



Largest 50 U.S. Ballet Companies & Scope of the Industry

MAY 2021

Report Summary

The following contains the Dance Data Project® annual rankings of the Largest 50 U.S. ballet companies and goes further to produce, for the first time, a secondary list of the “Next 50” U.S. ballet companies. The Report gives information on the aggregate expenditures of both groups, demonstrating the considerable scope of the ballet industry as well as the significant disparity in size between the largest few companies and the many smaller ones.

In prior years DDP has produced an annual Artistic & Executive Leadership Report, which has established the Largest 50 sample and utilized it to explore the scope of the ballet industry and equity in leadership. In 2021, due to the expanding size of our dataset, DDP will be producing this research in two parts. This first report encompasses the Largest 50 and scope of industry, and a second report will be issued on leadership.

Our research would not be possible without the support of our ally companies and leaders. We would especially like to acknowledge the respondents of our data verification and Self Report Survey, as they have demonstrated meaningful commitment to equity through their participation.

We extend our thanks to the following 26 companies who participated in the data verification and/or Self Report Survey:

Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida	Diablo Ballet
Ballet Arkansas	Eugene Ballet
Ballet Fantastique	Festival Ballet Providence
Ballet Memphis	Houston Ballet
Ballet Theatre of Maryland	Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
BalletX	James Sewell Ballet
Brooklyn Ballet	Madison Ballet
Carolina Ballet	Miami City Ballet
Charlotte Ballet	Nashville Ballet
Charlottesville Ballet	Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre
City Ballet of San Diego	State Street Ballet
Collage Dance Collective	The Richmond Ballet
Colorado Ballet	Verb Ballets

Part I:

Largest 50 and Next 50

Largest 50 U.S. Ballet Companies

The following companies are ordered by size of annual expenses and comprise the primary sample of companies that will be studied for Dance Data Project® 2021 Reports.

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. New York City Ballet | 26. Milwaukee Ballet |
| 2. San Francisco Ballet | 27. Ballet Hispánico |
| 3. American Ballet Theatre | 28. BalletMet |
| 4. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater | 29. Richmond Ballet |
| 5. Boston Ballet | 30. Orlando Ballet |
| 6. Houston Ballet | 31. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago |
| 7. Pacific Northwest Ballet | 32. Dance Theatre of Harlem |
| 8. Joffrey Ballet | 33. Carolina Ballet |
| 9. Miami City Ballet | 34. Alonzo King LINES Ballet |
| 10. Pennsylvania Ballet | 35. Nevada Ballet Theatre |
| 11. Atlanta Ballet | 36. Ballet Memphis |
| 12. The Washington Ballet | 37. Aspen Santa Fe Ballet |
| 13. Ballet West | 38. Louisville Ballet |
| 14. Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre | 39. American Repertory Ballet |
| 15. Cincinnati Ballet | 40. Smuin Ballet |
| 16. Kansas City Ballet | 41. Oklahoma City Ballet |
| 17. Colorado Ballet | 42. Dallas Black Dance Theatre |
| 18. Texas Ballet Theater | 43. Los Angeles Ballet |
| 19. Ballet Austin | 44. Sacramento Ballet |
| 20. Ballet Arizona | 45. Grand Rapids Ballet |
| 21. Oregon Ballet Theatre | 46. L.A. Dance Project |
| 22. Nashville Ballet | 47. BalletX |
| 23. Charlotte Ballet | 48. Eugene Ballet |
| 24. The Sarasota Ballet | 49. The Alabama Ballet |
| 25. Tulsa Ballet | 50. Festival Ballet Providence |

Year-to-Year Changes

Compared to the DDP Largest 50 Report published in 2020:

- The Largest 10 companies remain the same and in the same order.
- In the Largest 25, Milwaukee Ballet moved from #26 to #25 as The Sarasota Ballet moved from #24 to #26.
- Two companies were added to the Largest 50 this year: Dallas Black Dance Theatre (#42) and Festival Ballet Providence (#50).
- Two companies shifted off the Largest 50: Ballet Idaho (from #50 to #51) and California Ballet (from #47 to #54)

Expansion of Survey

In order to more accurately capture the Largest 50 and to expand our scope of the industry, DDP surveyed a total of 126 U.S. ballet companies, an increase of 70% from the 74 companies surveyed by DDP in 2020.

The following companies were surveyed in addition to those in the Largest 50. They are ordered alphabetically.

Albany Berkshire Ballet	Ballethnic Dance Company	Dissonance Dance Theatre
American Midwest Ballet	The Black Iris Project*	First State Ballet Theatre
ARC Dance Company	Boulder Ballet	Fort Wayne Ballet
Arch Ballet*	Brooklyn Ballet	The Georgia Ballet
Armitage Gone! Dance	California Ballet	Indianapolis Ballet
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida	Central West Ballet	Island Moving Company
Atlantic City Ballet	Charlottesville Ballet	James Sewell Ballet
Ballet Arkansas	City Ballet of San Diego	Kentucky Ballet Theatre
Ballet Des Moines	The Charleston Ballet	Lemon Sponge Cake Contemporary Ballet
Ballet Fantastique	Collage Dance Collective	Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo
Ballet Idaho	Columbia City Ballet	Madison Ballet
Ballet Magnificat!	Complexions Contemporary Ballet*	Maine State Ballet
BalletNext*	Connecticut Ballet	Manassas Ballet Theatre
Ballet Palm Beach	Dayton Ballet*	Menlowe Ballet
Ballet Pensacola	Diablo Ballet	The Minnesota Ballet
Ballet San Antonio	Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami	Missouri Contemporary Ballet

Montgomery Ballet	Pacific Festival Ballet	The State Ballet of Rhode Island
Mystic Ballet	PDX Contemporary Ballet*	State Street Ballet
New Ballet - San Jose	PHILADANCO!	Syracuse City Ballet
New Chamber Ballet	Portland Ballet	The Tallahassee Ballet
New Jersey Ballet Company	Post:ballet	Tampa City Ballet
New York Dance Project	Rochester City Ballet	Utah Metropolitan Ballet
New York Theatre Ballet	Roxey Ballet	Verb Ballets
NWA Ballet Theatre	Savannah Ballet Theatre	Wonderbound
Oakland Ballet Company	South Dakota Ballet*	
	Saint Louis Ballet	

**Inadequate or incomplete fiscal data obtained / excluded from statistics*

Next 50 U.S. Ballet Companies

The expansion of our survey has allowed DDP to produce, for the first time, a sample of the "Next 50" U.S. ballet companies. These are the companies that comprised #51 - #100 when the full sample was ordered by size of annual expenses. The Report refers to this group as the "Next 50" and also uses "Upper 10," "Upper 25," and "Lower 25" to refer respectively to #1-10, #1-25, and #26-50 of this list.

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| 1. Ballet Idaho | 18. Collage Dance Collective |
| 2. Ballet Magnificat! | 19. Charlottesville Ballet |
| 3. Indianapolis Ballet | 20. Manassas Ballet Theatre |
| 4. California Ballet | 21. Madison Ballet |
| 5. New Jersey Ballet Company | 22. City Ballet of San Diego |
| 6. American Midwest Ballet | 23. Mystic Ballet |
| 7. Fort Wayne Ballet | 24. Rochester City Ballet |
| 8. Columbia City Ballet | 25. Oakland Ballet Company |
| 9. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo | 26. Boulder Ballet |
| 10. New Ballet - San Jose | 27. Ballet Theatre of Maryland |
| 11. Ballet San Antonio | 28. Ballet Pensacola |
| 12. State Street Ballet | 29. Diablo Ballet |
| 13. Saint Louis Ballet | 30. Brooklyn Ballet |
| 14. Wonderbound | 31. PHILADANCO! |
| 15. Island Moving Company | 32. James Sewell Ballet |
| 16. Post:ballet | 33. The Minnesota Ballet |
| 17. Maine State Ballet | 34. The Tallahassee Ballet |

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 35. Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida | 43. Ballet Palm Beach |
| 36. Central West Ballet | 44. Verb Ballets |
| 37. Ballet Des Moines | 45. Albany Berkshire Ballet |
| 38. The Georgia Ballet | 46. Portland Ballet |
| 39. First State Ballet Theatre | 47. Menlowe Ballet |
| 40. Ballet Arkansas | 48. Utah Metropolitan Ballet |
| 41. Ballet Fantastique | 49. Pacific Festival Ballet |
| 42. Connecticut Ballet | 50. Missouri Contemporary Ballet |

It should be noted that the end of the Largest 50 and the beginning of the Next 50 are quite close in size of annual expenses. Ballet Idaho (#1 in Next 50) had annual expenses of only \$29,766 less than Festival Ballet Providence (#50 in Largest 50) for Fiscal Year 2019.

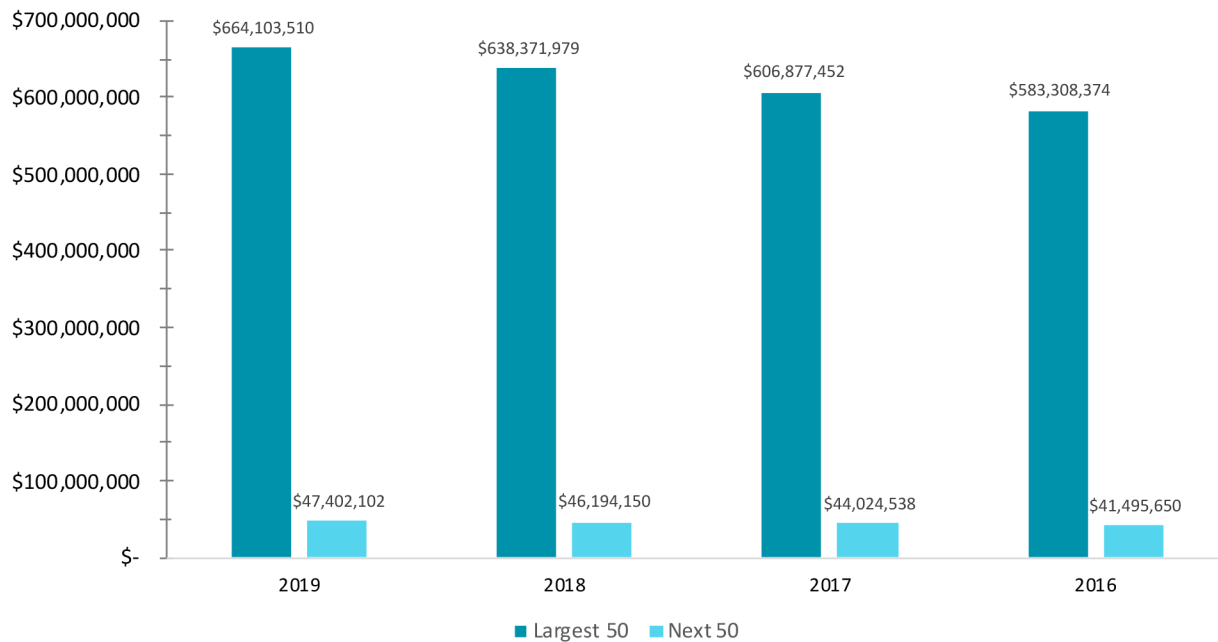
Part II: Scope of the Industry

The Largest 50 U.S. Ballet Companies operated with **combined expenses of \$664,103,510** in Fiscal Year 2019.

The Next 50 U.S. Ballet Companies operated with **combined expenses of \$47,402,102** in Fiscal Year 2019. For context, this is 7% of the aggregate expenses for the Largest 50.

The following figure places the yearly aggregate expenditures of the Largest 50 and the Next 50 side-by-side to demonstrate the considerable difference in scale.

AGGREGATE EXPENDITURES



From 2018 to 2019 the aggregate Largest 50 expenses increased by 4%. This is consistent with the 5% increase from 2017 to 2018 and 4% increase from 2016 to 2017.

From 2018 to 2019, the aggregate Next 50 expenses increased by 3%, compared to 5% from 2017 to 2018 and 6% from 2016 to 2017.

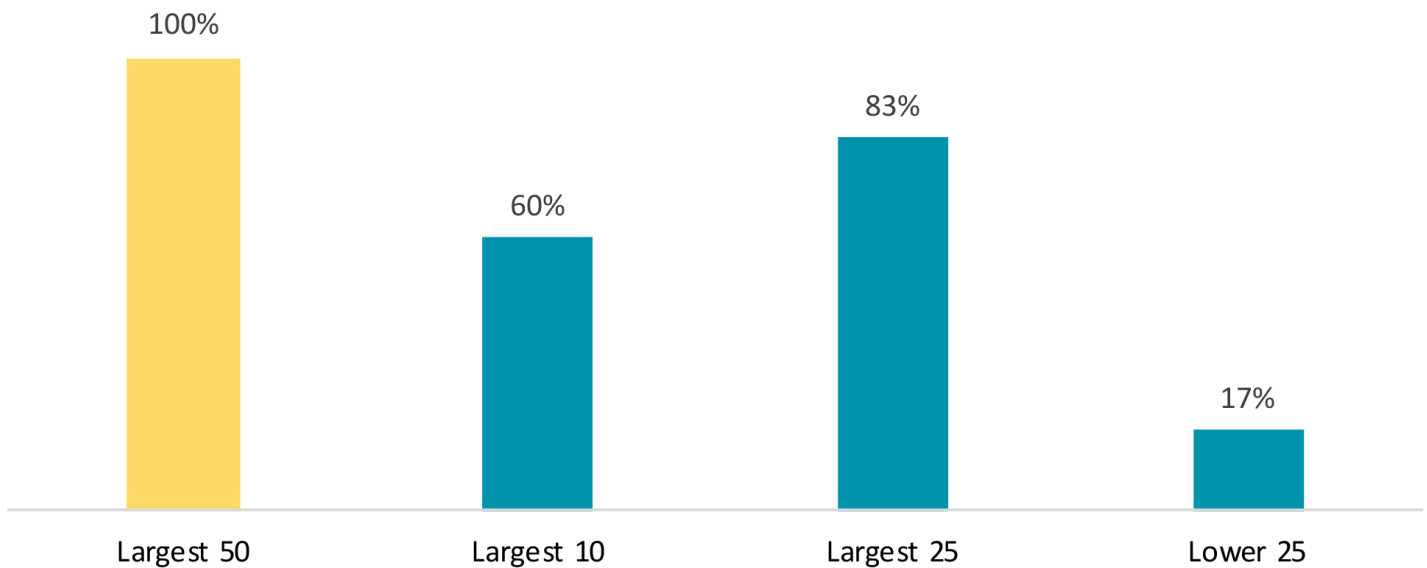
Of the Largest 50 companies...

The Largest 10 account for \$401,527,781 | **60% of total expenditures**

The Largest 25 account for \$548,218,644 | **83% of total expenditures**

The Lower 25 account for \$115,884,866 | **17% of total expenditures**

AGGREGATE EXPENDITURES by percentage of Largest 50



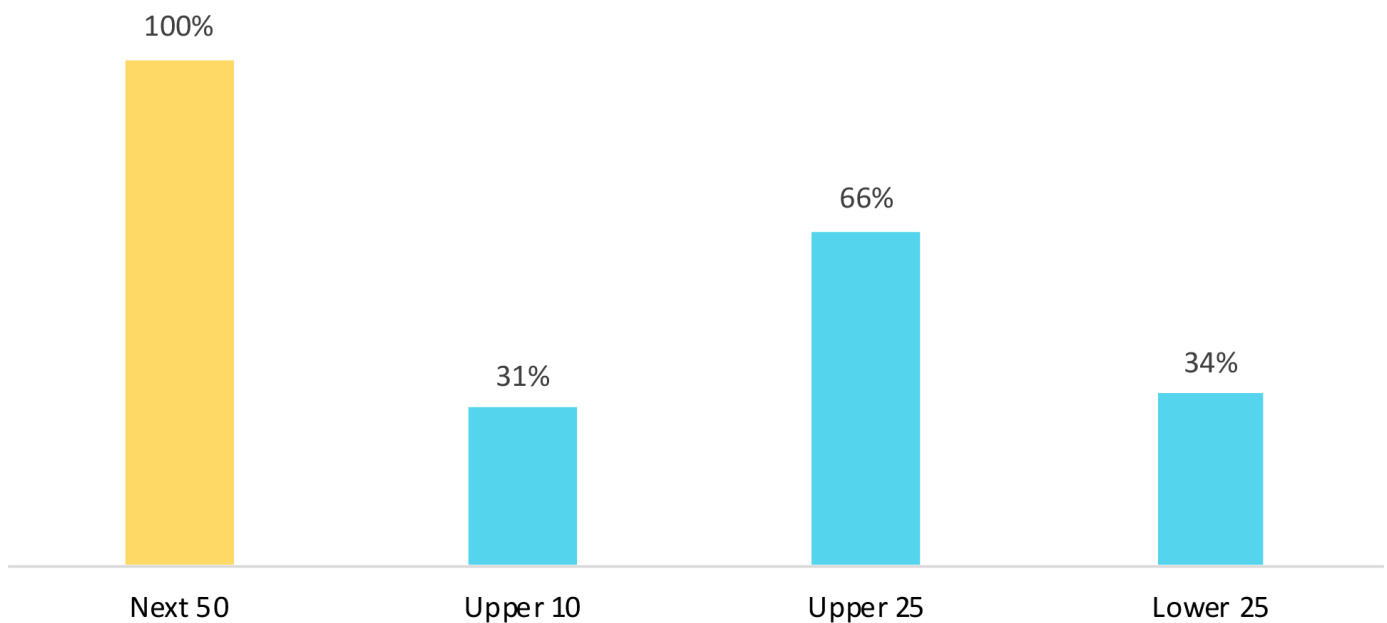
Of the Next 50 companies...

The Upper 10 account for \$14,694,218 | **31% of total expenditures**

The Upper 25 account for \$31,374,780 | **66% of total expenditures**

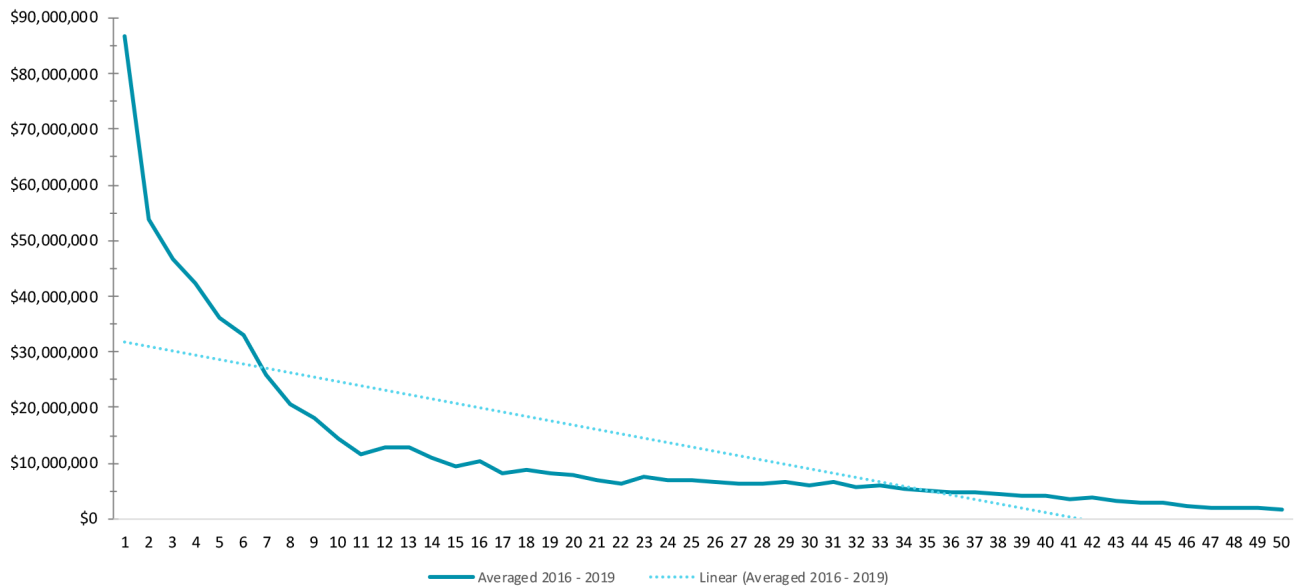
The Lower 25 account for \$16,027,322 | **34% of total expenditures**

AGGREGATE EXPENDITURES by percentage of Next 50

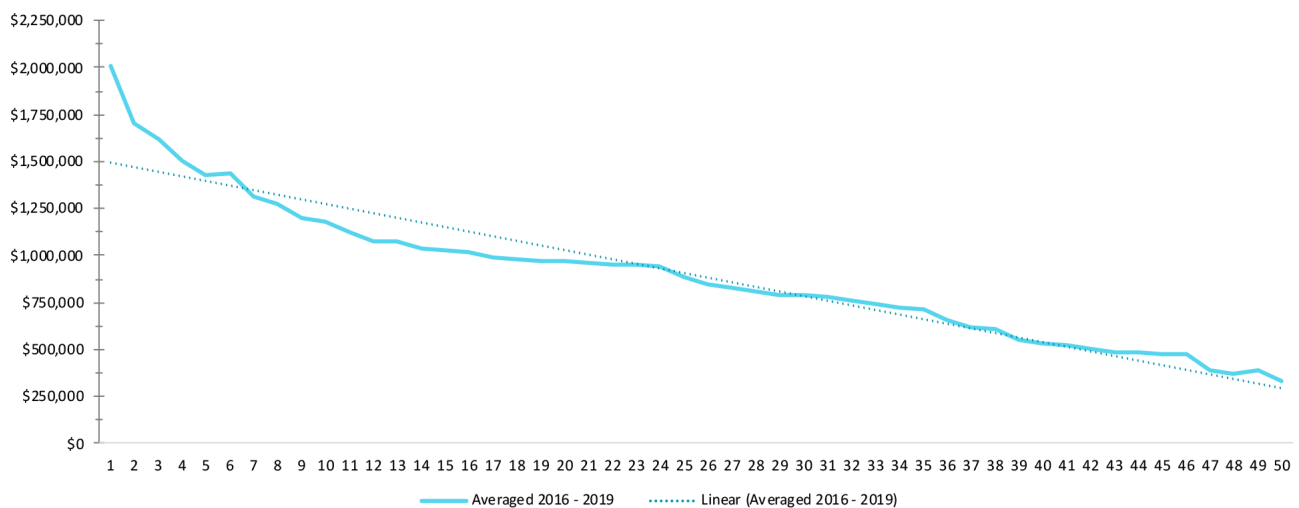


The following figures further show how the expenditures are distributed between companies within the Largest 50 and Next 50. For these figures, annual expenses were averaged for each company from 2016 – 2019 to capture the trend over time.

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES Largest 50 U.S. Ballet Companies



DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES Next 50 U.S. Ballet Companies



In the Largest 50 Distribution figure, the first ten companies have a large range of approximately \$72,000,000, while the remaining forty companies have a relatively small range of approximately \$10,000,000.

The Next 50 Distribution shows a range of approximately \$1,500,000, with a more even decrease in expenditures and a closer fit to the linear approximation.

Note that the values for the Largest 50 go up to nearly \$90,000,000, while the values for the Next 50 go to just over \$2,000,000.

Part III: Methodology, Notes, and Limitations

Methodology

DDP accessed IRS Form 990s via ProPublica's NonProfit Explorer and the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Database. DDP further reached out to each company with the opportunity to verify DDP's information and share more recent data via Self Report Survey.

Operational Definition of Ballet Company

For the purposes of study, DDP defines "ballet company" as an organization that has both roots in classical ballet and a professional performing company. DDP also considers factors such as if the company has an affiliated school that teaches pointework and if the company shares choreographers with major ballet companies. DDP remains generous and open-minded with the definition and recognizes that the art form is constantly evolving.

Structure of Ballet Companies

The structures of ballet companies in the U.S. vary greatly. Many of the larger companies have an endowment, professional company, and school. For some, these operate as independent but affiliated entities. For example, New York City Ballet and its affiliated school, School of American Ballet, are independent organizations. Thus the annual expense data for New York City Ballet does not include the expenses of School of American Ballet.

In comparison, smaller companies are less likely to have substantial endowments and more likely to operate both professional company and school under one nonprofit

organization. Thus their annual expense data encompasses both professional company and school.

This Report looks specifically at one nonprofit per organization, but it should therefore be noted that the larger ballet companies have greater net worth and expenditures than are fully captured in this dataset.

Terminology of “Largest 50”

Since 2018, DDP has published research utilizing the term “Top 50” to describe the 50 U.S. ballet companies with the greatest expenses. In 2021, we have renamed it “Largest 50,” keeping the definition but changing the name to denote purely size of expenditures rather than any judgements of artistic excellence or preeminence.

Fiscal Data Limitations

For the development of Largest 50 and Next 50 lists, DDP primarily utilized data from the Fiscal Year ending in 2019 (ex: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019). DDP has obtained data from Fiscal Year 2020 for a small number of companies, but it is not yet available for all companies. The COVID-19 pandemic began during FY 2020 and had a large impact on operations. Accordingly, DDP has chosen to use data from FY 2019 for these rankings, comparing all companies within a consistent fiscal year.

For 21 companies, including Dallas Black Dance Theatre in the Largest 50, the most recent fiscal data available was from 2018 or prior.

Because the information available for a company may change year to year, any comparisons are subject to variances in the information. While ballet companies, the IRS, and DDP each take every measure to avoid human error, DDP acknowledges the possibility of such error appearing in data obtained from organizations both via the Self Report Survey and IRS Form 990s.

For access to raw data and sources, or to submit information about additional companies, we invite you to contact DDP Research and Special Projects Lead Michayla Kelly at mkelly@dancedataproject.com.