

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Artistic Director - Sacramento Ballet

Company: Sacramento Ballet
Location: Sacramento, CA
Compensation: 80,000-120,000

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SACRAMENTO BALLET



Dancer: JENNIFER WATEMBACH. Photo: TONY NGUYEN

About Sacramento Ballet:

Sacramento Ballet is a premier regional ballet company committed to artistic excellence, community engagement, and education through the transformative power of dance. The 2025-26 season marks the 71st anniversary of the Company. Building on the incredible success of our 70th Anniversary Season, the 2025-26 Season promises to be an unforgettable one.

Sacramento Ballet is a source and ambassador for extraordinary ballet experiences that give life to the classical tradition, nurture new ideas, and, above all, inspire. Today, the Ballet annually presents five mainstage performances, serves over 600 youth through adult students in its school, and engages with a wide variety of elementary schools, health providers, and other organizations in the Sacramento region through our community engagement programs.

Since 1954, Sacramento Ballet has been a beacon of artistic excellence in the California Capital Region, delivering world-class dance performances, education, and community outreach programs. A cornerstone of Sacramento's cultural community, its mission is to enhance the human condition through dance and to make it accessible to everyone.

As the region's only dance company to maintain a roster of professional dance artists, Sacramento Ballet captivates thousands of patrons each year with its enthralling performances and community outreach events. Unique among local arts organizations, Sacramento Ballet welcomes internationally renowned dancers and choreographers to live and create groundbreaking artistic works right here in our beautiful city and serves as a representative of California's thriving cultural scene on national and international stages.

Sacramento Ballet is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, funded by ticket sales and individual donations, as well as contributions from corporate, foundation, and government entities. This vital support enables the company to present unparalleled, world-class programming that inspires and uplifts, while expanding the reach of the art form through educational and outreach initiatives.

Position Summary:

The Artistic Director and Executive Director work in a co-leadership structure, each reporting directly to the Board. The Artistic Director is responsible for conceiving, developing, and implementing the artistic vision and focus of the Sacramento Ballet and, importantly, articulating this vision internally and more broadly to the Sacramento community. The next Artistic Director will possess a clear understanding of and commitment to the heritage of classical ballet while having the ability to move and mold the art form into the future to assist in ensuring continued growth, operational health, and mission alignment of the Ballet.

We are seeking a dynamic and boldly creative leader to drive the Ballet's evolution forward and are open to candidates who are choreographers, although this is not a requirement for the position. We will consider candidates who have not previously held Artistic Director positions, but applicants must be able to demonstrate strong leadership experience in artistic management and/or artistic administration.

Core Responsibilities:

- Develop, articulate, and implement a bold artistic vision for the Sacramento Ballet that is innovative, inclusive, inspirational, and engaging.
- Oversee all aspects of the organization's artistic programming, including the planning and execution of performances, artist events, open rehearsals, master classes, and educational programming that will advance the Ballet's mission and grow audiences
- Inspire, develop, and empower a company of dancers who are ready and willing to grow, communicating a clear vision to all company members, guiding their professional development; manage classes, rehearsals, and performances with a focus on dancer health, fitness, and

well-being

- Forge a partnership with the Executive Director, consistently communicating purpose and vision to the staff and to the community
- Collaborate with senior management and the Board to create and effectively execute a strategic plan for the ballet
- Commission new works and license contemporary restagings; develop relationships with contemporary choreographers and composers, while at the same time maintaining full length classical ballets, in addition to the Nutcracker
- Cultivate collaborative, creative relationships in the region, including working closely with the Executive Director and the Board to accomplish fund-raising objectives of the Ballet, especially developing and maintaining key donor relationships
- Grow the Ballet's visibility and importance locally and nationally, representing the Sacramento Ballet to the public, media, patrons, and other stakeholders

Qualifications:

Required:

- At least 7 years of professional dance experience in any or all of these areas: performer, artistic director, artistic management and/or leadership
- A deep knowledge of and experience in classical ballet repertoire, as well as modern and contemporary work from diverse choreographers
- A highly accomplished ballet artist who is a skilled teacher and coach with the ability to maintain high artistic standards within the company and who has skills and experience in staging and producing
- A strategic thinker and planner, with the desire and ability to work collaboratively with an Executive Director and a nonprofit Board of Directors to effectively lead a large and complex organization
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including public speaking
- Managerial experience, administrative and business skills, including an understanding of the financial requirements of managing a complex artistic organization
- A strong commitment to equity

Preferred:

- Bachelor's degree or professional equivalency
- Nonprofit industry experience, preferably in an arts-related organization

Compensation & Benefits:

- Salary range: \$80,000 - \$120,000 annually commensurate with experience and qualifications
- Annual merit salary increase
- Health insurance
- Competitive paid vacation

To Apply:

Submit a cover letter, resume, a sample season, and three references to Boardmember@sacballet.org. To be considered, please submit your application no later than October 31, 2025.

The Sacramento Ballet is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to building an inclusive and diverse environment for all employees and artists.

2420 N Street #100, Sacramento, CA 95816

Sacramento Ballet
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sacballet.org

For more information:
Board of Directors
boardmember@sacballet.org

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