



IMPACT REPORT

Together, we are building a legacy that will inspire for decades to come.



LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends of Cleo Parker Robinson Dance,

As 2025 ends, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our donors, staff, artists, partners, and community. Your support sustains our mission and ensures that dance continues to inspire, educate and unite us.

This year, we partnered with **216 schools and reached more than 26,000 students**, focusing on underserved communities. Through these partnerships, young people discovered joy, confidence, and self-expression. Our Dancing with the Denver Stars Gala was another highlight, **raising over \$193,000** to support Arts-in-Education programs that continue to change lives.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to open our new wing in January 2026. This expansion represents not just growth in our physical footprint but also our vision for the future. This new chapter will give us the capacity to expand our programming, nurture the next generation of dancers, and deepen CPRD's role as a cultural leader while ensuring CPRD's legacy of excellence and cultural leadership endures for generations to come.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without you. Your belief in our mission fuels our ability to create, to teach, and to inspire.

With the greater opportunity of our new space comes greater responsibility — to expand our network of support, raise more funding, and welcome even more dancers into our programs. We're so grateful for your past support, and hope you'll continue to grow alongside us in this exciting new chapter.

Together, we will continue honoring Cleo's legacy while building a future filled with artistic excellence, cultural leadership, and meaningful community impact. Thank you for your generosity, partnership, and trust.

With gratitude and excitement for the future,

Gwen Brewer



Gwen Brewer

Photo Credit: Martha Wirth



BY THE NUMBERS

This year, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance has had bold growth — record breaking events, expanded programs, and the progress of our new building. With that growth comes responsibility: to honor our legacy, reach more communities, and deepen our impact. In this report, you'll see how we're doing just that — with your support at the center.

26,435
unduplicated academy students served

24 
youth and junior youth ensemble members

 **15**
paid interns
up from 11 in the prior season

216 
schools served
up from 96 last year

 **33**
cities toured reaching
11,581 new patrons

4.8 OUT OF 5

teacher satisfaction rating
with our programs

“Thank you for creating this amazing space for expression in Colorado! ...goose-bump inducing.”

LETTER FROM CLEO PARKER ROBINSON

Warmest greetings to you all.

Each year it gives me joy to share some of the events that have shaped yet another incredible year, and this year is no exception!

Led by our President and CEO, Malik Robinson, our Administrative and Technical Staff, Academy Faculty, Board of Directors, and the brilliant artists of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble (CPRDE), Cleo II, and our Youth Ensembles all demonstrate absolute dedication to our mission and to presenting excellence within the local, national, and global communities that we serve. In this year of constant change within our existing workspaces, everyone has exhibited amazing adaptivity – knowing the dream of our Healing Center for the Arts is so close to becoming a reality that uplifts us all!

This has been an exceptionally creative year! Our Spring 2025 concert “Unstoppable Legacy” featured two world premieres: “Internal Landscapes” by our Associate Artistic Director, Winifred R. Harris, and “...the way, I AM on” by Hope Boykin. Our Fall 2025 concert “Bolero” featured the reprise, after 21 years, of the title work by renowned choreographer, Christopher L. Huggins. CPRDE alum, Lisa Johnson-Willingham, premiered “For All Time-Always” as the first recipient of the Tom Robinson Innovation Fund, supporting the creation of new works. Members of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company joined us, performing Winifred R. Harris’, “Shadows Just Before”, with the two companies combining in our signature work “Raidance” with 21 dancers together on stage! As part of this incredible Homecoming week, over 40 alumnae of Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble joined us for a celebration of our 55-year legacy!

This summer was exceptional for me personally, spending seven weeks at the Sacatar Institute in Brazil, allowing me much-needed time for contemplation and assessment. Reviewing 55 years of my journals, teaching in the community and interacting with my fellow artists at the Institute, gave me a fresh perspective on the legacy we have created as an organization and the vision that is moving us forward.

I find myself continually renewed and uplifted as we give voice to our young people, our families, our elders – elevating each of us through the power, passion, and beauty of the arts. It is my hope that each of you will remain strong in mind, body, and spirit as we advance with a heightened sense of purpose - sharing peace, love, and respect.

In the Spirit of Dance,



Photo Credit (above) : Martha Wirth
Photo Credit (left): 2025 Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Archives

Photo Credits: Liz Levy

Cleo



WHERE ART AND LEARNING MEET

CPRD brings dance directly into schools and communities, inspiring creativity, confidence, and cultural awareness.

Highlight: MENTAL HEALTH IS WEALTH PROGRAM

Participating schools (Denver)

- Emily Griffith Technical College
- Hill Middle School
- Northfield High School
- Denver School of the Arts
- DSST Cedar High School
- DSST Green Valley High School
- DSST Elevate North High School
- DSST Montview
- East High School
- Denver Online High School
- Thomas Jefferson High School

“I’m so grateful to have been brought up in this community. I don’t think I would be the person or dancer I am today without it.”

2025 AT-A-GLANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Because of your support, the next generation of artists is already taking the stage. Together, we are building a legacy that will inspire for decades to come.

30+

exclusive rights to iconic African American dance works spanning 100 years

35

Colorado performances
10-city national tour

60+

weekly movement classes
+ job fairs, vaccination clinics, and health screenings

216

schools reached through arts-in-education programs (Special Events & Performances)

Photo Credit: J. Benjamin Burney



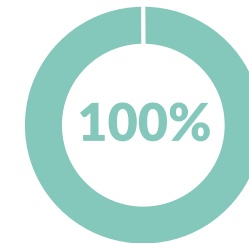
"I feel better communicating my feelings because at CPRD I practice that which makes me feel better doing it everywhere else."

SPOTLIGHT: THE ACADEMY & TRAINING TRACK

Cleo

Nurturing the Next Generation of Artists

Through the Academy and Training Track, we're nurturing the next generation of artists and leaders. Young dancers gain more than technique – they discover resilience, confidence, and belonging. Many go on to perform, teach, and lead, carrying forward a legacy of artistry and cultural connection.



of Training Track students surveyed noted improvements in their dance technique.



scholarships for academy and summer camp students awarded this year

AVG 5 OUT OF 5 ★★★★★

"I feel more connected to dance"

"I know it is important for me to care about how other people feel"

"I feel close to the people at Cleo Parker Robinson Dance"

"I want to continue Training Track with Cleo Parker Robinson Dance"

–Academy Training Track Students

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Cleo Village,

The year in review is always a wonderful opportunity for a Sankofa moment, a time for reflection as we take a deep breath and fly forward. With our headquarters located in the Historic Shorter African Methodist Episcopal Church, I am very mindful of the fact that exactly 100 years ago, the congregation had come together to rebuild the church – a sanctuary for community – after the original edifice on this site was destroyed by arson. Also, by 1925, the Harlem Renaissance, an artist-led movement to hold us as a country accountable to our stated democratic values, was certifiable. CPRD holds these two legacies faithfully and it is both an honor and quite surreal to be working on an expansion project that melds the two movements together.

As 2025 comes to a close, we are thrilled to see the dream of a new building come to life. We know how important it is to have a home to grow family, celebrate traditions and start new ones. A cultural home is no different and the community has come together to make it a reality. While our construction partners have been toiling on the new building, our staff has been working through construction schedules to not only deliver programs but expand programming to meet the needs of community during even more unsettling times of uncertainty. For example, so far this year, we have served a record 200+ schools through a menu of arts-in-education services. These meaningful connections enabled us to bring the transformative power of dance to thousands of students, fostering self-expression, connection, and joy.

Our work does not end when the bell rings. The CPRD Academy and Wellness programs, operating during after-school and summer hours, continue to support students with more specialized engagement over extended periods of time. At the top of the year, the Youth Ensemble traveled for the first time to the International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, and they continued to train and perform over the course of the year most recently exuding excellence performing for the Four Mile Historic Park Harvest Festival. Investing in the future of the creative and wellness sectors, CPRD proudly provided paid internships to 21 youth each working 100+ hours with us and our employer partners. These invaluable opportunities not only strengthen our creative community but also empower the next generation to pursue education and careers in technology, arts and wellness fields. During the last legislative session, our Arts-in-Wellness team worked with 42 young people preparing them to testify for three separate bills that successfully passed the House of Representatives and will have impact on education and financial literacy!

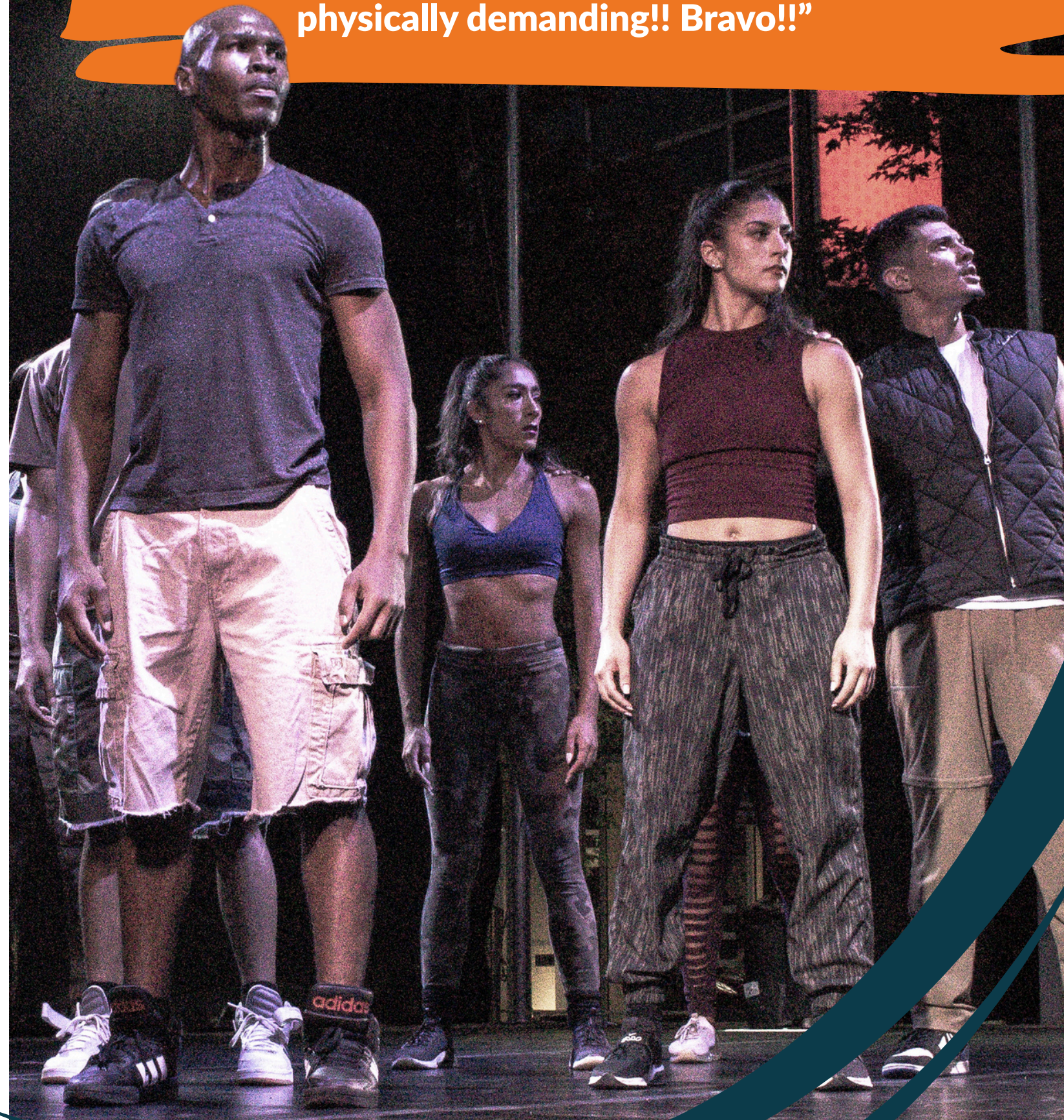
Without question, the CPRD arts-in-education pillar is the bedrock of the organization and at the same time, the CPRD Ensemble is the heart and soul of this institution. This year, the Ensemble premiered new works by Hope Boykin and Winifred Harris and in celebration of the 55th anniversary restaged the sensually riveting Bolero by Christopher Huggins. Looking ahead to 2026, we are preparing for a Grand Opening celebration with performances featuring the Ensemble before they embark on their national tour. We're eager to carry this exciting momentum into the new Center for the Healing Arts and explore new ways to uplift our community and advance the arts for all. With your continued partnership, we'll continue working in earnest to cultivate minds and bodies across the lifespan. Thank you for being part of the CPRD legacy of artistic excellence and civic engagement.

With deep gratitude,



Malik Robinson

Cleo
“The performances made me happy!!
Captivating, wonderful, powerful, and
physically demanding!! Bravo!!”



LOOKING AHEAD: VISION & INVITATION

Expanding our Vision

In the season ahead, we'll premiere bold new performances, expand programs that inspire, and welcome more young dancers into the Academy. With this growth comes new responsibility — to reach more artists, engage more audiences, and deepen our community impact.

Our new 25,000-square-foot wing — opening January 15–18, 2026 — will connect to our historic building, anchoring CPRD's future in Five Points for generations to come.

The space will feature:

- Full ADA accessibility
- A state-of-the-art theatre
- A welcoming reception area
- 4 new rehearsal studios
- Office space

Projected growth:

- Theatre Patrons:
10,000 → 22,000+
- Academy Students:
1,200 → 2,500+
- Arts-in-Education Students:
15,000 → 30,000+



Photo Credit: Martha Wirth



“Each instructor had so much insight and knowledge to share which made each class a new learning experience. I felt personal growth within each class and got specific corrections/advice that I can take into other classes and dance genres. I felt seen and supported by each instructor.”

OUR LEGACY IN MOTION

40+ countries toured

100+ original works produced and commissioned

150+ national & international teachers hosted in Denver

1,000,000+ students served through education programs



Photo Credit: David Andrews

2025 FINANCIALS

Cleo

ANNUAL REVENUE

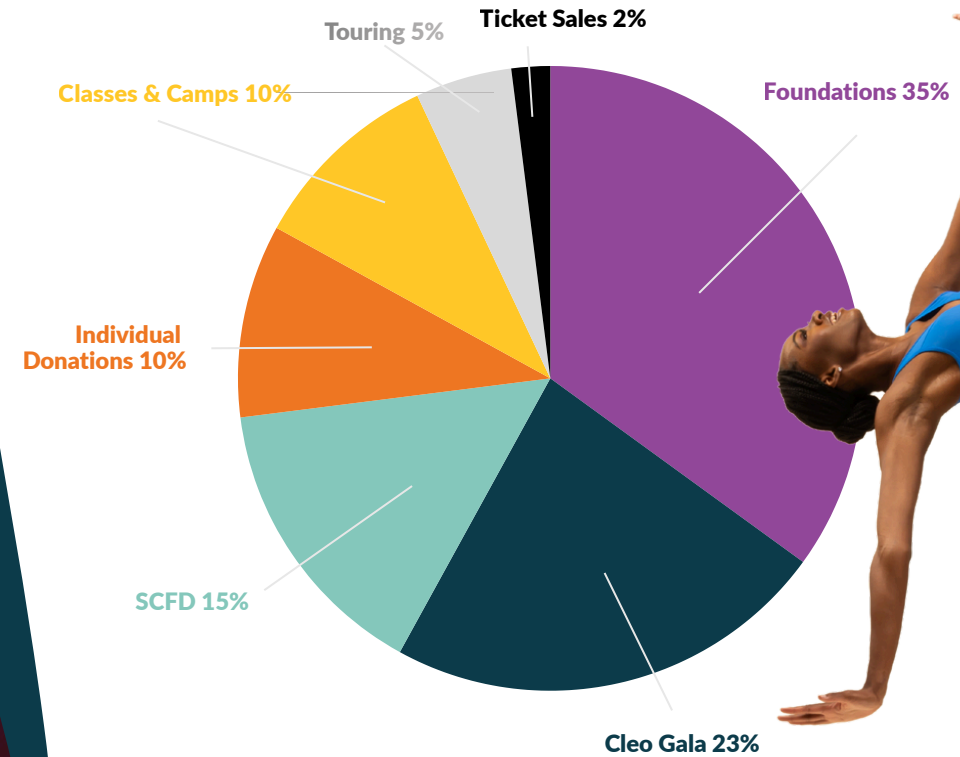
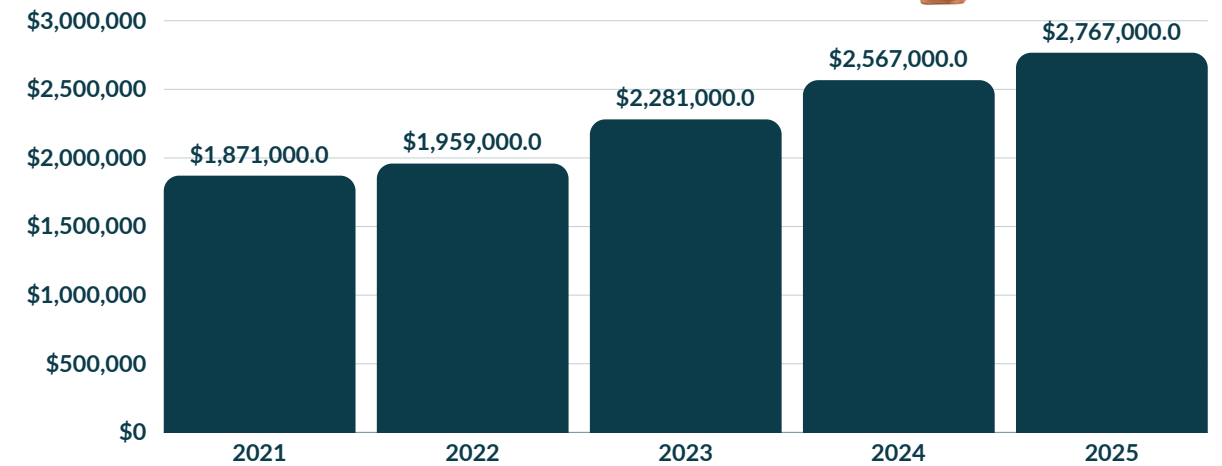


Photo Credit: Martha Wirth

CPRD ANNUAL BUDGET GROWTH



“I’m so grateful for the community Cleo has built over the years and for creating such an inclusive and welcoming space for people to come together and move.”

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We recognize and thank the many individuals, companies, and organizations whose partnership sustains and advances Cleo Parker Robinson Dance from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025.

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Thank You for Fueling the Movement

We regret any mistakes in names and affiliations. Please contact us with corrections for updates to our digital edition.

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Anonymous (2)

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COCETA

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