



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR HISTORY DATA BYTE

JULY 2021

LIMITATIONS & METHODOLOGY

- ❖ This Data Byte looked exclusively at the 50 companies comprising DDP's 2021 Largest 50 US ballet companies list. To view this list and read more about the companies' operating sizes, DDP's definition of "ballet company," and other companies which were considered, please refer to DDP's 2021 [Largest 50 US Ballet Companies and Scope of the Industry Report](#). DDP acknowledges the significance and contributions of the many other US dance companies, both active and defunct.
- ❖ The DDP research team has worked to accurately represent each company and the individuals who served as founders and/or Artistic Directors. Information came primarily from company websites and secondarily from news and press media.
- ❖ The exact origin dates of companies can be difficult to ascertain, as many companies began as smaller performing groups or schools before officially adopting their current name and/or organizational model. For the purposes of calculating ages of companies, DDP has dated back to the origins of each company's history, beginning where applicable with their initial establishments as ballet schools (ex: New York City Ballet affiliated School of American Ballet est. 1934) or dance ensembles (ex: Atlanta Ballet began as "Dorothy Alexander Concert Group" est. 1929).
- ❖ The age of each company was calculated as the continuous period between its early origins (see above) and 2021, the date of this research. It should be noted that some companies had periods within that time frame where their professional company was disbanded, such as Dance Theatre of Harlem's hiatus from 2004 to 2012. DDP chose not to alter the age of each company based on periods of hiatus.
- ❖ For this research, DDP looked at leadership with the title "Artistic Director" or equivalent. In companies with Co-Artistic Directors, such as Los Angeles Ballet, both directors were counted. Associate Artistic Directors were not included in this study.
- ❖ In identifying companies founded by women, DDP looked at both companies whose first, or founding, Artistic Director was a woman, and companies that were founded by women who contributed essentially, financially or otherwise, but did not serve in the role of Artistic Director. For example, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet was founded by Bebe Schweppe, who then brought in Tom Mossbrucker and Jean-Philippe Malaty to lead the company as Artistic and Executive Directors respectively. Companies which were founded by more than one person were counted as "founded by women" if at least one of the founders was a woman.

For access to sources or to ask questions, we invite you to contact DDP Research and Special Projects Lead Michayla Kelly at mkelly@dancedataproject.com.