tickets to all shows for Veterans and Active Duty Military.

The main mission of Phoenix Ballet is to share our love of dance with the community. With the student matinees and the veterans programs we are able to reach those who wouldn't usually have an opportunity to see a ballet. With your grant we could have the resources to offer more student matinees and more discounted show dates for veterans and active military.

3) Administrative Structure

At Phoenix Ballet we work not only as a team, but we function like a family. There are four members of the Wozniak family who are the directors and teachers of Master Ballet Academy and put together all the productions for Phoenix Ballet. Beyond them there are others who make everything behind the scenes happen. Heather Hudak, Krista Piepenburg, Brandi Rivadulla, Sterling Mann and Thereska are all integral parts of the team. They have also all been working for Phoenix Ballet for at least 10 years. **The main goal of the grant** is to be able to put on a full length production of Swan Lake in the spring of 2027 and everyone who was listed has a role in making this dream a reality.

- Wozniak family - Artistic director, CEO, rehearsal directors
- Heather Hudak - Marketing, general manager
- Krista Piepenburg - Office manager
- Brandi Rivadulla - Ticket/ sales manager
- Sterling Mann - President of Phoenix Ballet
- Thereska - Company seamstress

Beyond these members of Phoenix Ballet we also have an abundance of volunteers at each show. Jobs like backstage help, ushers, and boutique managers are all parents of dancers at Master Ballet Academy.

4) Faculty and Board Members

All Phoenix Ballet productions are put on by students of Master Ballet Academy, here is a list of all the faculty members:

- Slawomir Wozniak - Artistic Director
- Irena Wozniak - Ballet Mistress
- Michal Wozniak - Rehearsal Director
- Slawek Wozniak - Rehearsal Director
- Raissa Chazova - Floor Barre
- Pavel Getman - Character
- Brooke Anderson - Contemporary

We also have a board of directors for Phoenix Ballet including Sterling Mann, Sherry Anderson, Lisa Stefani, Nicole Beyers, and Massimo Sommacampagna.

5) All of these individuals have something unique to bring to the table. What sets Phoenix Ballet apart from other ballet companies is the sense of community and family. Family is a word that gets brought up often with Phoenix Ballet, not only because it's run by the Wozniak family but because every dancer who joins Master Ballet Academy becomes an honorary Wozniak. All of the board members are parents of dancers from Master Ballet or are life long friends of Slawomir and Irena Wozniak. In their faculty Slawomir, Irena, Michal, and Slawek have all been doing ballet their entire lives. Slawomir and Irena both danced professionally in Poland until they had their sons Michal and Slawek who both grew up to be dancers as well. Michal and Slawek both moved to America when they were in their teens to dance at School of American Ballet and worked for Ballet Arizona before joining the faculty at Master Ballet with their parents.

6) Board Functions

Our board is composed of a group of passionate volunteers. President of Phoenix Ballet, Sterling Mann, described the board as "volunteers who love ballet". The board comes up with new ideas for fundraising events to gain sponsorships for the company so we are able to afford renting theaters and making costumes for productions. These efforts include tea parties, black tie events, and small in-studio influencer events. Everything our board puts together is an effort to raise awareness and funds for Phoenix Ballet purely for the love of the art form.

7) Primary Approach

Our organization takes a **broad approach**, serving a general, non-specific population.

a) As per our mission statement Phoenix Ballet is committed to various outreach programs in order to introduce the art of ballet to the community including underserved and disadvantaged children and adults by providing them with professional quality performances designed to foster a lifelong appreciation of the performing arts. Our goal is to make the arts more accessible to everyone in the Phoenix community. We also offer viewings of our show on livestream platforms so that our outreach can go beyond just the Phoenix area. We have a strong social media presence with 31,000 followers on the Phoenix Ballet Instagram, 276,000 followers on the Master Ballet Academy Instagram, and 344,000 followers on our TikTok. We want to share the love of ballet to everyone.

b) Our company uses a lot of different measures when it comes to reflection. A big part of what we do is monitor what is said online about our shows through local blogs, social media posts, and comments on our own posts. We also receive a lot of DMs about our performances. We take all of this into account and keep it in mind for future productions. In addition to feedback on what we can improve we also receive a lot of positive feedback which lets us know we are heading in the right direction. For example we have been given many awards by the State of Arizona.



Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition

Presented To

Phoenix Ballet

On behalf of constituents of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, Congressman Abraham J. Hamadeh commends the Phoenix Ballet for inspiring generations through the power of dance.

Phoenix Ballet is a premier cultural institution that has played a vital role in shaping Arizona's artistic identity.

Phoenix Ballet has become a cornerstone of the arts in the Southwest by nurturing talent, fostering creativity, and bringing world-class ballet to audiences throughout our state and beyond.

Phoenix Ballet's commitment to artistic integrity, education, and community engagement has made ballet more accessible to Arizona families and all Arizonans very proud.

On this 12th day of May, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abraham Hamadeh', written over a horizontal line.
Congressman Abraham J. Hamadeh

State of Arizona

Legislative Proclamation

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL BALLET DAY AND PHOENIX BALLET

Whereas, National Ballet Day celebrates ballet as one of the most expressive, disciplined, and enduring art forms in human history; and

Whereas, Phoenix Ballet, under the visionary leadership of Artistic Director Slawomir Wozniak, has inspired audiences throughout Arizona with performances of exceptional artistic excellence; and

Whereas, its sister studio company, Master Ballet Academy, stands at the forefront of classical ballet training, cultivating technical mastery, artistic integrity, and professional discipline; and

Whereas, together, Phoenix Ballet and Master Ballet Academy have become a powerful force in shaping the next generation of elite dancers, many of whom go on to perform on the world's most prestigious stages; and

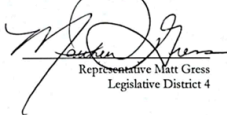
Whereas, the performing arts play a vital role in enriching our communities, fostering creativity, connection, and cultural understanding; and

Whereas, we recognize the dedication of the artists, educators, and young students whose commitment ensures the continued vitality and beauty of ballet in Arizona; and

Therefore, I, Representative Matt Gress, invite the Members of the Arizona House of Representatives to join me in proclaiming February 12, 2026, as a day to honor Phoenix Ballet and Artistic Director Slawomir Wozniak for their extraordinary contributions to the arts in Arizona.



Dated this 12th day of February 2026


Representative Matt Gress
Legislative District 4

State of Arizona

Legislative Proclamation

HONORING PHOENIX BALLET & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR SLAWOMIR WOZNIAK

Whereas, International Dance Day is celebrated annually on April 29th, commemorating the birth of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), recognized as the creator of modern ballet and a visionary advocate for expressive movement in dance; and

Whereas, dance, and ballet in particular, is a timeless cultural art form that transcends language, promotes creativity, fosters discipline, and unites communities through its beauty and emotional power; and

Whereas, Phoenix Ballet has emerged as a premier cultural institution in the State of Arizona, showcasing world-class performances, fostering the next generation of dancers, and inspiring audiences with its commitment to excellence in the performing arts; and

Whereas, the extraordinary leadership of Artistic Director Slawomir Wozniak, whose vision, passion, and dedication have elevated Phoenix Ballet to national and international recognition, has played a transformative role in enriching Arizona's artistic and cultural landscape; and

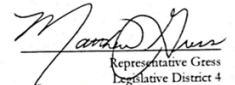
Whereas, under the direction of Slawomir Wozniak, Phoenix Ballet continues to make significant contributions to Arizona's arts community through education, outreach, and performance, serving as an invaluable cultural asset to our state; and

Whereas, the Arizona House of Representatives proudly acknowledges the value of the performing arts in fostering creativity, inclusion, and civic pride throughout our communities;

Therefore, I, Representative Gress, invite the Members of the Arizona House of Representatives to join me in proclaiming, in honor of International Dance Day, recognition and commendation of Phoenix Ballet and Artistic Director Slawomir Wozniak for their outstanding contributions to ballet and the arts in Arizona, and extend sincere appreciation for their ongoing dedication to artistic excellence and cultural enrichment.



Dated this 29th day of April 2025


Representative Gress
Legislative District 4

In order to continue being awarded such high praise we strive to make our productions high quality and more frequent. We want to be able to tour with The Nutcracker in the month of December, which we used to do pre-Covid, to other locations like Tucson and Sedona. We don't strive to stay stagnant, we always work to accomplish bigger goals.

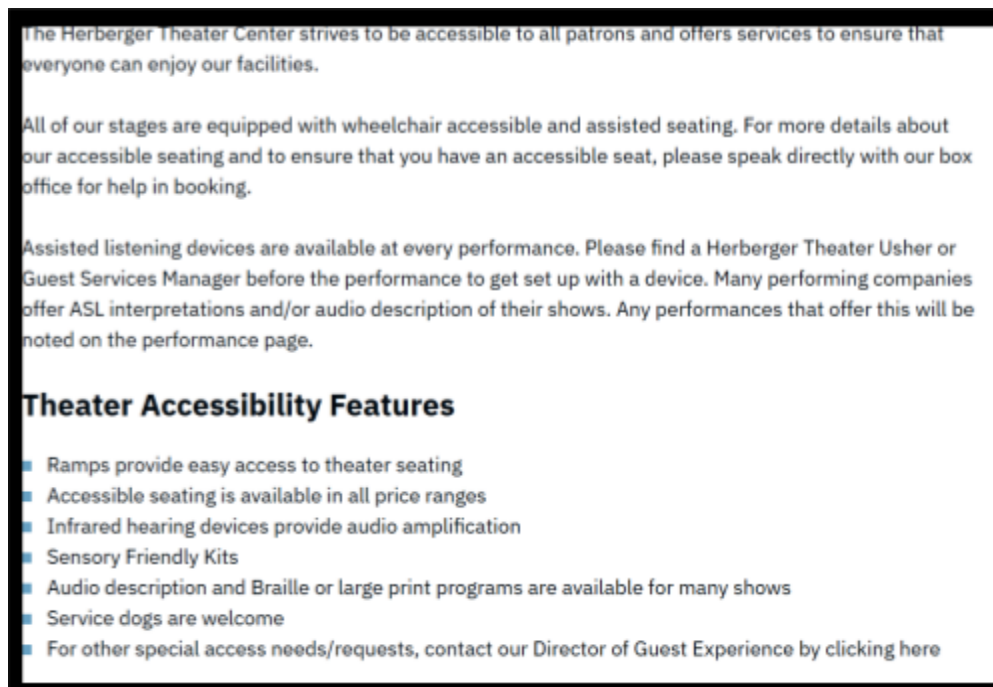
8) Expected Benefits

Our goal always has been and will always be to expose everyone to the joy of live theater. Ballet is becoming such a lost art form and if more people got the chance to

experience it they would see and understand why it's so special. When people leave our performances we want them to remember how they felt watching the ballet. Of course we want to put on the best quality performance for our audience but what's important is what people find out about themselves after watching it. This is why it's so important for us to be able to do more student matinees, so that children will get to experience the joy of ballet and maybe decide for themselves that they want to keep this art relevant. This is also why we want to tour with our productions, we don't just want the people of Phoenix to enjoy it but also those all around the state of Arizona.

9) ADA Compliance

It is important to us that everyone has the opportunity to experience live performances. The theaters we perform with are all ADA compliant, the main theater being the Herberger Theater in downtown. Here is their [Services and Accessibility](#) statement from their website:



The Herberger Theater Center strives to be accessible to all patrons and offers services to ensure that everyone can enjoy our facilities.

All of our stages are equipped with wheelchair accessible and assisted seating. For more details about our accessible seating and to ensure that you have an accessible seat, please speak directly with our box office for help in booking.

Assisted listening devices are available at every performance. Please find a Herberger Theater Usher or Guest Services Manager before the performance to get set up with a device. Many performing companies offer ASL interpretations and/or audio description of their shows. Any performances that offer this will be noted on the performance page.

Theater Accessibility Features

- Ramps provide easy access to theater seating
- Accessible seating is available in all price ranges
- Infrared hearing devices provide audio amplification
- Sensory Friendly Kits
- Audio description and Braille or large print programs are available for many shows
- Service dogs are welcome
- For other special access needs/requests, contact our Director of Guest Experience by [clicking here](#)

10) Meaningful Collaborations

Phoenix Ballet is honored by the amount of donors and sponsors we have that fund our productions. Our business sponsors include, BNSF Railway, Sonesta International Hotels, Arizona Community Foundation, Merrill Banking, National Bank of Arizona, Impact Physical Therapy, and Dees Dancewear. In exchange for their donations they receive ads in our programs. We also have community sponsors, Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation, Rancho Feliz, Vet Tix, and ActOne. We work closely with these groups to provide accessible tickets and shows for the general public.

11) Long-Term Goals

Phoenix Ballet dreams of being able to put on more full length productions. Currently we do The Nutcracker and a Gala performance during the August - May season. With your help we would like to be able to invest in costumes, sets, and theaters to be able to put on a performance of Swan Lake. This ballet is a classic and we want to give the audience a show to remember. We would also like to one day be working with an orchestra in all our productions. Being able to merge two beautiful art forms together creates a magical experience. Lastly, we would like to do state-wide tours again as we did pre-Covid19.

Thank you for considering us when making your grant selections, if you have any questions, concerns, or clarifications please reach out to us.