

# Ballet & Books

BRINGING TOGETHER LITERACY AND  
DANCE THROUGH MENTORSHIP

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# About Ballet and Books

## Videos

- [Summary Cumulative Video](#)
- [Colgate Video](#)

## Media Features

- [Cincinnati Feature](#) Movers&Makers
- [Pointe Magazine](#) - First Feature
- [Pointe Magazine](#) - Second Feature
- [Forbes](#)
- [Cornell Chronicle](#)
- [Cornell Sun Feature](#)
- [Ballet to Business Podcast](#)
- [Ithaca Feature](#)
- [Cheddar U Feature](#)
- [American Library Association](#)
- [Radio Interview](#)

## Academic Articles on Ballet & Books

- Undergraduate Journal of Service Learning and Community
  - Based Research:  
<https://ujslcbr.org/index.php/ujslcbr/article/view/343/311>
- The International Undergraduate Journal For Service-Learning, Leadership, and Social Change:  
<https://opus.govst.edu/iujsl/vol10/iss1/7/>



# Our Founding

Our founder and Executive Director, Talia Bailes, grew up dancing in Cincinnati and going on to teach dance at the Rockdale Academy in Avondale. She spent her gap year before college teaching English in Ecuador. There she noticed, her student's literacy levels were low, but their ability to storytell through dance and music was phenomenal. After coming home, she conducted research with Dr. John Hutton to study how literacy at young ages improves a child's future. These experiences inspired Ballet and Books: the benefits of teaching movement through dance. Talia brought this idea with her to college and started the first chapter in Ithaca, NY. Now, we have 8 chapters nationwide and are excited to strengthen them and start more in new communities in the upcoming year.



# Mission Statement

Ballet and Books is a national, non-profit organization striving to reduce the literacy gap through the hybrid storytelling of dance and reading. In our extracurricular programming led by college students, we provide 3-9 year olds with an opportunity to improve their literacy skills through a combination of dance instruction and dialogic reading.



# Foundational Values

## Innovative Approach

### **EDUCATION**

Through dialogic reading, we encourage a greater love of learning and reading skills improvement in 3-9 year old students.

### **CONFIDENCE**

Through dance, we foster a sense of confidence and leadership skills among both young children and college students.

### **COMMUNITY**

Through mentorship and dance, we bridge the gap between universities and the community's youth.

### **DIVERSITY**

Through thoughtful representation, we embody the importance of diverse identities in dance.

# Impact

## Lasting Effect on Families, Mentors, Children

### Reflecting

- Over 450 3-to-9 year old children served
- Over 300 college and high school students engaged
- Serving 8 low-income communities nationwide

*“ You provide an incredible program. We sincerely appreciate all that Lily has experienced and learned. She sees herself as a ballerina and that is thanks to Ballet & Books”*

- Ballet & Books parent

### Looking Forward

- Set to start the Columbia University chapter in Spring of 2023
- Set to reach 100+ new college and high school students in the 2022-2023 year
- Set to reach 100+ new 3-9 year old students in the 2022-2023 year
- 2-3 new chapters in Fall 2023

# B&B Testimonials

## Mentor Blog Posts

- [Mentor Spotlight: Judy](#)
- [Mentor Spotlight: Amanda](#)
- [Mentor Spotlight: Kayla](#)

## Parent Blog Posts

- [Mentee Spotlight: Gemma](#)
- [Mentee Spotlight: Perla](#)
- [Mentee Spotlight: Anabelle](#)



# B&B Testimonials

"Ballet and Books ... has allowed me to develop and strengthen my leadership skills, given me incredible friends, gave me a sense of belonging that is so critical in college, and most of all, given me the satisfaction of giving back to the Ithaca community that has become my home for the past four years."

~Amanda, Ithaca Chapter

A big takeaway after working with Ballet & Books is that you're never done working with Ballet & Books. It has been about a year since I was on the E-Board team of the Ithaca chapter and longer since I've been a mentor. My mentee has also graduated from the program. Yet since then, I have contributed to the curriculum design of the Ballet & Books Summer 2020 program and am still meeting with my mentee on a weekly basis all these years later.

~Judy, Ithaca Chapter

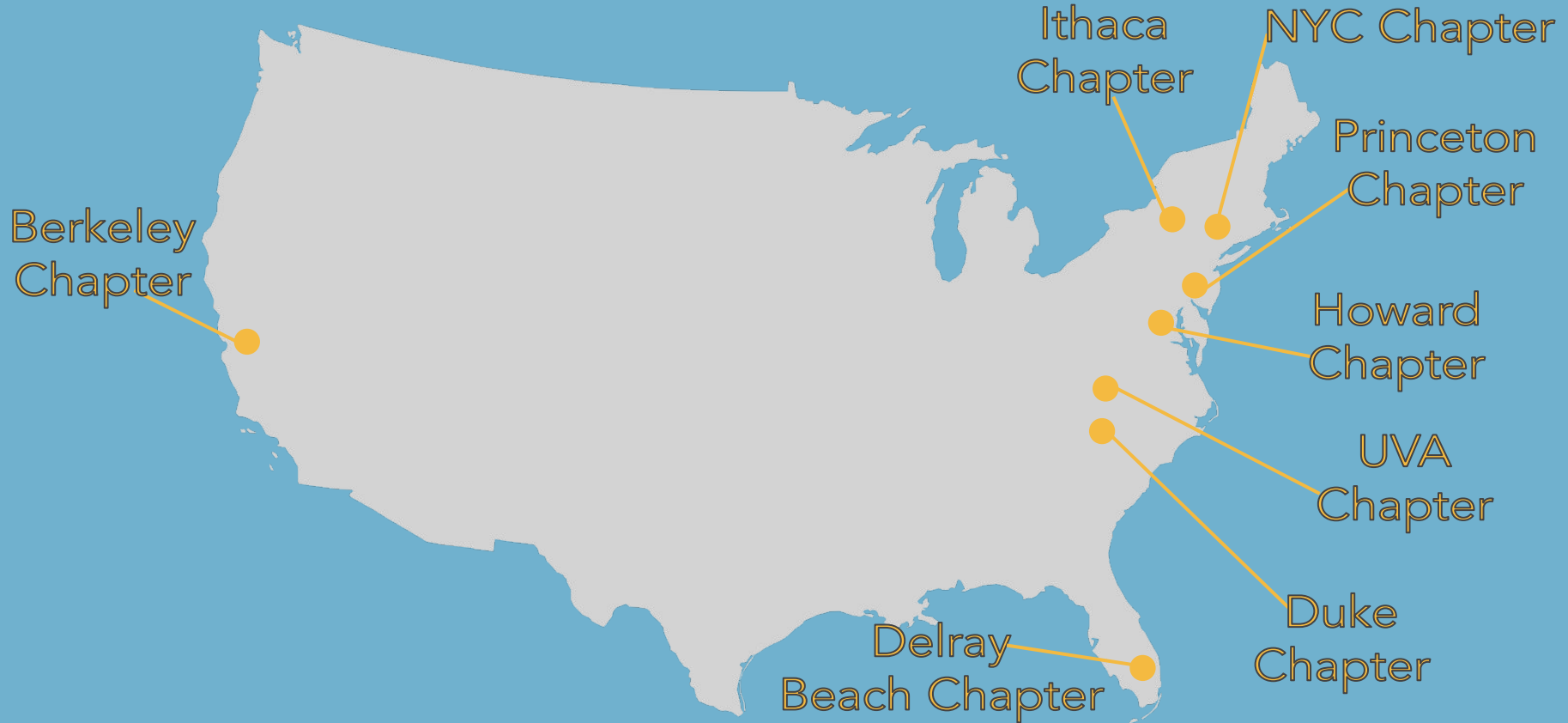
This program not only helped the kids grow; it also helped me. The energy of my mentee brought a light to my life at a time where things were very overwhelming and taught me that nothing going on in my life should ever have the power to keep me down. I am very grateful for the experiences and lessons Ballet & Books has given me this semester.

~Kayla, Howard Chapter

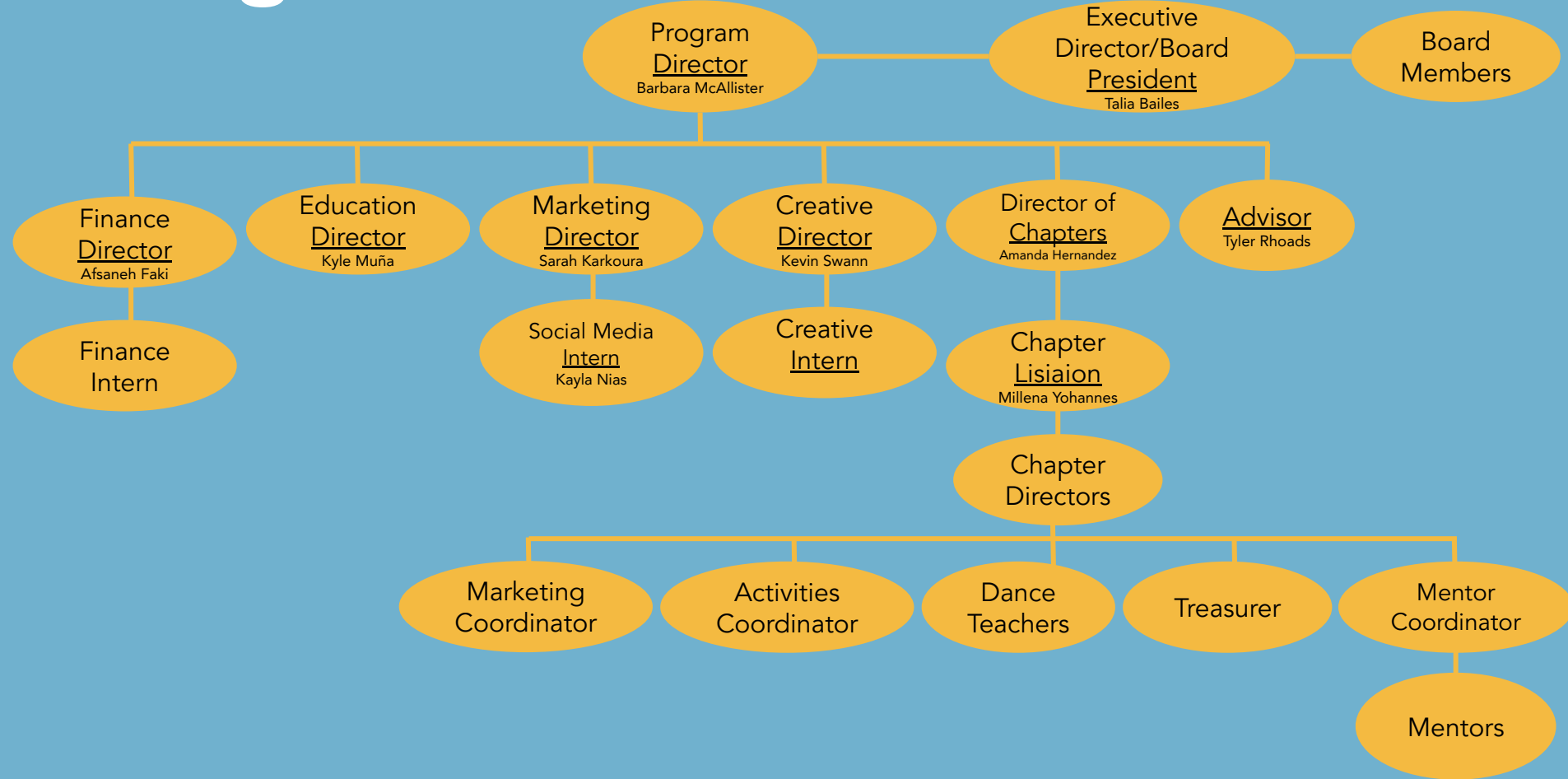


# Locations

Universities and communities Nationwide



# Organizational Chart





**Talia Bailes**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meet Talia



**Kevin Swann**  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Meet Kevin



**Barbara McAlister**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Meet Barbara



**Sarah Karkoura**  
MARKETING DIRECTOR

Meet Sarah



**Afsaneh Faki**  
FINANCE DIRECTOR

Meet Afsaneh



**Millena Yohannes**  
CHAPTER LIAISON

Meet Millena



**Kyle Muña**  
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Meet Kyle



**Amanda Hernandez**  
CHAPTER LIAISON

Meet Amanda



**Tyler Rhoads**  
ADVISOR

Meet Tyler

# Meet the Team

# 2022 Key Accomplishments

- Successfully starting 1 new chapter while continuing 7 others
- Publishing our children's book, [When We Read](#)
- Hiring and onboarding a Master of Fine Arts as our Program Director
- Surpassing our goal for both of our semi-annual fundraisers



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GTM STRATEGY

## When We Read

Prepared for National Team & Internal Stakeholders  
Lead Sarah Karkoura