



2023

# IMPACT REPORT

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Greetings Friends and Family of the Ensemble,

Last year was another great banner year for the company. We opened our season working with the City of Chicago dancing at Navy Pier and celebrating the diversity of dance that our wonderful city has to offer. Our youth company began the season studying with the incomparable Afro-Flamenco artist Phylis Akiyni, Danish-Kenyan Flamenco dancer who is a Danish National Treasure. The company worked with several of Spanish Dance greats to include, Raquel Gómez, Carlos Rodríguez, Issac Tovar, Irene Lozano, Mercedes Ruiz & Santiago Lara and many more.

In addition, the educational department experienced significant growth in outreach as we added staff to support in school and community-based programming. And let's not forget the youth department, they have rebounded from the pandemic in a big way. Last year marked the return of 12 students to the youth company and they revived their end of season showcase and fundraiser where they raised more than \$10,000 towards their summer trip to Albuquerque to study at the National Institution of Flamenco.

None of these wonderful accomplishments could have been realized without your support. We extend our deepest gratitude to Ensemble's Company Artists, donors, subscribers, audience members, and persistent supporters—our **impact** would not be possible without you.

**Jorge Perez**

Executive & Associate  
Artistic Director

**Irma Suárez Ruiz**

Artistic Director

**Kim Grigsby**

Associate Executive Director

# MEET THE COMPANY



**Irma Suárez Ruiz**

Artistic Director



**Jorge Perez**

Executive & Associate  
Artistic Director



**Jose Torres**

Rehearsal Director



**Katrina Bartels**

Company Dancer



**Luis Beltran**

Company Dancer



**Catherine Beza**

Company Dancer



**Juan Carlos  
Castellon**

Company Dancer



**María Luján**

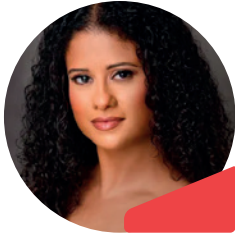
Company Dancer



**Samantha  
Micklewright**

Company Dancer

# MEET THE COMPANY



**Nalanie Molina**

Company Dancer



**Abigail Mosquera**

Company Dancer



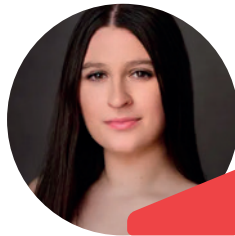
**Jonathan Pacheco**

Company Dancer



**Irene Sivianes  
Fernández**

Company Dancer



**Laila Galecki**

Apprentice



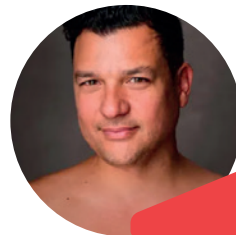
**Jocelyn Leving**

Apprentice



**Nestor Corona**

Guest Dancer



**Ronaldo Monge**

Guest Dancer

# STAFF



## Jorge Perez

Executive & Associate  
Artistic Director



## Irma Suárez Ruiz

Artistic Director



## Kim Grigsby

Associate Executive  
Director



## Patricia Mendez

Arts Education  
Outreach Coordinator



## Julia Hinojosa

Youth Company  
Artistic Director



## Patricia Aguilar

Marketing Director



## Miguel García

Marketing



## Claudia Moreno

Youth Company



## Brenda Rodriguez

Operations Executive  
Assistant



## Danielle Lafrancis

Administrative Assistant



## Hector Uriostegui

Administrative Assistant



## Carolina Ara

Human Resources



## Nalanie Molina

Dance Instructor



## Jose Torres

Rehearsal Director



## Kara Zimmerman

Ballet Instructor



## Wendy Clinard

Flamenco Instructor



## Claudia Moreno

Youth Company



## Martha Montes

Youth Company  
Conditioning



## Ann Fink

Public Relations  
Carol Fox & Associates



## Dustin Derry

Lighting Director



## Sarah Lackner

Production & Stage  
Manager



# GUEST ARTISTS



**Isaac Tovar**

Dancer & Choreographer



**Irene "La Chiqui" Lozano**

Dancer & Choreographer



**La Lupi**

Dancer & Choreographer



**Curro de María**

Guitarist & Composer



**Wendy Clinard**

Dancer & Choreographer



**Paco Fonta**

Guitarist & Singer



**José Moreno**

Dancer, Singer & Percussionist



**Patricia Ortega**

Singer



**David Chiriboga**

Guitarist



**Luis Galvez**

Singer



**Elisabet Torras**

Dancer & Choreographer



**Diego "El Negro" Alvarez**

Percussionist



**Carlos Rodríguez**

Dancer & Choreographer



**Raquel Gómez**

Dancer & Choreographer



**Antonio Najarro**

Choreographer



# BOARD



**Salme Harju  
Steinberg**  
President



**James Ramos**  
Vice President



**Jose Molina**  
Treasurer



**Gail Kalver**  
Secretary



**Dr. Shayne Cofer**  
NEIU Representative



**Sonya Dekhtyar**  
Chair - Youth  
Company Committee



**Daniel Contreras**  
Director



**Randy Kravitz**  
Director



**Santos Rivera, PhD**  
Director



**Jorge Perez**  
Director



**José Torres**  
Dancers  
Representative



**Danielle LaFrancis**  
Board Liaison





# YOUTH COMPANY

The Youth Company (YC) serves as the pre-professional training program to the organization's professional company. It's comprised of 2 divisions:

- **Youth Company Level 1:** Intermediate students age 10-16
- **Youth Company Level 2:** Advanced Students age 15 and up

YC parents and families actively participate and volunteer in company activities. The atmosphere at the YC is wholesome and supportive environment.

**Program highlights include:** Training with company artistic directors and staff · Training with guest artists from Spain and the U.S · Participating in structured SEL practices · Performance opportunities in the community · Performances with the professional company and guest artists · National & international touring opportunities · Additional benefits include costumes, castanets, shoes and accessories

Boasting 3 major performances throughout the past year, YC grew by more than 100%, from 8 dancers at the start of the year to 17 dancers at the end. Additionally, 2 YC alumni were promoted to the main Company. 3 YC dancers received full scholarships toward dance education for the year. Overall, YC dancers received over 130 hours of dance education throughout the year, not including Ensemble Español's Festival and summer programming.



## AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS

The Ensemble Español continues its year-round partnership with After School Matters alongside our resident partner, Northeastern Illinois University. Our professional dancers and educators help cultivate and support the program's teens to grow and develop in an intentional and meaningful way. By providing teens the opportunities to explore and advance their talents, they gain critical thinking all the while practicing hard and soft skills for work, college, and beyond.

During the past year, Ensemble Español served 8 students through our Flamenco Dance & Art program, targeting students from grades 9 - 12.



## SCHOOL RESIDENCIES

These residencies are suitable for kindergarten through high school levels, and are typically based on an eight weeks schedule. During the past year, Ensemble Español served 49 students across grades K - 4 and 9 - 12.

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

Spanning students from Pre-K through grade 12, Ensemble Español served over 4600 students through the Ritmos de España and Spain's Dancing Rhythms programs.



# EDUCATION 2023

210

**Bailamos Residencies**  
TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED

46

**Ritmos Unidos**  
TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED

8308

**Performances  
+ Lectures**  
TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED

42

**After School Matters**  
TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED

# FUNDS

## INCOME

Contributions, Gifts & Grants  
**\$1,238,179.72**

Program Services  
**\$175,959.47**

Total Revenue  
**\$1,414,139.19**

## EXPENSES

Office & Admin 8%  
Artists & Professional Fees 33%  
Salaries & Benefits 39%  
In-Kind 7%  
Insurance 4%  
Production 3%  
Occupancy 6%



# STATEMENT OF **ACTIVITIES**



Working with  
Raquel Gómez



Chicago Flamenco  
Festival 2023



Working with Caro  
Acuña-Olvera



Flavors Festival of  
Youth Dance



Working with  
Carlos Rodríguez



Center Stage  
at Ruth Page



Working with  
Irene Lozano



Flamenco  
Tablao Nights



Working with  
Diego Alvarez



Ainadamar  
Detroit Opera



Flamenco y  
sus raíces



Flamenco  
Passion 2023



Dance Divas  
Chicago Dance



Negocios Now  
Chicago Gala



Working with  
Phyllis Akinyi



Working with  
Isaac Tovar



Tales of Spain  
Concerts



Chicago Live!  
at Navy Pier



Santiago Lara and  
Mercedes Ruiz



Workshop  
with José Díaz



TEDx Chicago with  
David Chiriboga



Chicago Latino  
Dance Festival



Working with  
Antonio Najarro



Welcoming  
Joaquín Cortés



Holiday Concert  
at NEIU



# PARTNERS & SPONSORS



## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTNERS





## CONTACT US

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