



## Dance Data Project® 2021 Research Highlights

### In 2021 ...

DDP continued our important work dissecting, analyzing, and reporting on gender equity within the full economy of dance.

We reproduced and updated our annual reports:

- [Season Overview: 2020-2021](#)
- [Artistic and Executive Leadership Report](#)
- [Largest 50 U.S. Ballet Companies & Scope of the Industry](#)
- [2020 Dance Festival Gender Equity Report](#)

We produced brand new research reports, expanding our scope within the U.S. and globally:

- [Global Ballet Leadership Report](#)
- [Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary and Modern Dance Companies](#)

And we created an entirely new mini research snapshot – the Data Byte – and published six bite-sized morsels of important findings:

- [Artistic Director Leadership Changes 2021+](#)
- [U.S. Artistic Director History Data Byte](#)
- [Connecting the Dots – #yesthisisanartsstory Data Byte](#)
- [Global Resident Choreographers Survey 2021](#)
- [Top 50 Affiliate Ballet Schools 2020](#)
- [Leadership Changes 2020](#)

***“The lack of artistic and leadership opportunities for women in ballet has been talked about for years. But since nobody was putting numbers to it, it was all anecdotal. And it’s episodic. I would watch a series of stories or scandals appear, and then it would fall off the radar for a while. Without data, it’s almost impossible to measure progress. You need longitudinal data to be able to benchmark, to get a sense of where you’re going.”***

– DDP Founder & President Liza Yntema, for [The New York Times](#)

## Read on for some of our most interesting findings in 2021, detailed by report.

### [Global Ballet Leadership Report](#), *December 2021*

- ❖ Of 179 artistic directors of major ballet companies, 59 are women (33%), while 119 are men (66%), and 1 is gender expansive (0.6%).
- ❖ Of the artistic directors at the largest 26 ballet companies globally, each with 75+ dancers, 9 are women (35%) and 17 are men (65%).
- ❖ In each of the years 2018 - 2021, men accounted for the majority of appointed artistic directors.

### [Largest 50 U.S. Contemporary and Modern Dance Companies](#), *October 2021*

- ❖ The Largest 50 U.S. contemporary and modern dance companies operated with aggregate expenses of about \$150 million in fiscal year 2019.
- ❖ The gender distribution of current artistic directors was found to be equitable: 50% women and 50% men.
- ❖ The gender distribution of founders was 54% women and 46% men.
- ❖ Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the largest organization by expenditures, had more than four times the expenses of Mark Morris Dance Group, the second largest.

### [Season Overview Report: 2020-2021](#), *August 2021*

- ❖ 69% of all works programmed in 2020-2021 at the Largest 50 U.S. ballet companies were choreographed by men (1,066 works analyzed).
- ❖ 27% were choreographed by women, a 10% increase since DDP's first report, which analyzed the 2018-2019 season.
- ❖ 47% of programs contained only work by men.
- ❖ George Balanchine and Marius Petipa were the choreographers whose work was shown at the highest number of companies.

### [Artistic Director History Data Byte](#), *July 2021*

- ❖ At the Largest 50 U.S. ballet companies, 71% of artistic directors have been men (from founding to present). 29% have been women.
- ❖ 54% of companies were founded by women, either as founding artistic directors, key funders, or other essential roles.
- ❖ The average age of the Largest 50 U.S. ballet companies is 52 years (as of 2021).
- ❖ The average tenure of artistic directors is 13 years within the Largest 50 (17 years within the Largest 10).

### [Artistic and Executive Leadership Report 2021](#), June 2021

- ❖ In the Largest 50 U.S. ballet companies, 30% of artistic directors were women, and in the Largest 10 companies, just one had a female artistic director.
- ❖ Executive directors had a more equitable gender ratio: 54% women to 46% men (within Largest 50)
- ❖ In 2019, women earned 73 cents for every dollar men earned as artistic director and 85 cents for every dollar men earned as executive director (based on Largest 50 U.S. ballet companies).
- ❖ DDP discovered that New York City Ballet continued to highly compensate Peter Martins, the Ballet Master in Chief who resigned amid allegations of misconduct. This story was picked up by [Dance Magazine](#).

### [Largest 50 U.S. Ballet Companies & Scope of the Industry](#), May 2021

- ❖ The Largest 50 U.S. ballet companies operated with combined expenses of approximately \$665 million (nearly  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a billion dollars) in Fiscal Year 2019 .
- ❖ The Next 50 U.S. ballet companies operated with combined expenses of \$47,402,102 in Fiscal Year 2019, only 7% of the aggregate expenses for the Largest 50.

### [Top 50 Affiliate Ballet Schools 2020](#), March 2021

- ❖ At the ballet schools affiliated with the Largest 50 ballet companies in the country, DDP estimates that 35,950 students are in attendance.
- ❖ Women made up the majority (62%) of directors or co-directors, faculty (77%), and titled faculty (70%) within the sample of 45 affiliate schools.

### [2020 Dance Festival Gender Equity Report](#), January 2021

- ❖ At the 39 sampled 2020 festivals, women choreographed 36% of all works and 48% of world premieres.
- ❖ DDP's [2019 report](#) found 26% of the works performed in spring/summer 2019 festival programming were choreographed by women.
- ❖ 65% of festival leaders were women. 57% of festivals had all-women leadership.

### [Global Resident Choreographer Survey](#), January 2021

- ❖ Of 143 international ballet companies, 56 employ resident choreographers. Of these, 16 are women (29%).