

NEW ERA · NEW WORKS · NEW LEGACIES
Overcoming the pandemic, dancing in the rain



IMPACT REPORT 2021

Our mission is to preserve, promote, and present the Flamenco, Folkloric, Classical, Escuela Bolera and Contemporary Dance and Music traditions of Spain.



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THANK YOU!

We count it an honor and a pleasure to see it through another year. This year has been the year of resilience, strength and overcoming. We saw it through a pandemic, working remotely, our one-of-a-kind outdoor festival and our historic return to this historic place, the Auditorium Theatre.

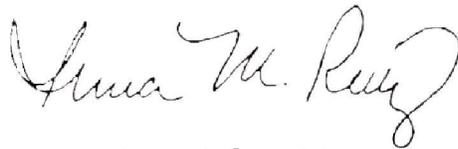
During this time, we did not miss a beat. We were able to teach more than 400 children remotely through our in-school residency programs, including offering Spanish Dance for college credit to area high schools. We kept our dancers dancing from home creating original content that we shared through our social media. And we kept 100% of our staff employed by working closely with fan and supporters like you that helped us to keep doing what we do best, dance.

This has been an emotional season. The pandemic impacted our families, and our family of dancers and we're so proud that our dancers were able to dig deep and continued to dance. We danced in basements, in garages, living rooms. We danced with children and grandchildren. We danced with pets. We danced by the light of the sun and under the glow of the moon. We danced in borrowed spaces, over zoom, on platforms outdoors, we danced with the help of new instructors, new guest artists and old partners.

The important part is that we kept dancing. We're grateful to the dancers for their resilience, grateful to our fans for your continued support and grateful to our donors who keep us moving forward.



Jorge Perez
Executive & Associate
Artistic Director



Irma Suárez Ruiz
Artistic Director



Kim Grigsby
Associate Executive Director



ENSEMBLE ESPAÑOL SPANISH DANCE THEATER

THE COMPANY



Dame Libby **KOMAIKO**
Founder



Irma **SUAREZ RUIZ**
Artistic Director



Jorge **PEREZ**
Executive & Associate
Artistic Director



Jose **TORRES**
Repetidor

DANCERS



Luis
BELTRAN



Juan Carlos
CASTELLON



Matthew
JALAC



Frida
MEDINA



Samantha
MICKLEWRIGHT



Nalanie
MOLINA



Abigail **MOSQUERA** **NEW**



Jonathan
PACHECO



Crystal
RUIZ



Amanda
SAUCEDO



Monica
SAUCEDO



Olivia
SERRANO



Irene **SIVIANES** **NEW**



Abigail
VENTURA

APPRENTICES

Anna BARRIOS · Katrina BARTELS · Catherine BEZA · Laila GALECKI · Larisa GEARHART-SERNA
Amanda RAMIREZ · Sofia VIDAURRE · Adrian VILLANUEVA · Tasiana VILLALOBOS

GUEST ARTISTS

David CHIRIBOGA, Guitarist · Paco FONTA, Singer / Guitarist · José MORENO, Singer · Brian TOROSIAN, Guitarist
Patricia ORTEGA, Singer · Nino DE LOS REYES, Dancer / Choreographer · Javier SAUME MAZZEI, Percussionist



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Jorge PEREZ, *Executive & Associate Artistic Director*
Kim GRIGSBY, *Associate Executive Director*
Josephine DICESARE, *Comptroller*
Brenda RODRIGUEZ, *Operation Executive Assistant*
Miguel GARCÍA, *Marketing*
Erica SAUDER, *Administrative Assistant*
Danielle LaFRANCIS, *Administrative Assistant*

EDUCATION LEADERSHIP

Julia HINOJOSA, *Interim Director of Education*
Irma SUÁREZ RUIZ, *Spanish Dance Instructor, NEIU*
Crystal RUIZ & Monica SAUCEDO, *Youth Company Artistic Directors*
Nalanie MOLINA & Amanda SAUCEDO, *Spanish Dance Instructors*

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

Irma SUÁREZ RUIZ, *Artistic Director*
Jorge PEREZ, *Executive & Associate Artistic Director*
José TORRES, *Repetidor*
Anna CZAJUN, *Ballet Master*
Wendy CLINARD, *Flamenco Master*
Martha MONTES, *Strength & Conditioning Instructor*
Olivia SERRANO, *Project Coordinator*
Dustin DERRY, *Lighting Designer*
Sarah LACKNER, *Production Stage Manager*



EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel CONTRERAS, *Chair*

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Jorge PEREZ

James RAMOS

Stacy ROSENTHAL

Monica SAUCEDO

Dr. Michael STEINBERG

Jose TORRES



SPOTLIGHT

Abigail **MOSQUERA**

Company Dancer

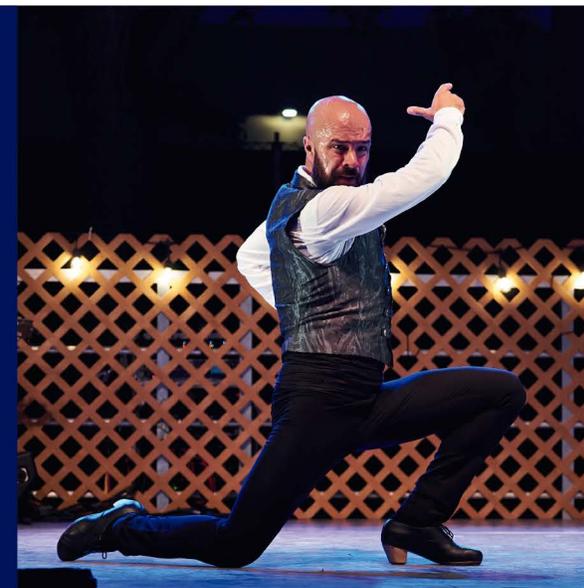
Born in Chicago and of Ecuadorian and Mexican descent began dancing flamenco at the age of 5 at Inter American Magnet school's after school program. At the age of 8 Abigail continued her flamenco studies at Christine Belpedio's School of Dance under the direction of Julia Hinojosa, and Abigail Ventura.

In 2017, she began her formal training with the Ensemble Español Youth Company under the direction of Julia Hinojosa, Jose Torres, Monica Saucedo, and Crystal Ruiz. She has also been able to train with renowned Spanish dance artists like Paloma Gomez, Carmela Greco, and Jose Barrios.

In 2018, Abigail was nominated and awarded the Rising Star Honor Roll for dance by the City of Chicago. In that same year, Abigail was also awarded the Ballet Hispanico Nuestro Futuro Scholarship and was able to train in New York with Jose Moreno, Nélica Tirado, and Alfonso Cid.

Abigail is a Company Dancer since 2021.

GUEST ARTISTS



Nino DE LOS REYES, *Dancer / Choreographer*

Principal dancer/bailaor, first dancer to be recognized with a Grammy Award for “Best Latin Jazz Album” Antidote - Chick Corea & The Spanish Heart Band. His first memories are of his parents, master dancer/teachers Ramón de los Reyes and Clara Ramona, rehearsing in a studio at Boston’s now defunct Piano Factory. As a member of The Spanish Heart Band, alongside Ruben Blades, Nino performed in the most important music festivals such as Montreux Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival and Love Supreme. Chick Corea’s appreciation for De Los Reyes’ percussive dancing was established years before when Nino was invited to participate in Corea’s 75TH birthday presentation at the Blue Note and also performed with him at Madison Square Garden. Nino has also taught classes and workshops worldwide to dancers at all levels of experience.



Paco FONTA, *Singer / Guitarist*

He was born in a small town in the Andalucia and began his professional career performing in tablaos and festivals accompanying singers and dancers such as La Niña de la Huerta and Antonio Molina. He later toured Europe with the Kurt Savoy Trio. In 1985 he won first prize in cante jondo at the Flamenco festival in Jaen. Paco came to Miami in 1986 with his wife Celia, a well known Flamenco dancer, to open the famous Cacharrito’s Place Tablao. Since then, he has performed in all the tablaos in Miami and now produces his own Flamenco Cante Festival to sellout crowds.



Jose MORENO, *Dancer / Percussionist / Guitarist / Singer*

Born into a family of famous flamenco artists Estrella Morena (dancer) and Pepe de Málaga(singer), Jose began his flamenco career at age 6 under the guidance of his parents. After his debut at the famous Tablao Costa Vasca in Miami, Jose continued his studies with the Great Manolete, Farruquito, and Andres Marin, studying Cajon with Manuel Soler. Jose has worked with distinguished artists such as The Great Manolete, Joaquin Ruiz, Pastora Galvan, El Pecas, Jose Cortes “Pansequito”, Isabel Pantoja, DavidBisball, Omayra Amaya, and more. In 2001, he choreographed and performed a collaborative work with his mother Estrella Morena, appearing with the renowned flamenco singer Carmen Linares and the New World Symphony Orchestra at Lincoln Theater in Miami. He has also appeared at the annual Panama Jazz Festival and at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Wendy **CLINARD**, *Flamenco Master · Artistic Director of Clinard Dance Theatre*



After completing a BFA at The Art Institute of Chicago in 1993, Wendy Clinard embarked on a rigorous apprenticeship with flamenco dancer Edo Sie, while augmenting her studies in Spain with notable teachers Juana Amaya and Hiniesta Cortez.

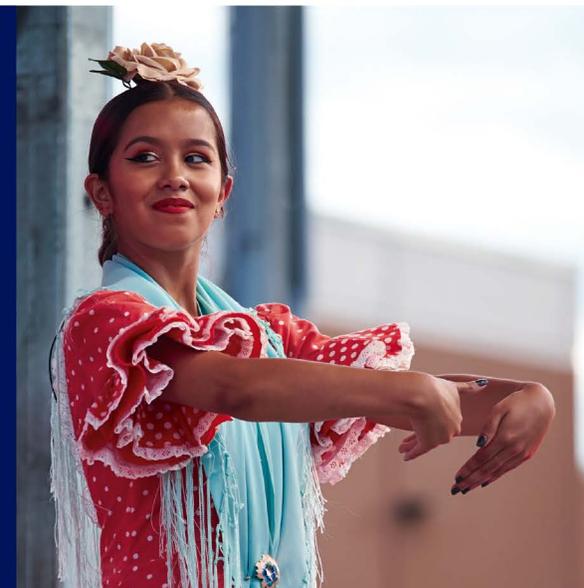
In 1999 Clinard began choreographing original dance theater productions. Since 1999 she has created six full evening works (*Quest of Theseus; Shifting Landscapes; Unraveling Rhythms; Jondo Portraits; From the Arctic to the Middle East—Broken Narratives by an American Flamenco Dancer; and the recent 2014 work Chicago's Watershed*) and several smaller choreographic pieces. *Unraveling Rhythms* toured India in 2005, and the Midwest in 2006/2007; and excerpts of *Jondo Portraits* were shared with audiences in Syria during the summer of 2009.

In 2015 Clinard was awarded a MacArthur International Connection Fund to support a choreographic exchange between Hrishikesh Pawar, Pune (India), and Clinard. In April 2016 Clinard Dance performed Chicago's *Watershed* at The University of Peking in conjunction with The University Of Chicago's Beijing Branch.

Clinard has been an invited choreographer at the summer 2000 Jacob's Pillow Festival as well as to The Birmingham Royal Ballet (Birmingham England) in fall 2001. The company has participated in a guest residencies at the University of Chicago (2014), Hambidge Center in Rabun, Georgia (summer 2002), Tofte Lake Center 2013-2015 and at The Chicago Cultural Center's Dance Bridge Program (2006 and 2010).

She has taught for the past 20 years in schools and higher education environments. Locally she has taught for Chicago's Gallery37, De Paul University, Columbia College Chicago, College of Lake County, Salt Creek Ballet, Homer Bryant Ballet, Dimitri Roudnev Ballet, and Redmoon Theatre. She has presented short and long term residencies since 1999 for arts organizations, primary / secondary schools and universities.





YOUTH COMPANY

Founded in 1985 by Dame Libby Komaiko and the late Lillian C. Heminover, executive board member, and Fine Arts coordinator at Frederick Funston School, the training program offers intensive training to serious, young artists.

The Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Youth Company serves as the pre-professional training program to the organization's professional company. It's comprised of two divisions: the Junior Division, for ages between 10 and 18; and, the Senior Division, which is for 18+. Auditions are held annually.

They routinely perform at the American Spanish Dance and Music Festival, at the annual Holiday Concerts and for the Our Chance to Dance Youth Festival as well as performances throughout Chicago and Illinois.

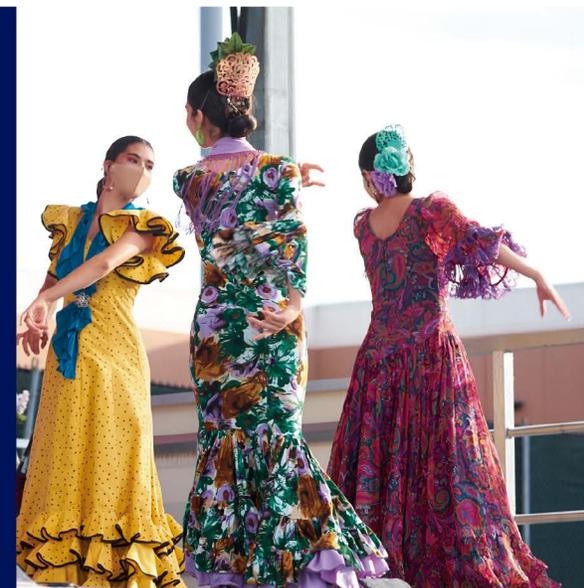
In 2012, the Youth Company undertook a summer Flamenco intensive program in Madrid, Spain. Learning from masters such as Carmela Greco, María Torres, Joaquín Ruiz, Paloma Gómez and Carolina Arias.

Youth Company dancers receive a scholarship worth \$10,000 annually which includes training with local professional Spanish Dance instructors and guest artists from Spain, performance opportunities, costumes and rehearsal wear. As part of their scholarship, dancers are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA while adhering to a rigorous rehearsal schedule, making them excellent role models in their community.



Youth Company program highlights include:

- Training with company artistic directors and staff
- Training with guest artists from Spain & the U.S.
- Performance opportunities in the community
- Performances with the professional company and guest artists
- National and international touring opportunities
- Extra Benefits: Costumes, castanets, shoes, and accessories





We worked with **The Home Depot** building platforms that will allow our dancers to dance outside around Chicago during the pandemic inspiring hope around the city!

PASO A PASO - ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The **Paso a Paso Arts Education Programs** provides multi-formatted instruction in the three styles of Spanish dance, including Flamenco, Folkloric, and Classical, to young students and dancers, stressing the historical, cultural, and creative contributions of Spanish dance to the arts.

Paso a Paso allows parents, students and teachers to select those programs that are most suitable for certain age groups and skill levels, and provides flexibility in tailoring these programs to the time, space, and availability needs of schools and organizations.

This year our goal has been to create impactful programming that is relevant to residents living on the South and West sides of Chicago in underrepresented areas.



¡BAILAMOS! RESIDENCIES

These **arts education residencies** provide an intensive course in dance movement and expression, and emphasize Spain's singular role in dance.

Brownell Elementary *1st and 2nd Grades* **30 students**

LaSalle 2 *3rd and 6th Grades* **30 students**

St. John de LaSalle *2nd and 6th Grades* **35 students**

St. Sabina Academy *3rd Grade* **16 students**

Murray Language Academy *1st-8th Grades* **15 students**

Hearst Elementary *1st Grade & Middle School* **91 students**

Taylor Elementary *5th Grade* **60 students**

Kipp One Academy *Middle School* **12 students**

Bright Elementary *3rd & 5th Grade* **31 students**

Aspira High School *High School* **5 students**

ChiArts High School *High School* **9 students**

Clemente High School *High School* **18 students**

Southside Occupational Academy *High School 17-22 Years* **20 students**



UNITED RHYTHMS FUSION PROJECT

Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater and Muntu Dance Theater are collaborating on this socially and culturally relevant program:

10 week dance cross-cultural exchange workshop to explore the similarities of the Spanish Flamenco culture and the percussive styles of West-African dance.



AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS

The Ensemble Español (EE) partners with **After School Matters** all year round, alongside our in resident partner, Northeastern Illinois University.

Our professional dancers/educators, support teens' growth and development in an intentional and meaningful way providing them the opportunities to explore and develop their talents, while gaining critical skills for work, college and beyond.

During the past year, EE provided **50 high school students** the opportunity to learn the history, culture and professional theatrical art form of Spanish dance in the classical, folkloric and Flamenco styles.

These students were paid a stipend of **\$500** to attend the program.



FLAMENCO ARTS & CULTURE DUAL ENROLLMENT

We offered **High school Juniors & Seniors** the opportunity to receive **College Credits** through Northeastern Illinois University for Spanish Dance.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Downtown / Galery 37

Chicago Public Schools AAP Program *High School* **11 students**

Chicago Public Schools All City Program *Middle School* **21 students**



454 STUDENTS SERVED

13 Schools & 3 Program collaborators

- **\$0 costs to students**
- **More than 73% of the students served were low income**
- **55 students were paid \$500 to attend our programs**
- **4 programs were offered as dual high school & for college credit**
- **We not only paid 100% of the supplies cost we also covered 100% of the university fees**



TALES OF SPAIN

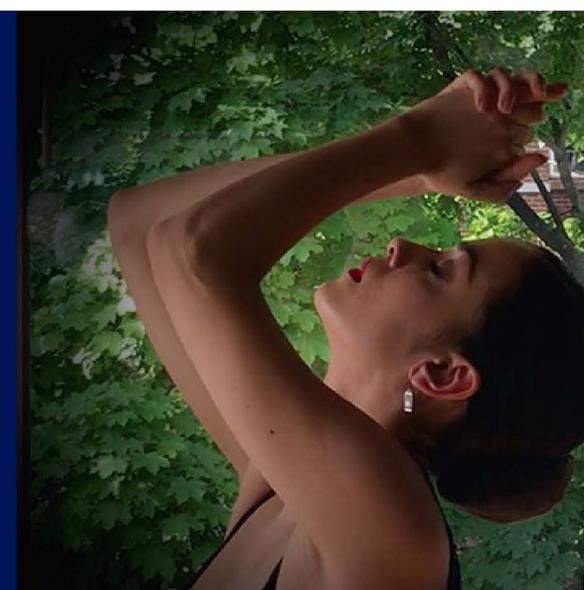
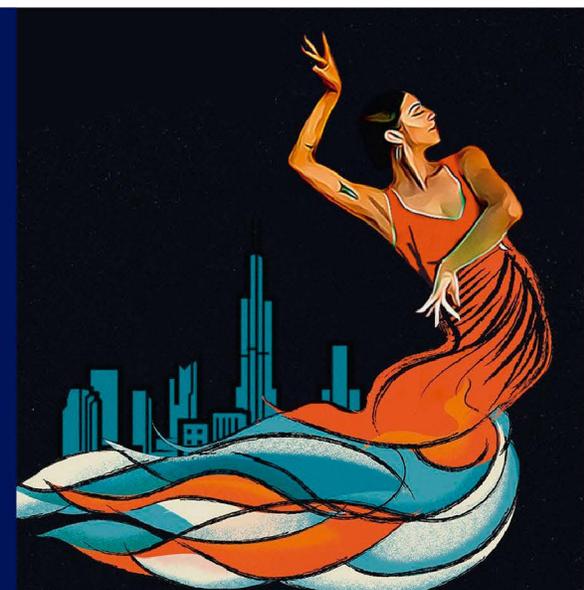
Online Spanish Dance Music Exploration

In this hour-long presentation, audiences learn how Spanish dance is influenced by the ancient Celtic peoples, Moorish sensibilities, and the lives and passions of the Gitanos. Consequently, students, parents and teachers receive an in-depth survey of Spain's special place in dance art forms.

SCHOOLS: Advanced Arts Program · Agustin Lara · Ballet Folklorico Infinity · Ballet Hispanico School of Dance
Beaubien Elementary · Berta Dreyfus Intermediate School · Bradwell · Brighton Park Elementary
Carl Schurz High School · Communion of Saints · Dawes School · Dever School Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary & Fine Arts
Field Middle School · Franklin Fine Arts Center · Global Education Center · Hillwood High School · Golfview Elementary School
Hancock College · Hibbard Elementary · John Hancock College Prep · John M Smyth Elementary · Jones College Prep
King HS · Lane Tech High School · Lara Academy · Learn Excel · Lily Pad Preschool · Little Village Academy
Maria Saucedo Scholastic Academy · Marine Leadership Academy · NEIU · Nixon Elementary · Ogden International
Oscar Depriest · Peterson · Pilsen Community Academy · Ps 278 · Pulaski International School · Senn High School
Talcott FAMA · The Collins Academy High School · Trinity High School · Walter Payton College · Wells HS

7115 STUDENTS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES



COMMUNITY CLASSES

LIVE & ONLINE · ALL AGES, ALL LEVELS!

+ FACEBOOK LIVE CLASSES

Intro to Flamenco · Flamenco for Beginners & Intermediate · Folkloric for Beginners & Intermediate
Cante · Flamenco Technique & Fundamentals · Heelwork Techniques & Condition
Flamenco Flow · Flamenco Contemporary · Flamenco Tangos · Flamenco for New Moms
Sevillanas & Flamenco Choreography · Bata de Cola · Braceo · Palmas & Percussion
Classical with Castanets Intermediate · Classical Ballet Intermediate

LIVE PERFORMANCES

Association for Performing Arts Professional at Alvin Ailey Theater in NYC · Auditorium Theatre
Microsoft Performance · Auditorium Online Arts Series · Sundays on State · IAMS Showcase
American Spanish Dance & Music Festival · Negocios Now Gala · Chicago LIVE Again!

COMPANY PROJECTS ONLINE SERIES

45th Anniversary Promotional Video · State of Ensemble Español and Season Kick
Bolero Dance from Home · Duquelando · Mil Clavos Show and Commentary (4 video series)
International Dance Day Performance · Solo Una Flor by Olivia Serrano · Sevillanas at Home
Festival Memories and Highlights · The Home Depot Platform Project · Sevillanas Challenge
Album Cover Series (9-part series) · Tablao Talk Series (10-part series) · Don't Rush Challenge
Tangos Youth Company Challenge · DeFalla, Out of the Box Ballet Commentary (2-part series)
Flamenco Online Tutorials (9-part series) · United Rhythms Fusion Project · Flamenqueando

ONLINE SPANISH DANCE

People reached on Facebook **+162K**

Engagement **+63K**

Video minutes viewed **+51K**

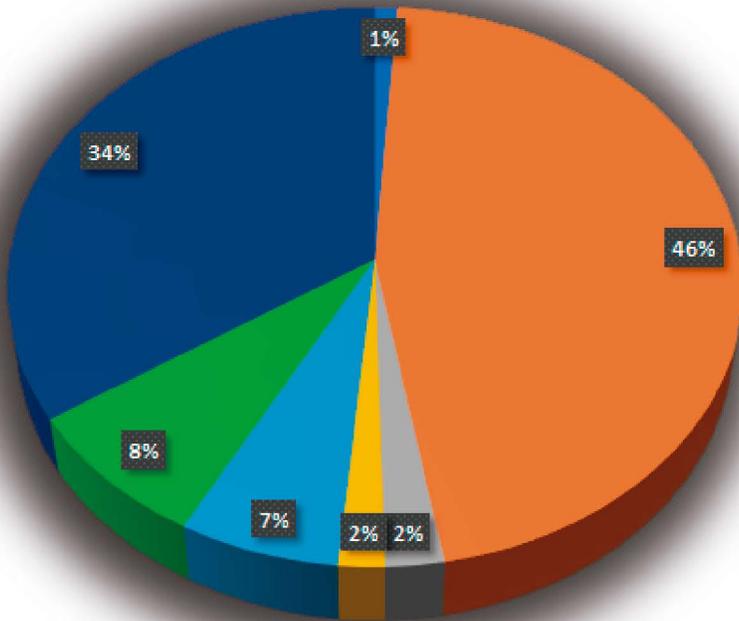
People reached on Instagram **+13K**

Views on YouTube **+34K**

Watch time **+900 hours**

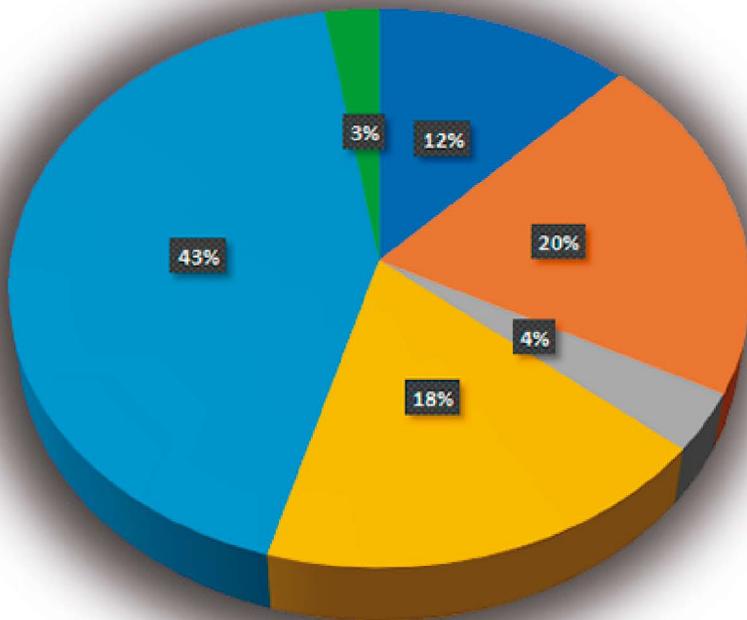
Tweet impressions **+60K**

FUNDS



EXPENSES

- Insurance
- In-Kind
- Office and Admin
- Occupancy
- Artists and Professional Fees
- Production
- Staff and Dancer Salaries and Benefits



INCOME

- Corporations
- Individuals
- Foundations
- Government
- In-Kind
- Earned Income

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



MEMBERSHIPS



MEDIA SPONSORS



COLLABORATIONS





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Chicago, Illinois 60625



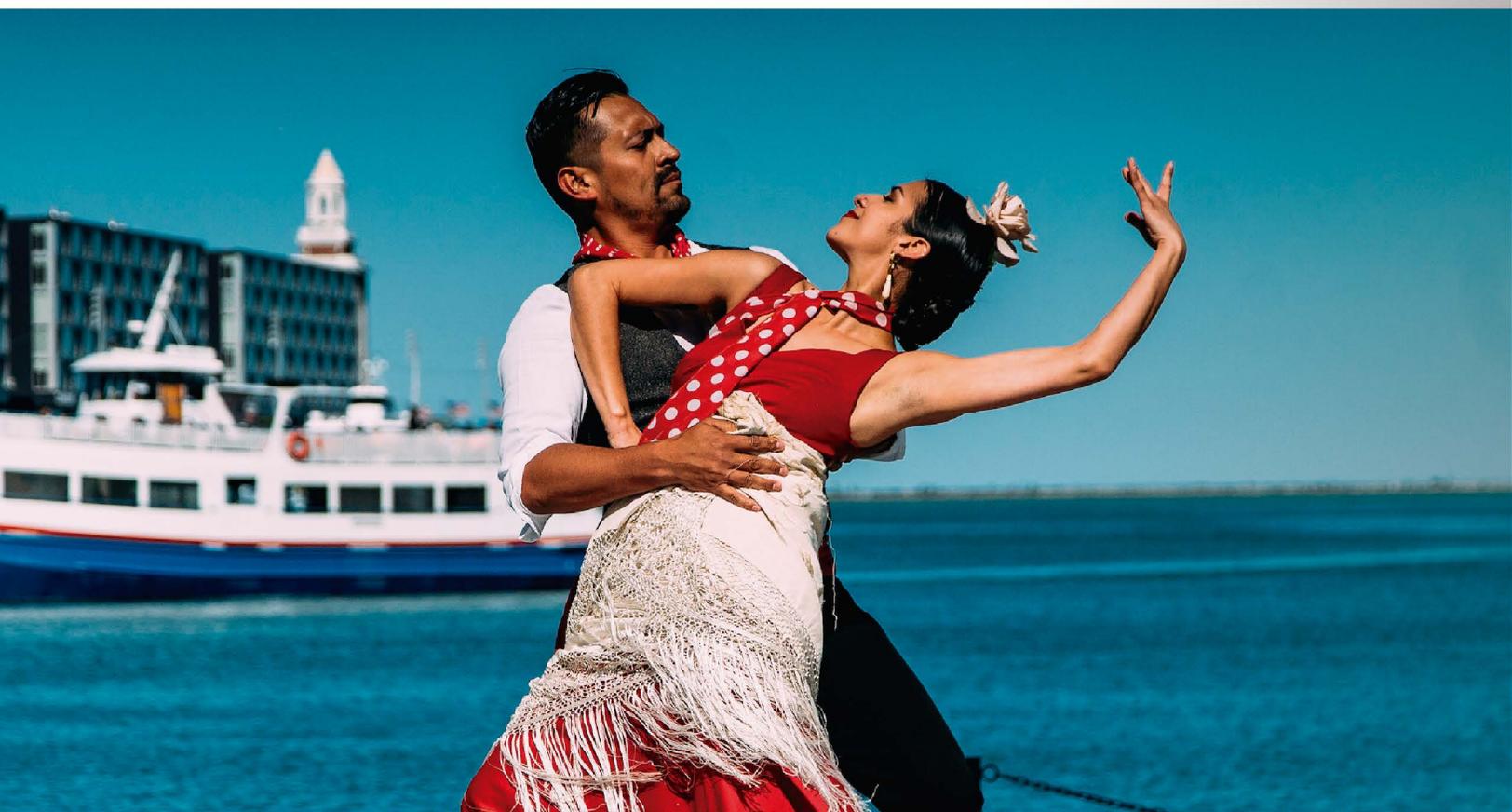
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EnsembleEspanol.org



ENSEMBLE
SPAÑOL ★
Spanish Dance Theater
IN RESIDENCE AT NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

The Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater celebrates Spain in America through performance, arts education, and community programs that bring the dance, music, and song of Spain to U.S. audiences. For over 45 years, the organization has shared the rich history and contemporary importance of culturally specific art, and maintains this commitment for artists, students, and art lovers the world over.