

## GRANT APPLICATION FORM

**Applicant Name:** Bangor Ballet

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**Organization:** Bangor Ballet

**Name of project for funding:** Bangor production of Nutcracker Ballet including Outreach performances to Downeast School

**Mailing Address:** 14 State Street, Bangor, ME 04401      **Physical Address:** Same

**Year Organization was established:** 1994

**Number of Employees:** No salaried employees - One contracted Artistic Director and one volunteer Executive Director

**Organization named in 501(c) 3 letter:** Bangor Youth Ballet (DBA Bangor Ballet)

**Total Operating Expenses, past fiscal year:** \$36,948 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

**Mission Statement:** Bangor Ballet is dedicated to creating performance opportunities for talented dancers and choreographers and to providing high quality live dance performances for audiences near and far.

### **General description of the organization, its purpose, and goals:**

Bangor Ballet presents evening and matinee performances of dance productions with emphasis on classical ballet. It includes full-length story ballets as well as shorter original works. Some of the full-length ballets in the Bangor Ballet repertory include Swan Lake, Nutcracker in a Nutshell, Alice in Wonderland, The Little Mermaid, New York Concerto, Cinderella, and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.

The purpose of Bangor Ballet is reflected in its mission statement. There are limited performance opportunities for area dancers and choreographers and limited opportunities for local audiences to experience high quality ballet productions and the company seeks to address this need.

A primary goal of Bangor Ballet is to introduce the art of dance to local audiences, and to bring live performances to children who might not otherwise have that experience. Another goal is to insure that area dancers have the proper training and performance experience to pursue a career in dance should they choose to do so. Helping young people raise aspirations and acquire confidence to pursue their passions is also a goal of the organization.

### **Brief description of current programs and activities.** Emphasize major achievements of the past two years.

Bangor Ballet celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with five productions during the 2013-2014 season. The company collaborated with Penobscot Theatre on a project in the fall, which was partially funded by a grant from the Commission on Cultural Development, in which Bangor Ballet dancers interpreted "Titania's Dream," a section from Midsummer Night's Dream following participatory workshop activities. The second production of last season was the company's first Nutcracker ballet with original and traditional choreography. In January the company hosted an evening Gala with a performance at the Gracie Theatre in Bangor followed by a reception in the lobby. Spring 2014 saw Paquita, a very technically

demanding classical ballet and a reprise of Titania's Dream on the same program. The season ended in June with the delightful Alice in Wonderland from the company repertory. In connection with Alice in Wonderland the company also hosted a "tea party" at the Discovery Museum for young children.

In the 2012-2013 season Bangor Ballet presented the following ballets: Salute to the Troops in November, Nutcracker in a Nutshell in November and December, Snow White in March and Swan Lake in June. In January the company hosted a reception at the Gracie Theatre preceded by an evening of short, original ballets with a guest appearance by professional dancer and former company member, Riley Watts.

In January and February a number of company members auditioned for a variety of prestigious summer programs, among them Ballet Chicago which held its auditions at our studios. Artistic Director Ivy-Clear Forrest often worked extra hours with applicants for this and other auditions, especially where photographs in specific poses were required. All company members who auditioned for the Ballet Chicago program were either accepted or, in 2 instances, wait listed and four company dancers attended the demanding program in Chicago this past summer.

The company has just created a "rack card" that can be displayed in area hotels or other locations to promote the upcoming season and is in the process of soliciting donors, advertisers and sponsors to help cover overhead and costs of producing quality dance performances since ticket sales do not cover all costs.

**Amount Requested:** \$1927

**Date Needed:** Preferred by November 15, no later than December 1, 2014

**Organization's Fiscal Year:** July 1 – June 30

**Total Fundraising Goal for this project (in cash and in-kind)**

Total fundraising goal is \$5577. This reflects the total costs for the Bangor performances only of the production.

**Total Funding already raised for this project and description of the source:** None raised yet as major source of funding will be ticket sales. However some costs, such as costuming, have already been partially incurred, with funds taken from the organization's reserve accounts.

**Briefly state the purpose of the request, and time frame of the planned expenditures.**

The purpose of the request is to provide partial funding for this particular production and to cover the additional costs of bringing the experience of a live performance to children living in an area of lesser opportunity. Expenditures will occur through the month of December with the majority of expenses coming in the month of November.

**GRANT APPLICATION from BANGOR BALLET to  
CITY OF BANGOR COMMISSION ON CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

2014 BANGOR PRODUCTION OF NUTCRACKER BALLET including outreach performances at Downeast School

**Describe your Project:** Bangor Ballet's production 2014 of the Nutcracker is called *Nutcracker in a Nutshell* and is a shortened version of the Nutcracker story, designed to be an appropriate length for younger audiences. It will appeal to adults as well as children as it includes all the familiar characters and showcases well trained local dancers. *Nutcracker in a Nutshell* features new, original choreography and new costumes and set pieces. In addition to performances in Bangor, the ballet will be performed at Center Theatre in Dover Foxcroft and at the Bucksport Performing Arts Center.

Bangor Ballet's *Nutcracker in a Nutshell* performed by Bangor Ballet offers audience members in the Bangor area an affordable opportunity to see quality live ballet. This production also gives approximately 50 dancers, age 8 to adult, the opportunity to share their artistic talent and passion for dance. More than half of the dancers come from the immediate Bangor area. This production also provides opportunities for local choreographers and other support personnel to share their talents.

In Bangor there will be two public performances at the Gracie Theatre, a Saturday evening and a Sunday matinee. In addition the company will present two outreach performances at Downeast School in an effort to bring quality, live ballet to children who might not otherwise have an opportunity to see live ballet. Downeast School is one of five elementary schools (pre-Kindergarten to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) serving the children of the City of Bangor and is located at 100 Moosehead Boulevard on the city's west side.

We plan two 45-minute in-school programs in order to accommodate all 366 students and staff at the school. Each program will include an introduction to the story and to the art of ballet, followed by the full second act with sets and costumes and will conclude with a question and answer period.

As part of this outreach, Bangor Ballet will offer vouchers to Downeast School families. These vouchers will admit up to 4 people to one of the public performances the following weekend at the Gracie Theatre and will be sent home with the students following the in-school assemblies. Regular ticket prices for the Gracie performances are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children.

The overall goal of this project is to bring quality live dance performance to a wider audience in the greater Bangor area and specifically to introduce the art of ballet and this ballet in particular to the population in the Downeast School area. Specific objectives are: demonstrated interest in live ballet performance by an underserved audience, and new collaborations with an underserved school population.

The in-school program will be held on Tuesday, November 18 with the public performances at the Gracie on November 22 and 23. The Downeast School PTO will make a contribution (anticipated at \$150) to help cover costs associated with the in-school program. This gesture of monetary support is indicative of the value that this group and the school leadership place on this project.

**Portion of Budget for Nutcracker in a Nutshell allocated to shows in Bangor at Gracie Theatre and Downeast School**

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the General Budget for production costs for Nutcracker in a Nutshell is allocated to each venue (Center Theatre, Downeast School, Gracie Theatre, Bucksport Performing Arts Center. General overhead costs are covered through other sources and are not included.

25% of total for all Nutcracker in a Nutshell venues:

Director	\$500	
Rehearsal Assistants	\$189	
Costume Mistress	\$25	
Stage Manager	\$25	
Lighting Designer	\$250	
Set Designer	\$25	
Crew	\$25	
Costumes	\$338	
Sets and Props	\$125	
Office Supplies, paper, etc.	\$25	
Postage for mailings, etc.	\$50	
Paid advertising	\$200	
Printing	\$165	Programs, tickets, posters and fliers
Miscellaneous	\$75	
Pointe shoes for soloists	\$85	

Costs associated only with Bangor shows

UHaul and Gas Bangor Only	\$240	7 day rental @\$30 Mon. through Sun.
Back Drop	\$850	Gracie only
Space Rental	\$2000	Gracie only

Additional costs associated only with Downeast in-school outreach program

Printing vouchers	\$25	
Redeemed vouchers (estimate)	\$310	(10 adults and 20 children not paying)
Refurbish portable "wings"	\$50	

TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET FOR BANGOR PERFORMANCES = \$5577.00

ESTIMATED INCOME FROM BANGOR PERFORMANCES = \$3650

Est. ticket sales for Gracie performances at \$3500.00 plus PTO donation of \$150

## **Bangor Ballet is requesting \$1927 toward expenses associated with performances at the Gracie and at Downeast School**

### **Evaluation**

Evaluation of this project has five components: feedback from the school administration, teacher evaluations, voucher redemption, media reviews, and audience size and feedback.

First, the principal at Downeast School, Albert Mooers, will meet with Jane Bragg, executive director of Bangor Ballet, following the in-school performance and before the Thanksgiving break. He will share feedback from students and teachers. Second, teachers will be provided with evaluation forms to be returned to Bangor Ballet. (Sample attached). Third, we will monitor the number of vouchers submitted for complimentary tickets to the public performance at the Gracie Theatre. Finally, we will draw evaluation data from any media reviews, as well as informal audience feedback and we will measure audience size. These data, both formal and informal, will allow us to evaluate the success of the outreach effort as well as the public performances. Quantitative measures of success are as follows: Teacher evaluations as measured by average ranking, number of vouchers redeemed, audience size.

### **Collaborations**

The principal, staff and parent organization at Downeast School are excited to be collaborating with Bangor Ballet on the in-school portion of this project.

Bangor Ballet has collaborated in the past with Bangor Symphony Orchestra and Portland Ballet for a production of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* in 2012, Maine State Ballet for our *Tribute to Balanchine* in 2011, Penobscot Theatre Company for our *Titania's Dream* from *Midsummer Night's Dream* in the fall of 2013(which the Commission on Cultural Development supported), a dance program in Vendome, France to present *The Little Mermaid* in 2008. Bangor Ballet has regularly hosted a "tea party" at the Discovery Museum and performed at the University of Maine Museum of Art as part of a member reception. We continue to seek other partners for future collaborative efforts. Bangor Ballet is a member of Bangor Arts.

### **Sustainability**

Since this type of program is not an ongoing program but is specific to this production, this section is not applicable.