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**San Diego Ballet Expands Community Outreach Programs Across
San Diego**

Free and Low Cost Offerings Increase Access to the Arts

SAN DIEGO (March 26, 2026) — San Diego Ballet is expanding its education and outreach programs across San Diego County, bringing dance instruction and live performance experiences to schools, community centers and neighborhoods with limited access to the arts.

The organization's programs serve participants of all ages, from youth to older adults, through partnerships with local schools, senior living centers and community organizations. Offerings include in-school demonstrations, assemblies, residencies, community classes and student matinee performances.

"Our goal is to make ballet approachable, engaging and accessible for everyone," said Javier Velasco, artistic and executive director of San Diego Ballet. "These programs allow us to meet communities where they are and provide meaningful experiences that connect people to the arts."

A key component of the organization's outreach is its ongoing residency at the City Heights Performance Annex. From July 2024 through July 2025, the program served 80 new students ranging in age from 6 to 67, with 45 scheduled class sessions and an average of 15 participants per class.

Students learned ballet and jazz fundamentals, choreography and classical repertoire while also participating in creative activities designed to reinforce artistic expression. In one activity, students created gratitude cards featuring self-portraits of themselves performing dance movements, paired with messages in their home languages.

Participants also had opportunities to perform in community events, including Día de los Muertos and the Festival of Love, where they presented learned repertoire in costume. The program also included Winter and Spring recitals, where students performed for family and community members alongside guest appearances by San Diego Ballet dancers.

San Diego Ballet's broader outreach efforts include its "Meet a Dancer" program, which brings professional dancers into classrooms for demonstrations and question-and-answer sessions; interactive in-school assemblies that combine dance workshops with live performance; and long-term residencies that culminate in student showcases.

Additional offerings include field trips to professional ballet productions with post-performance discussions, as well as customizable class series for youth, teens and adults.

San Diego Ballet's outreach programs are designed to increase access to the arts, build confidence and foster a lifelong appreciation for dance among participants throughout the region.

ABOUT SAN DIEGO BALLET

The mission of the San Diego Ballet is to excite, enrich, and entertain our diverse audience through an imaginative presentation of quality classical and contemporary dance. The San Diego Ballet presents a rich repertoire blending classical and contemporary works. Under the direction of Javier Velasco, the company is celebrated for its innovation, artistry, and community engagement.

For more information on performances, tickets, and educational programs, visit www.sandiegoballet.org.