



The Barre Where Everyone Knows your Name Ballet Austin Recognized Among Best Places to Work

WHO: Ballet Austin
WHAT: Ranked Among “Best Places to Work in Central Texas”
WHEN: Announced at 11 am, May 21

AUSTIN, TX – Ballet Austin was today recognized as one of the “Best Places to Work in Central Texas” at the *Austin Business Journal*’s annual luncheon at the AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center. The arts organization was awarded the 9th place honor (out of 25) in the medium sized business category.

Each year, the *Austin Business Journal* asks area workers—by confidential survey—if they are engaged at work, if they feel a part of a team atmosphere, if their employers provide an environment that enables them to do what they do best and enjoy their careers, among other things. Ballet Austin employees enjoy such benefits as free dance and movement classes, a baby/dog-friendly environment, tickets to performances, executive coaching and team-building workshops, and the post-Nutcracker week of December 23 – January 2 off with pay. Close to 100% of Ballet Austin’s 50 employees participated in the survey.

Ballet Austin was acknowledged alongside dozens of other central Texas organizations such as Bazaarvoice, Cirrus Logic, Convio, Goodwill Industries, HomeAway.com, Keller Williams Realty International, milk + honey spa, Ralph Lauren, Seton Family of Hospitals, and The Lance Armstrong Foundation. The organization has been named by the *Austin Business Journal* among one of the “Top 25 Non-Profit Organizations” (out of 4000 nominated) each year since 1999 and was the only arts non-profit awarded “Best Places to Work” this year.

As a thriving and comprehensive dance/movement center, the organization offers a 5-production season cast with a full time professional company and apprentice company, runs the largest academy affiliated with a professional ballet company, operates the popular Butler Dance School with open classes in dance/ fitness/ movement/ Pilates/etc. six days a week, runs a costume shop and a 275-seat venue, all staffed by administrative, artistic, and production teams under one roof in downtown Austin.

The organization is widely respected in the local community and national dance industry as a progressive leader. Other recent awards include:

BALLET *Austin*

- *The Audrey and Raymond Maislin Humanitarian Award* by the Anti Defamation League for *Light / The Holocaust & Humanity Project*.
- Austin Community Foundation's "Merriweather Award" for the Outstanding Project of the year.
- *Trailblazer Award* by the Texas Commission on the Arts for the most innovative program in the state.
- Currently ranked #1 arts institution by the City of Austin Cultural Contracts funding program.
- Downtown Austin Alliance *IMPACT Organization Award* winner.
- American Society of Interior Design's *Design Excellence Award*—Best of Show
- *Best of Austin – Arts & Entertainment: The Austin Chronicle*
- 2008 *Best Real Estate Awards*—Architectural Design Winner: *Austin Business Journal*

Ballet Austin

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes people near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the democratization of dance. From their bustling, urban headquarters at the Butler Dance Education Center and Community School in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and artistic director Stephen Mills actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. With a rich history spanning 53 years, a commitment to education as well as lifelong fitness, and acclaimed productions in Austin and across the nation, the organization is equally committed to the international craft of dance as it is to the community it serves. *The New York Times* proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is "absorbing."

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