

THE  
ROSIN  
BOX  
PROJECT



**Impact Report  
2025**

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# BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Salutations!

This year marks my first serving as Board Chair of The Rosin Box Project, and it offered me a front-row seat to the remarkable evolution of a company that continues to challenge expectations of what ballet can be and who it is for. Throughout the year, I was continually struck by TRBP's ability to pair artistic excellence with organizational intention. Together, the company has been able to create work that is both daring and deeply human.

The 2025 season, AXIOM, felt like a declaration. It affirmed TRBP's belief that contemporary ballet is not static, but a dynamic discipline shaped by the artists who create it and the audiences who experience it. From spring through fall, performances invited audiences into intimate, immersive, and emotionally resonant spaces. Whether celebrating the power of women's creative voices, premiering new choreographic works, or transforming performance into a fully embodied theatrical experience, each production reinforced TRBP's commitment to innovation and artistic integrity. Yet what made this year especially meaningful was not only what happened on stage, but what happened beyond.

Throughout 2025, The Rosin Box Project continued to strengthen its role as a community-rooted organization. Through education and outreach efforts, TRBP artists stepped into community spaces and inviting them into the language of movement. These moments of connection remind us that dance is not only something to be watched, but something that can be shared, questioned, and felt collectively. Behind the scenes, the organization also experienced important growth. With the support of generous donors, institutional partners, and public funders, TRBP continued to build a stable foundation for the future. The Board of Directors worked closely with artistic and administrative leadership to strengthen governance, advance equity and accessibility, and ensure that the company's values are reflected not just in each performance, but in its nonprofit practice.

What I find most inspiring about The Rosin Box Project is its clarity of purpose. This is an organization unafraid to ask hard questions, to center in on the wellbeing of their dancers, and to imagine ballet as a tool for connection rather than convention. In a time when the arts are often asked to justify their relevance, TRBP answers not with words, but with work that resonates, challenges, and stays with you. As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with momentum and intention. There is more to build, more voices to uplift, and more communities to reach. The path forward is ambitious, but it is one we walk with confidence because of the creativity of our artists, the dedication of our leadership, and the belief of everyone who has chosen to support this organization.

To our artists, audiences, donors, partners, and volunteers: thank you for being part of this journey. Your trust and commitment make it possible for The Rosin Box Project to continue imagining what's next. With gratitude,

*Michael Angelo Camacho*

**Michael Angelo Camacho,**  
Board Chair  
The Rosin Box Project



# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR REPORT

I am honored to reflect on the incredible momentum of our 2025 Season—a year that deepened The Rosin Box Project’s role as an incubator for bold contemporary ballet, a trusted partner in our community, and a home for artists and audiences seeking connection, curiosity, and courage. This past season affirmed not only what TRBP is today, but what we are becoming: a company shaping the future of ballet from right here in San Diego.

Artistically, we continued to prioritize new creation at the heart of our work. We welcomed nationally and internationally recognized choreographic voices alongside our resident artists, investing in the kind of rigorous, imaginative collaboration that has become a TRBP hallmark. New works challenged conventions of storytelling, musicality, and form—whether through intimate, human-centered narratives or expansive, cinematic worlds—while centering the dancers’ individuality and the powerful emotional resonance they bring to the stage. These creations built on the artistic foundation laid in previous seasons and pushed us further, affirming our commitment to commissioning and nurturing choreographers at all stages of their careers.

Our core performance programs—Empower, DEBUTS, and Ghost Light Masquerade—continued to anchor the season and evolve in exciting ways. Empower resurfaced as a platform for underrepresented choreographic voices, amplifying stories and perspectives that are too often missing from the contemporary ballet canon. DEBUTS further solidified its place as a gateway for audiences to experience TRBP in a more traditional theatre setting without sacrificing the immersive, imaginative spirit that defines our work; through inventive staging, rich musical collaborations, and daring new choreography, we invited audiences to encounter ballet in fresh and unexpected ways. Ghost Light Masquerade once again transformed performance into an immersive event, blending dance, design, and atmosphere to create a singular, theatrical experience that has quickly become a beloved San Diego tradition.

Beyond our mainstage work, TRBP’s presence continued to ripple across the region through touring performances, collaborations, such as Unified Harmonies presented at The Conrad in partnership with Art of Elan, and our growing body of dance film. Our IN FOCUS initiative carried our artistry into the cinematic realm, allowing us to reach audiences far beyond the walls of any venue and to document the ephemeral nature of dance in new and compelling formats. These projects, along with invitations to perform and partner with peer institutions and festivals, underscored the increasing recognition of TRBP as a company whose work resonates on both local and national levels.

Equally vital to our mission is the impact we create offstage. This year, we expanded our outreach and education programs to meet communities where they are—bringing contemporary ballet into schools, parks, libraries, hospitals, and public spaces across San Diego. Through programs like Dance Out Loud!, Out of the Box, and our growing in-school residencies, we engaged students, educators, and families with movement experiences that center creativity, self-expression, and belonging. We also began deepening our wellness-focused work with partners in the healthcare sector, exploring how dance can support mental health, connection, and relief for those serving on the front lines of our community’s care. Across all of these efforts, we remained dedicated to reducing barriers to participation, offering free and low-cost programming, subsidized tickets, and accessible entry points for first-time arts participants.

At every level—from the studio to the stage to the neighborhoods we serve—this season reflected the power of collaboration. Our artists, staff, Board of Directors, production partners, volunteers, donors, and audiences each played a critical role in making this work possible. Their belief in TRBP’s vision allowed us not only to sustain our programming in a challenging arts landscape, but to continue growing with intentionality, integrity, and care.

As we look ahead, I am filled with excitement and gratitude. The Rosin Box Project is more than a performance company; it is a living, evolving ecosystem of artists and community members who believe that contemporary ballet can be a catalyst for dialogue, healing, and change. Thank you for walking alongside us, for trusting us with your time and resources, and for believing in the future we are building together. Because of you, TRBP can continue to imagine—and embody—what is possible when dance is created and shared with openness, bravery, and heart.



**Carly Topazio,**  
Artistic Director, CEO, Founder



# 2025 SEASON: AXIOM

2025 Season Concert Reel





# OUR STORY SO FAR

## Our Mission

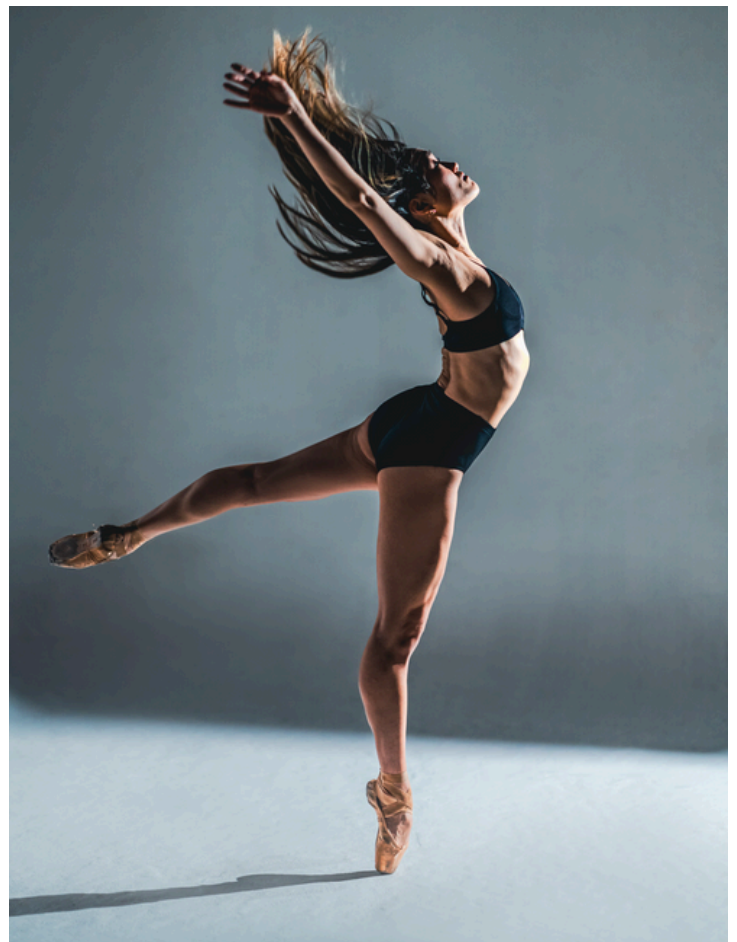
To elevate and enrich the arts in the San Diego community and beyond through;

- A contemporary ballet company that encourages artistic growth and exploration, fostering a nurturing and equitable environment to amplify artistic voices reflective of our contemporary world,
- Uniquely curated and visceral performance experiences considering the human condition, presented in an approachable and accessible way,
- Innovative artistic experiences presented to the greater San Diego audience and beyond that set new standards for artistic excellence, innovation, and creativity,
- Educating and developing dance artists as well as enthusiasts to create a connected community of belonging,
- An inclusion of a diverse community of voices and advancing equity in dance to captivate a devoted, supportive, continually growing, and diverse audience.

2025 IS TRBP'S  
**EIGHTH**  
SEASON  
**6TH YEAR**  
AS A 501(C)(3)

## Our Vision

To reimagine the way artists and audiences connect with and experience dance.



# OUR VALUES

The Rosin Box Project's values support our vision. They shape our culture and our decision-making processes. Our values inform our strategies and align our board members, staff and volunteers, guiding us in how we serve our communities and what we want to contribute to the people of our contemporary world.

## **Serve and Center Community**

The Rosin Box Project prioritizes community well-being by offering transformative dance experiences in San Diego, emphasizing representation, collaboration, and innovation to foster social change.

## **Reflect and Nurture**

The Rosin Box Project thrives by mirroring community diversity and nurturing artists, involving audiences in performances, and treating all with compassion and empathy to foster a nurturing and inclusive artistic environment.

## **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility**

The Rosin Box Project commits to inclusivity by actively embracing diverse people and ideas, dismantling internal inequities, and promoting external positive change through its policies and practices.

## **Respect and Trust**

The Rosin Box Project builds trust by listening attentively, engaging authentically, and fostering respectful and transparent relationships with artists, audiences, and partners.

## **Innovate and Inspire**

Through dance, The Rosin Box Project transcends traditional boundaries and inspires innovation and creativity, constantly reimagining dance experiences and setting new artistic standards.

## **Accountability and Sustainability**

The Rosin Box Project promotes a culture of accountability and sustainability, focusing on adaptability, excellence, and resource stewardship to support organizational growth and efficiency.



Photo Jim Carmody  
Brian Bennett and Guest Choreographer Ching Ching Wong in rehearsal

# OUR STORY SO FAR

FIFTY THREE  
**PREMIERES**  
COMMISSIONED

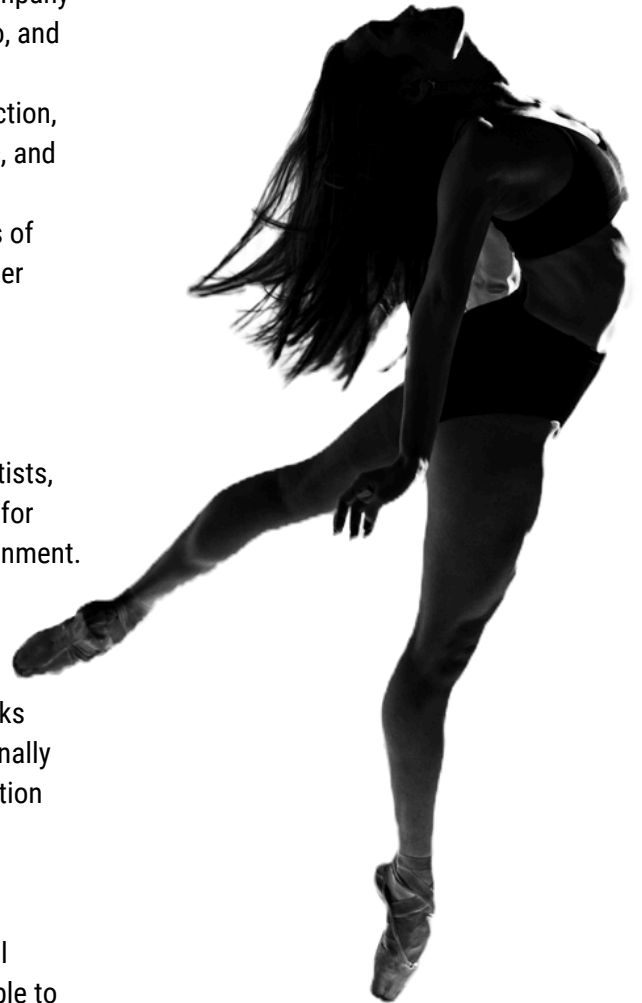
The Rosin Box Project is primarily a creation-based contemporary ballet company led by Artistic Director and CEO, Carly Topazio. Founded in 2018 by Topazio, and officially incorporating to a 501(c)(3) arts nonprofit in 2020, The Rosin Box Project (TRBP) has been a rising leader and resource in the creation, production, and education of contemporary ballet in San Diego via innovative, authentic, and artist-driven work that allows for deeper human connection. The boutique contemporary ballet company continues to raise the bar and push the limits of how dance is experienced, quickly blossoming TRBP into San Diego's premier Contemporary Ballet Company.

TRBP's distinctive style and approach has made a unique and valuable contribution to the development of dance locally and beyond. Attracting international talent, our dancers are a group of open-minded and curious artists, each unique for their dynamic movement while sharing an intuitive passion for their art form. We are a creative place and we work in a collaborative environment. We are a company that aims to create dance at its most essential: visceral, powerful, thought-provoking and transformative.

The company presents a diverse repertoire featuring more than 53 new works created since 2018 from both emerging resident choreographers, and nationally renowned guest choreographers, and is deeply committed to fostering creation and collaboration.

TRBP is a leader and resource in the community through dance education opportunities, community, student, and audience outreach, and professional development programs, which serve to make dance as accessible as possible to all. Beyond the professional company's performance and season programming, TRBP hosts open adult dance classes and workshops at its home studio (The Rosin Box Studio) in ARTS DISTRICT, Liberty Station, with classes for individuals of all experience levels. TRBP also offers a variety of arts-integrated education and outreach programming around San Diego county and neighboring districts, serving more than 2000 students annually.

A rosin box is unique to dancers. We have them in our rehearsal studios and backstage at theaters, used most often on pointe shoes to create more friction to prevent slipping. To Step Inside a rosin box is to share our space in the most intimate way, and enter the creatively charged world we call home.





# 2025 AT A GLANCE



29

Live performances  
in 2025

---

4,533

Performance  
Attendances

---

8

Commissioned new  
works in 2025

---

53

Premieres of  
commissioned work to date

---

14

Teaching Artists  
Employed

---



**CARLY TOPAZIO**

Artistic Director, CEO, & Founder



**KATIE WALSH**

Development Manager



**HILARY BROMAN**

Studio Coordinator

# OUR TEAM STAFF

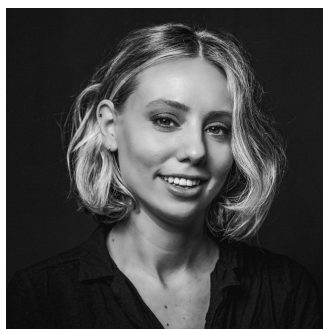
**GINGER CHODY**

Stage Technical Manager

**EMILY ELKIN**

Stage Manager

Photo Amber Bliss  
Company performing Emily Adams' *SO CLOSE*



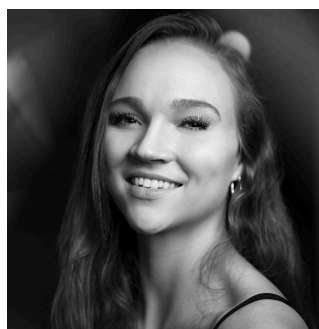
**KATIE SPAGNOLETTI**

Grant Administrator



**BRIAN BENNETT**

Social Media Coordinator



**BETHANY GREEN**

Social Media Coordinator



**RONY LENIS**

Marketing Coordinator

# OUR TEAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Michael Angelo  
Camacho**  
*Chair*



**Camille McPherson**  
*Vice Chair*



**Ted McCombs**  
*Treasurer*



**Taryn Goode**  
*Secretary*



**Catherine Cheng**



**Ryan Field**



**Dawn Fonseca**



**Samuel Topazio**



**John Velasco**

## Advisory Board

Rebekah Brown  
Gary Kinley  
Khamla Somphanh  
Judy Berman-Silbert





**DANIELLE ARCHULETA**



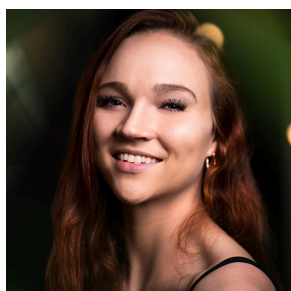
**SONA JAEGER**



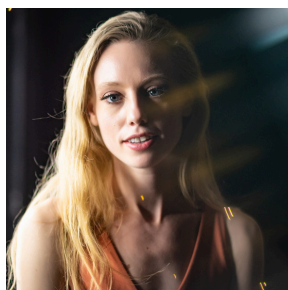
**BRIAN BENNETT**



**RONY LENIS**



**BETHANY GREEN**



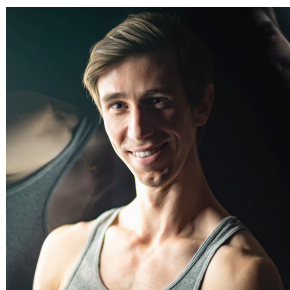
**KATIE SPAGNOLETTI**



**REKA GYULAI**



**CARLY TOPAZIO**

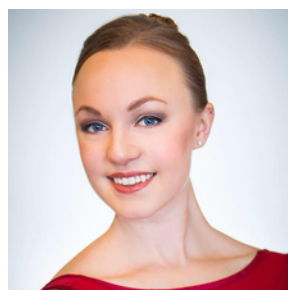


**BRIAN HEIL**



**JEREMY ZAPANTA**

# OUR TEAM COMPANY ARTISTS



**RUBY MATHER**



**JAMES LAROSE POWELL**

Photo Jim Carmody  
TRBP Artists rehearsing The Shelf Life Ep 03, by Ching Ching Wong





**RIVER ADAPON**



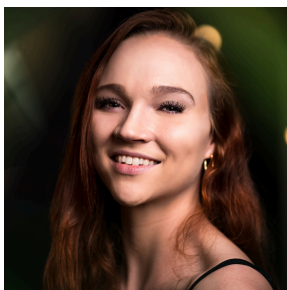
**JILL BRECKENRIDGE**



**HILARY BROMAN**



**EMILY ELKIN**



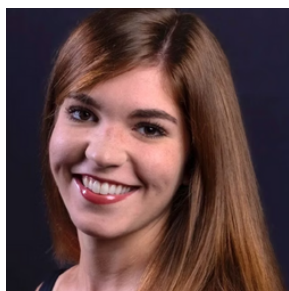
**BETHANY GREEN**



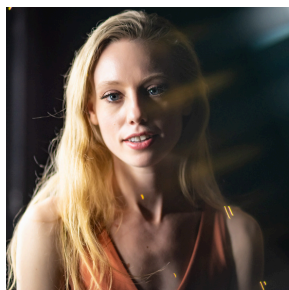
**ANDRES LAGANG**



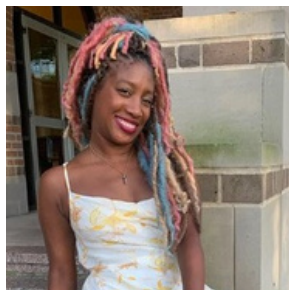
**RONY LENIS**



**ELAINE MILLER**



**KATIE SPAGNOLETTI**



**WHITNEY EDWARDS**

# OUR TEAM TEACHING ARTISTS



**PATRICK WARD**



Photo Carly Topazio  
Masterclass Teaching Artist Ching Ching Wong



# ARTISTIC INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE

## CONTRIBUTING TO OUR CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

8 New Works commissioned in 2025

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22 Artistic collaborations in 2025

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53 World premieres of commissioned work to date

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171 Public Performances to date

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29 Performances in 2025

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760 Total hours of rehearsal/creation supported

---

35 Weeks of work for company artists

---

10 Company Dancers employed

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**IMPACT**  
METRICS





**EMPOWER**  
**MARCH 27 - 30**  
 LIGHT BOX THEATER



**UNIFIED HARMONIES**  
**MAY 28 & 29**  
 BAKER BAUM CONCERT HALL, THE CONRAD



**DEBUTS**  
**AUGUST 22 - 24**  
 CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

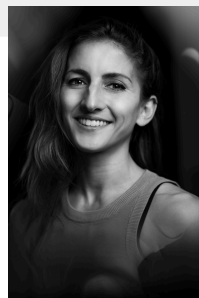
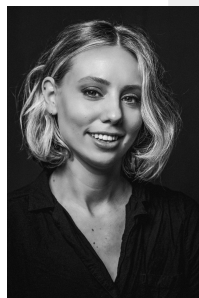
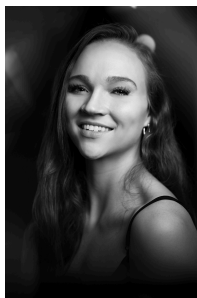


**GHOST LIGHT MASQUERADE**  
**OCTOBER 23 - 26, 28 - 30**  
 THE SOAP FACTORY

**EIGHT Premieres in  
 2025 from:**

**NATASHA ADORLEE**  
**CHING CHING WONG**  
**GARRETT SMITH**

**BETHANY GREEN**  
**KATIE SPAGNOLETTI**  
**CARLY TOPAZIO**



**ON  
 STAGE**





Photos Hannah Cox

# EMPOWER

## Female Voices

**MARCH 27 - 30**  
LIGHT BOX THEATER  
Liberty Station, San Diego

**Empower** 2025 reaffirmed The Rosin Box Project's commitment to elevating female voices in contemporary ballet, spotlighting bold, innovative choreographic perspectives that continue to transform the landscape of our art form. This annual program championed women not only as creators, but as leaders shaping the future of dance through storytelling, experimentation, and artistic risk-taking.

This year's program featured three new choreographic commissions from Natasha Adorlee, Bethany Green, and TRBP Artistic Director Carly Topazio, created in close collaboration with TRBP's company artists. Each work pushed creative boundaries—exploring themes of resilience, identity, connection, and collective evolution—while exemplifying the technical excellence and emotional depth that define TRBP's artistic voice.

Empower also served as a platform for meaningful community dialogue, inviting audiences to experience women's stories through a contemporary lens. Post-performance conversations and engagement opportunities deepened public understanding of how representation in choreography expands opportunity, diversifies narrative, and drives the field forward.

### 2025 Program Impact Highlights

- Advanced gender equity in contemporary ballet by centering female-led choreographic voices and providing meaningful resources for new work creation
- Commissioned and premiered new choreography, expanding TRBP's repertoire with artist-driven works that reflect diverse perspectives and lived experiences
- Supported professional artists through dedicated rehearsal time, creative autonomy, and performance opportunities with a fully contracted company
- Strengthened audience engagement by offering powerful, relevant storytelling that resonated across generations of dance-goers
- Elevated women as leaders in the field, reinforcing TRBP's commitment to representation, visibility, and long-term artistic impact
- Positioned TRBP as a cultural leader in championing equity-focused programming within San Diego's performing arts ecosystem

**PAPER ASH & PHANTOM INK** Carly Topazio

**RIGHT HOOK** Bethany Green

**TIME HAS TOLD ME** Natasha Adorlee



# Unified Harmonies

MAY 28 & 29

BAKER-BAUM CONCERT HALL

The Conrad Prebys Performing arts center

**Unified Harmonies** emerged as a defining cultural event in San Diego—an evening that illuminated the transformative power of live collaboration between contemporary ballet and chamber music. Presented at The Conrad in partnership with Art of Elan, the program bridged disciplines, expanded creative possibility, and set a new benchmark for interdisciplinary performance in the region.

At the heart of the program were two world-premiere works created by TRBP resident choreographers and brought to life through direct collaboration with Art of Elan's quartet:

Carly Topazio's premiere, set to Kian Ravaei's contemporary composition, explored the visceral intersections of rhythm, emotion, and dynamic movement—revealing a profound dialogue between dance and live sound.

Katie Spagnoletti's premiere, choreographed to Caroline Shaw's distinctive and textural score, offered an intimate and musically intricate work that expanded TRBP's artistic vocabulary and deepened the program's emotional resonance.

These premieres were complemented by the revival of *SO CLOSE* (Emily Adams, choreo; Katy Jarzebowski, score), a compelling contemporary piece that continues to anchor TRBP's repertoire with its clarity, strength, and evocative musicality. Art of Elan also performed works by Philip Glass and Maurice Ravel, adding depth to the evening and situating the new choreography within a broader lineage of influential musical voices.



Photos Hannah Cox



## 2025 Program Impact Highlights

- Advanced interdisciplinary creation in San Diego by uniting two leading arts organizations in a deeply collaborative process
- Strengthened cross-genre dialogue, demonstrating how music and dance can co-evolve to generate new artistic languages
- Elevated the visibility of local artists, spotlighting San Diego talent within a premiere venue known for world-class performance
- Demonstrated the importance of new work creation as a driver of cultural vibrancy and future artistic growth
- Inspired audiences through an immersive, multisensory performance that underscored the value of the arts in collective experience
- Modeled innovative partnership, setting the stage for future collaborations that broaden the reach and relevance of contemporary performance

**SO CLOSE** Emily Adams  
Score by Katy Jarzebowski

**FIRS IN A WARDROBE** Katie Spagnoletti  
Score by Caroline Shaw

**F-STOP** Carly Topazio  
Score by Kian Ravae





Photos Hannah Cox

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**THE CONSTRUCT THAT HOLDS US**

Carly Topazio

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**THE SHELF LIFE EP 03**

Ching Ching Wong  
Original Sound Design  
by Connor Lemon

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**SOMETHING HUMAN**

Garrett Smith

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# DEBUTS

**AUGUST 22 - 24**

CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
Escondido

**DEBUTS** represented a defining moment in TRBP's artistic trajectory—an evening where choreographers were given true carte-blanche to imagine, experiment, and create without constraint. This freedom lies at the heart of DEBUTS and ensures that each premiere emerges as an authentic expression of the choreographer's voice, grounded in relevance, curiosity, and artistic integrity.

As TRBP's premiere platform, DEBUTS invites nationally recognized, emerging, and resident choreographers to develop new work with full creative agency. By removing traditional limitations on process, theme, or style, TRBP fosters an environment where artists can take meaningful risks—and where contemporary ballet can evolve in real time.

The 2025 program featured new commissions by nationally and internationally recognized choreographers Ching Ching Wong and Garrett Smith, alongside TRBP's Artistic Director, Carly Topazio, each contributing distinct viewpoints and pushing the expressive range of contemporary ballet. DEBUTS also advanced TRBP's exploration of theatrical production design, to extend the visual and conceptual world of presented works—deepening audience engagement and redefining what a ballet premiere can be.

Presented on a proscenium stage for only the second time in the company's history, DEBUTS demonstrated TRBP's growing scale and artistic ambition while retaining the intimacy, emotional clarity, audience-artist connection, and risk-forward vision for which the company is known.

## 2025 Program Impact Highlights

- Showcased diverse choreographic voices, amplifying artistic perspectives that enrich the field
- Demonstrated TRBP's evolution toward larger venues and more complex productions while maintaining integrity of our mission commitment to cultivate audience-artist connection
- Strengthened San Diego's cultural identity by presenting original works created for local audiences from internationally recognized choreographers
- Commissioning new work that provides choreographers with resources, time, and full creative agency
- Offered audiences access to cutting-edge contemporary ballet, positioning San Diego as a thriving hub for premiere performance
- Advanced TRBP's mission to champion new artistic creation, ensuring space for experimentation, representation, and expressive depth

# Ghost Light Masquerade

OCTOBER 22 - 30

THE SOAP FACTORY

Logan Heights, San Diego

**Ghost Light Masquerade** continued TRBP's tradition of crafting immersive, narrative-rich performance experiences that blur the boundaries between dance, theater, and cinematic design. As one of the company's most distinctive and anticipated programs, Ghost Light Masquerade invites audiences into an alternate world where movement, character, and environment converge to create a full-sensory story unfolding in real time.

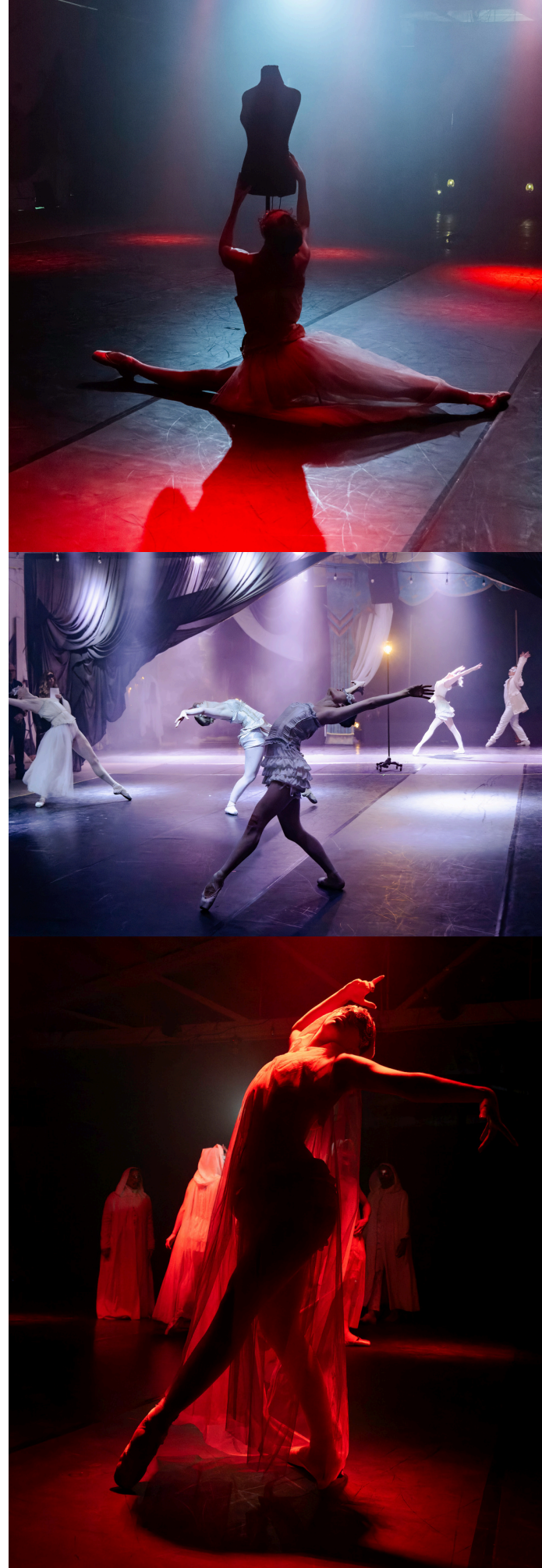
This year also marked a new chapter in what is TRBP's only annual recurring production—demonstrating how an immersive work can evolve year after year while remaining rooted in artistic excellence and audience connection. Rather than repeating a fixed format, Ghost Light Masquerade functions as a living performance ecosystem: each iteration expands creatively, structurally, and experientially.

In 2025, the production advanced in both scale and complexity, deepening its narrative world and refining its immersive design. Choreography, character development, lighting, and environmental elements were reimagined to create a more cohesive and cinematic experience—one that guided audiences more intentionally through the story while preserving the mystery and spontaneity that define the program.

This year's iteration also expanded opportunities for TRBP artists, pushing dancers beyond traditional performance roles into character-driven storytelling and sustained immersive engagement. The result was a production that felt both familiar and entirely new—honoring the legacy of Ghost Light Masquerade while boldly moving it forward.

## 2025 Program Impact Highlights

- Demonstrated artistic growth within a recurring production, modeling how works can evolve rather than repeat
- Integrated more sophisticated design elements, elevating production value and experiential cohesion
- Positioned dancers as multidimensional performers, blending technical mastery with character embodiment and storytelling
- Deepened audience investment, encouraging repeat attendance and anticipation year over year
- Created a cultural tradition within San Diego's arts scene—one that audiences return to for discovery, transformation, and connection
- Expanded access points to contemporary ballet, particularly for audiences drawn to experiential and narrative-driven work
- Strengthened TRBP's relationship with its community, offering a shared artistic experience that grows alongside its audience



Photos Hannah Cox



# AUDIENCE GROWTH & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

4,533

Tickets Sold/Performances Attended in 2025

---

9%

Audience growth from 2024

---

13%

Season Subscription Growth from 2024

---

60

Season Subscribers

---

61.5%

Website Traffic Growth from 2024

---

16%

Newsletter Subscriber Growth from 2024

---

12.6%

Donor and Sponsor growth from  
2024

---

58%

Audience Retention Year-Over Year Average

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**IMPACT**  
METRICS



# AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Our Audience Engagement initiatives complemented and enhanced our 2025 mainstage experience and invited our audience to delve deeper into the art form through artist talk-backs, open rehearsals, adult ballet classes, mixer events, and behind the scenes experiences. Audiences gained insights into The Rosin Box Project's world of unwavering discipline, elite training and dedication, and learned more about our talented artists and rising stars.

In 2025 we continued community engagement activities including studio showings open to the public and Season Subscribers, presenting eight new contemporary works from six choreographers continuing our commitment to creating fresh and relevant opportunities to reimagine the way both audiences and artists connect with and experience dance. Internationally acclaimed Guest Choreographers Natasha Adorlee, Ching Ching Wong and Garrett Smith- along with rising Resident Choreographers Bethany Green, Katie Spagnoletti, and Carly Topazio spent a cumulative twenty weeks in our studio creating new works on the company.



## Open Rehearsal Series

*Process made visible.*

Open Rehearsals invite the public behind the scenes of TRBP's creative process, offering audiences a deeper understanding of how new work is made. These experiences demystify contemporary ballet while fostering meaningful dialogue between artists and community members.

*I absolutely love attending the Open Rehearsals and talk-backs with the dancers - TRBP creates such an inviting space where you can't help but feel overwhelmed with inspiration. It goes beyond the stage- I feel like I know each of the dancers personally, and it is so clear that they all love their craft and love the work they do with this awesome little company!*



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACCESS & EDUCATION

10

Title I Schools Served

---

32

Free community events

---

15

Neighborhoods Served

---

14

Community Partnerships

---

8

TRBP Community and  
Education Programs

---

95%

Teacher Satisfaction  
Scores

---

506

Hours of Program Instruction  
Delivered in 2025

---

## The Gap

86%

Of participants, teachers, and partners reported that they would not have had access to a similar program if The Rosin Box Project did not come to their community

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**IMPACT  
METRICS**



**Through movement, we build access, empathy, and connection across San Diego.**

## Out of the Box

*Dance without walls.*

Out of the Box delivers free pop-up performances and workshops in schools, parks, and public spaces across San Diego. By meeting communities where they are, the program removes barriers to access and transforms everyday environments into shared spaces for art, dialogue, and connection.

## SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Through Dance

*Emotional intelligence in motion.*

SEL Through Dance uses contemporary movement to help students build self-awareness, empathy, collaboration, and resilience. Through guided exploration and reflection, participants develop social-emotional skills that extend far beyond the studio or classroom.

## Dance Break

*Movement as medicine.*

Dance Break brings restorative, dance-based wellness experiences directly to healthcare workers and community partners, offering a physical and emotional reset through guided movement, reflection, and shared creative space. Designed to combat burnout and foster connection, Dance Break centers care for the caregivers.

## Dance Out Loud!

*Student voices, amplified through movement.*

Dance Out Loud! empowers middle-school students to explore choreography, storytelling, and self-expression through contemporary dance and film. By blending creative process with collaboration and critical thinking, students gain confidence while seeing their ideas take center stage.

## Ballet Machine

*Where literacy meets movement.*

Ballet Machine integrates dance into K–5 classrooms, using movement to reinforce literacy, comprehension, and social-emotional learning. Aligned with California State Standards, the program helps young learners embody language, build focus, and discover the joy of creative learning.





# EDUCATION & YOUTH

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ACCESS

The Rosin Box Project's Community, Education, and Youth Programs position contemporary dance as a vital public resource. Through in-school residencies, public performances, wellness initiatives, and open-access training opportunities, TRBP embeds movement into the daily lives of students, educators, healthcare workers, and community members across San Diego.

These programs are intentionally designed to meet people where they are. By delivering high-quality artistic experiences in classrooms, parks, workplaces, studios, and rehearsal spaces, TRBP removes traditional barriers to access while maintaining artistic rigor. Participants engage directly with professional dancers and choreographers, experiencing contemporary ballet not as a distant performance, but as a living, collaborative process.

Across age groups and settings, movement becomes a tool for well-being, self-expression, and connection. Students build confidence, communication skills, and social-emotional awareness through creative exploration. Healthcare workers and community participants experience moments of restoration and relief from stress through guided movement practices. Audiences invited into open rehearsals gain insight into the creative process, deepening their relationship to the art form and the artists behind it.

The impact of this work extends beyond individual programs. Teachers integrate movement-based strategies into their classrooms. Students develop a stronger sense of agency and creative voice. Community members return for performances, classes, and ongoing engagement with TRBP. Together, these programs contribute to a more inclusive cultural ecosystem where dance is accessible, relevant, and rooted in shared human experience.

By aligning artistic excellence with education, wellness, and accessibility, The Rosin Box Project ensures that contemporary ballet remains responsive to the needs of the communities it serves, fostering resilience, empathy, and connection through movement.

3,970

Community & Education  
Program Participants

401

Open Ault dance  
classes held

1487

Open class  
students

5

Class rating from 34  
reviews

216

Class discounts  
provided (artist, military,  
senior, student)



## Adult Winter & Summer Intensive

*High-level artistry, reclaimed for adult dancers.*

TRBP's Adult Intensives offer dedicated adult dancers the rare opportunity to engage in rigorous, professional-caliber training within an inclusive and supportive environment. Designed for dancers seeking challenge, growth, and creative fulfillment, the program prioritizes artistic depth over perfection and process over performance. Participants reconnect with their bodies, creativity, and community while experiencing contemporary dance as a lifelong practice. The intensive affirms that serious artistic exploration does not expire with age, fostering confidence, agency, and renewed commitment to movement as both craft and personal expression.



## Pre-professional Summer Intensive

*Bridging training and the professional field.*

TRBP's Pre-Professional Intensives provide emerging dancers with immersive, real-world exposure to the demands of a contemporary dance career. Participants train directly with professional company artists and guest choreographers, engaging in technique, repertory, creative process, and career-focused dialogue. Beyond technical growth, dancers gain clarity, confidence, and a deeper understanding of professional expectations, artistic voice, and sustainability in the field. For many participants, the intensive serves as a critical bridge between academic training and the professional dance world, expanding access to mentorship, networks, and artistic possibility. Committed to accessibility and inclusivity, TRBP was proud to offer scholarships to ensure that talented students, regardless of financial circumstances, could participate in this transformative experience. By investing in young artists, TRBP continues to nurture creativity and expand access to high-quality dance education.

## Community Masterclasses

*Professional training, open doors.*

Community Masterclasses provide accessible, high-level dance training led by TRBP artists and guest choreographers. Open to dancers of varying backgrounds and experience levels, these free classes cultivated technical growth, artistic curiosity, and a sense of belonging within the dance community. Masterclass faculty in 2025 included Natasha Adorlee, Ching Ching Wong, and Geoffrey Alexander.

*What an experience! I felt like the little girl in me felt so free and fearless. This class left me feeling sweaty, strong, graceful, beautiful and like a real dancer. Ching Ching Wong led the class with such compassion and empathy. She made the room feel so safe...like you were all alone in a space where no one was watching to critique you...but also made it feel like you were surrounded by love, encouragement and your biggest fans. Although this class was offered for free, which I'm soooo grateful for, it was well worth the cost of any masterclass! Thank you, Rosin Box! Thank you, Ching Ching!*

- Angela C

*Today's master class with Ching Ching Wong was absolutely wonderful and SO needed. The opportunity to experience a new movement style and being in the space with people of all ages and levels filled my soul. Thank you, TRBP, and please don't stop offering these opportunities for the San Diego dance community. <3*

- Rebeka B





@therosinbox\_studio



The Rosin Box Project's **Open Adult Dance Classes** continue to make dance accessible to all by providing a nurturing and welcoming environment for dancers of all levels. These classes offer students the chance to explore movement, build confidence, and experience the joy of dance in a supportive studio setting. **TRBP is committed to fostering inclusivity and accessibility**, offering discounted rates to artists, seniors, military members, and students to ensure dance remains within reach for everyone. By creating an open and encouraging space, TRBP empowers individuals to connect with their creativity, community, and the transformative power of dance.

TRBP's open **company class** invites professional dancers into a shared practice space, offering **free access** to daily training while strengthening community and artistic exchange. By opening company class to professional dancers at no cost, TRBP invests in the broader dance ecosystem, creating space for connection, skill-building, and cross-pollination among artists.



*Love all the teachers so far. They give great corrections and are very approachable. Thank you for offering a great adult dance class!*

-Emma K

*So amazing !! They had such a great community and attitude towards me and my fellow dancers! You could feel the dance love the moment you walked in. I am so lucky to have been able to attend these wonderfully inspiring and beautifully beneficial classes!*

- Ayla C

*I booked this looking for an open class to help stay in shape over the summer, and it was awesome! The instructor was so sweet and helpful with some great tips and corrections, as well as the rest of the dancers were really friendly and welcoming! The rosin box project is a great environment and as a dancer who knows how studio environments can sometimes be toxic, this was so very wonderful to experience. I definitely hope to be back for more classes while I'm in town!!!*

- Adelaide B

*Carly Topazio is an absolute boss and incredible leader. Everything that The Rosin Box Project presents and shares with San Diego is so thoughtful and polished. So grateful for the community master classes they offer to the dance community, creating a welcoming environment of inclusivity.*

- Jessica R



# EQUITY & INCLUSION

9

Free programs offered in Title I or  
high-need schools

---

7

2025 Choreographers commissioned  
from historically underrepresented  
backgrounds

---

94%

2025 Programs offered free of  
cost or majority subsidized

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767

Subsidized or pay-what-you-can tickets  
distributed

---

5

2025 Training Program  
Scholarships Provided

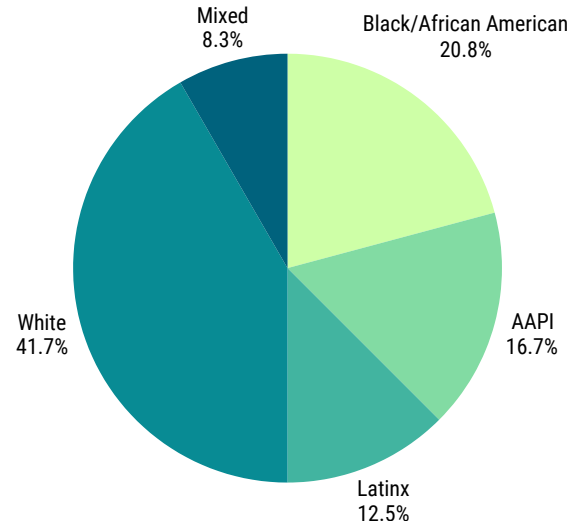
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IMPACT  
METRICS

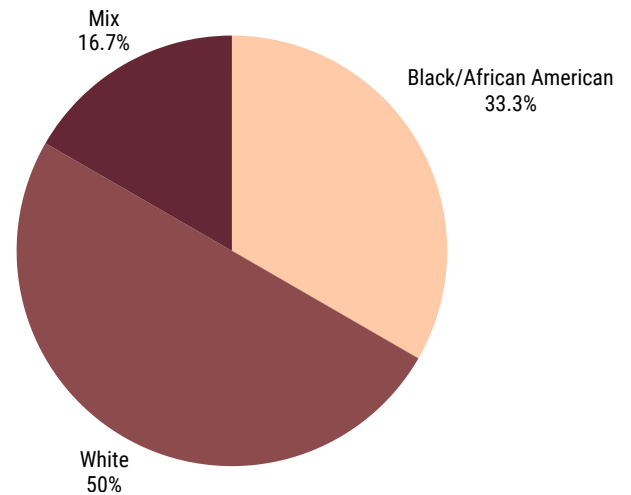
# METRICS

## DEMOGRAPHICS

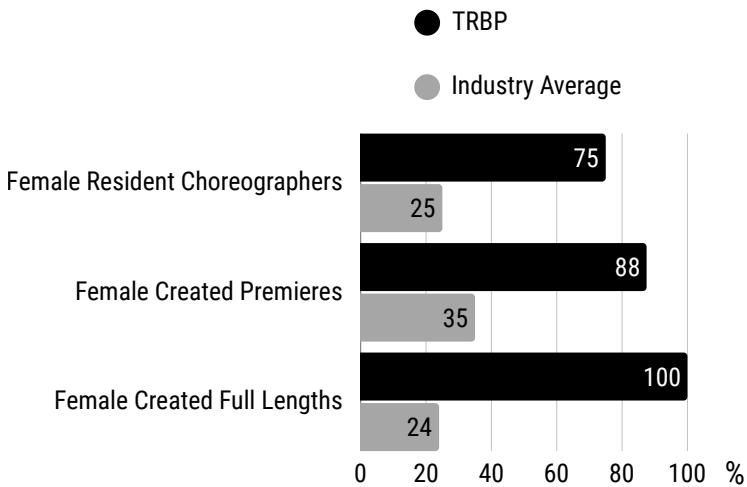
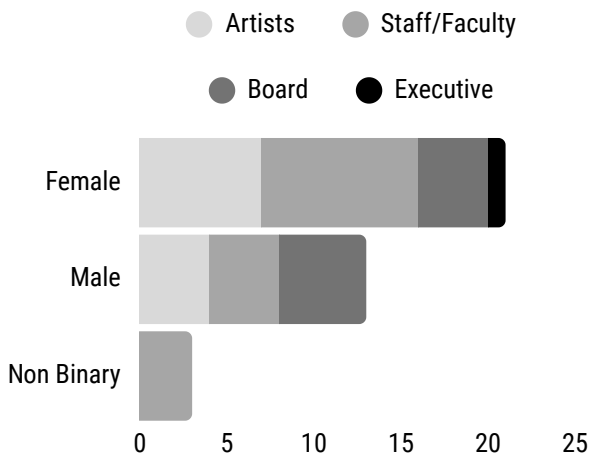
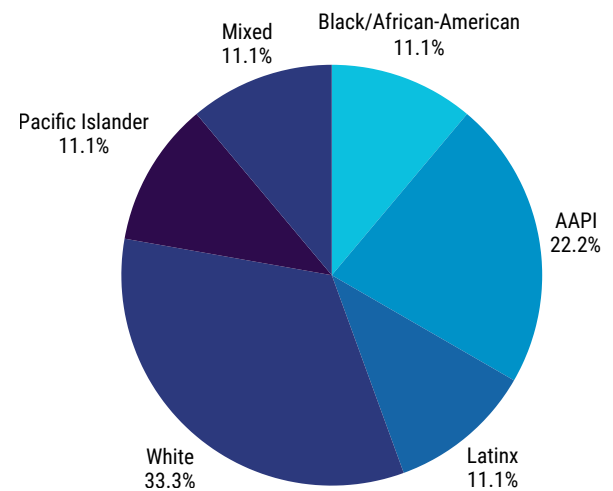
### Artists



### Staff



### Board



Industry averages based on data published by the Dance Data Project.



# 2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

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## 2025 Institutional Funders

California Arts Council  
Las Patronas Foundation  
City of San Diego  
Commission of Arts and Culture  
NTC Foundation  
VAPA Foundation  
The Prebys Foundation  
Friends of the Cultural Center, Inc.

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38%

Earned Revenue Growth  
from 2024

---

68.9%

Of Budget Dedicated to  
Artistic/Programmatic Work

---

13.2%

Of budget spent on  
administrative expenses

---

55.8%

Of budget spent on  
artistic & staff salaries  
and wages

---

201

New donors in 2025

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35%

Donor retention rate  
in 2025

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\$466,000

Reinvested in San  
Diego's Creative  
Economy

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# 2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

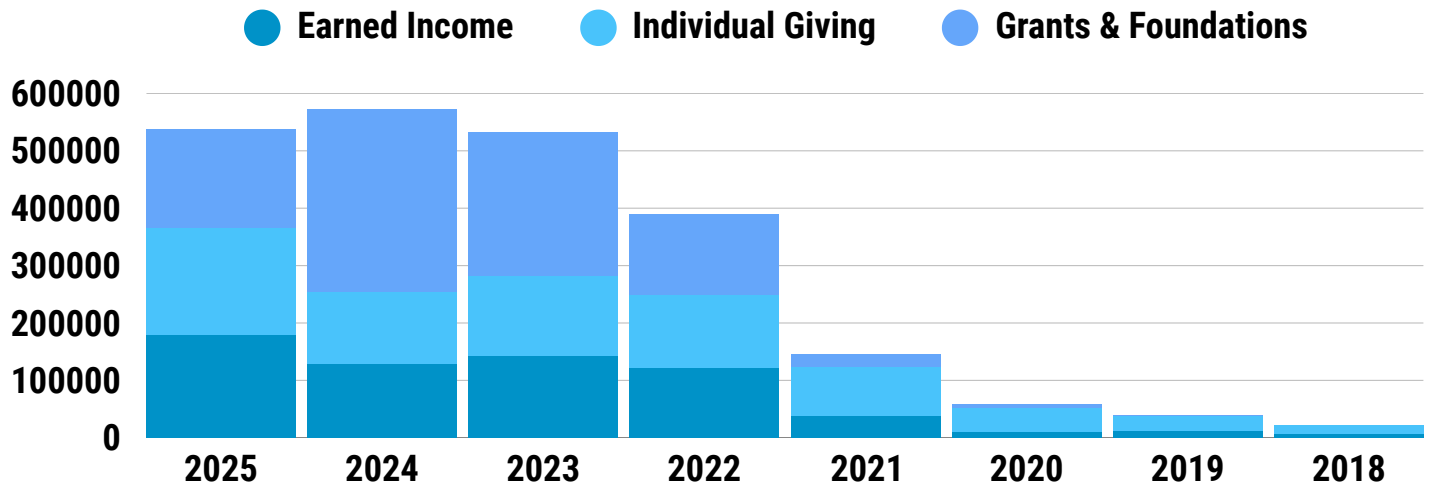
\$535,700

2025 Revenue

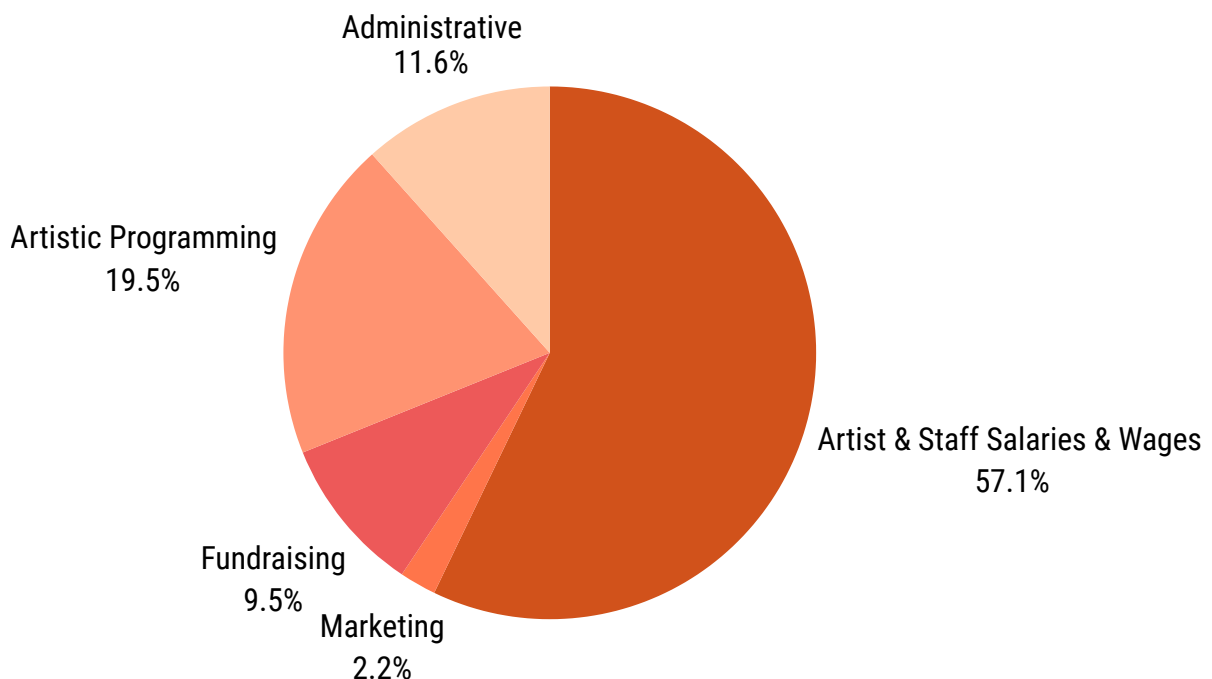
\$480,000

2025 Operating Expense

## Total revenue over time



## 2025 Expense Breakdown





# DIGITAL INNOVATION & REACH

10,739

Youtube  
views in  
2025

20,787

Website  
visits in  
2025

108,000

Unique social  
media  
engagement in  
2025

4

Performance Streams



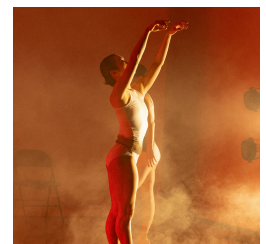
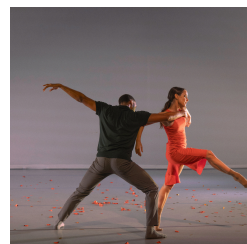
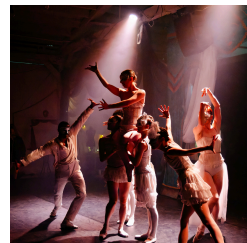
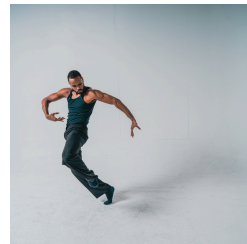
4.1k followers



1.2k followers



74 subscribers



In 2025, The Rosin Box Project harnessed the power of digital and social media to deepen audience connections and expand its reach. Through engaging content, including behind-the-scenes videos, artist features, interactive stories, and performance highlights, TRBP brought the artistry and creativity of contemporary ballet to a global audience. With increased followers, higher engagement rates, and innovative campaigns, our digital platforms have become vital tools for sharing the creative process, building community, and inspiring audiences both near and far. This growing digital presence ensures that TRBP remains accessible and relevant in an increasingly connected world.

In 2025 main stage performances continued to be livestreamed on our Virtual Box digital platform. Streamed online, performances reached audiences unable to attend in person, and gave new audiences the opportunity to experience The Rosin Box Project for the first time. The increased access to our streamed content meant audiences across the states and overseas could access world-class contemporary ballet from the comfort of their own home.

# SO CLOSE | 2025 IN FOCUS Film

ON  
FILM

**SO CLOSE** is TRBP's 2025 IN FOCUS Film, featuring choreography commissioned from Emily Adams and original score from Katy Jarzebowski in August of 2024. The film is an adaptation of Adams' world premiere commission for stage entitled. **SO CLOSE** premiered as part of TRBP's DEBUTS performance program in August of 2024.

**SO CLOSE** is an intimate dance film that captures the quiet tension between connection and distance, exploring how proximity can feel both tender and unreachable. Through nuanced choreography, a touch of humor, and a cinematic lens, the film reflects the emotional landscapes we navigate in moments of longing, vulnerability, and near-touch. As part of TRBP's IN FOCUS dance film series, **SO CLOSE** extends contemporary ballet beyond the stage, inviting audiences into a deeply human experience where movement speaks what words cannot.

CHOREOGRAPHY	Emily Adams
MUSIC	Katy Jarzebowski
DIRECTORS	Jon Salmon, Katy Jarzebowski
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Jon Salmon





# GOALS 2024-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

## 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Executive Summary

The Rosin Box Project's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan charts a bold path for growth, innovation, and community impact. As a leader in contemporary ballet, TRBP is committed to fostering a sense of belonging, advancing equity, and expanding access to high-quality artistic experiences throughout San Diego and beyond. This strategic roadmap demonstrates how TRBP will continue to inspire audiences, support artists, and strengthen the organization's foundation for long-term sustainability.

In the coming years, TRBP will deepen its community engagement efforts by expanding outreach programs to underserved areas, creating meaningful collaborations with arts and non-arts organizations, and enhancing access to arts-integrated education and dance training. These initiatives aim to bridge gaps in access and cultivate a broader, more diverse audience for the arts.

TRBP's commitment to artistic excellence remains a cornerstone of its mission. The organization will deliver groundbreaking performances that push the boundaries of contemporary ballet while fostering creative partnerships that amplify its cultural impact. By sharing the creative process with audiences through digital and in-person platforms, TRBP will build stronger connections between artists and the community.

To sustain this growth, TRBP is focusing on building organizational capacity. Key priorities include expanding the administrative team, increasing artist compensation, and securing larger rehearsal and office spaces. A robust and diversified revenue strategy will support these goals, combining increased earned income with a growing base of major donors and institutional funders.

At the heart of TRBP's vision is a commitment to equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion. The organization seeks to reflect the diversity of its community, foster an equitable and nurturing culture, and eliminate barriers to participation for all individuals. By embedding these principles into its practices and policies, TRBP aims to serve as a model for inclusivity in the arts.

This strategic plan underscores TRBP's dedication to creating transformative artistic experiences while building a resilient organization poised to serve its community for years to come. With the support of grantors, funders, and collaborators, The Rosin Box Project is ready to take the next leap in its journey of impact and innovation.

# GOALS 2024-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Rosin Box Project's Strategic Plan was constructed to chart the course of the organization from 2023-2029. It was approved by the Board of Directors and adopted in May of 2023. To realize this Plan, a Steering Committee with the aid of key informants outside TRBP, a Strategic Planning Committee and the entire Board of Directors provided input into its content. The members of the Strategic Planning Committee included Ryan Field, Liz Fittro, Rony Lenis, Ted McCombs, Katie Spagnoletti, and Sam Topazio. The Steering Committee was composed of Thom Dancy, Gary J. Kinley, and Carly Topazio. Key informants from the community included representatives of the arts, education, community organizations and donors. A thank you is offered to each of them for their work in envisioning the next five years of The Rosin Box Project.

**1** Deliver innovative and diverse artistic experiences at the forefront of contemporary ballet to San Diego and beyond that contribute and communicate in important and meaningful ways to the future of dance, artists, and audiences.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. Build relationships with innovative collaborators who share our mission and vision on dance making and community building through dance, while deepening our relationships with existing collaborators who are supporting the evolutionary role contemporary ballet plays in culture.
2. Present works in spaces and create platforms that foster conversation, nurture artists and participants, inspire innovation, ignite creativity and expand outreach to the greater San Diego community.
3. Build community through dance to include diverse audiences, artists and participants by increasing access to programs, expanding areas served, creating innovative offerings, establishing enduring partnerships, and demonstrating artistic excellence, authenticity, and ingenuity.

**2** Serve as a cultural leader and engage with San Diego neighborhoods to promote a community of belonging by continually deepening the artistic experience for our artists, collaborators and community members through various avenues of engagement at every level.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. Increase the reach of -and access to- our existing community outreach and education initiatives and programs, and adapt programs to serve identified gaps, targeting underserved or barriered areas
2. Establish new collaborations and authentic partnerships with fellow arts organizations, as well as non-industry institutions
3. Invest in advancing practices, programs, and offerings in dance training and arts-integrated learning
4. Educate and engage audiences in the creation process through various digital and in-person avenues (blogs, social media platforms, short videos, web-series) by showcasing the pre-performance preparations that the company undergoes for any production.



# GOALS 2024-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

3

Foster an environment of equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion within our organization and all of its practices

## OBJECTIVES:

1. Evolve to become an informed, educated, and proactive organization driving social change, that continues to learn and shares a narrative that reflects the diversity of our community, and encourages involvement, feedback, and conversation at all stages.
2. Foster an equitable, inclusive, collaborative, and nurturing culture which leads by example to establish new paradigms that underscore artistic contributions by supporting and investing in the people behind the work.
3. Remove barriers and provide reasonable accommodations to ensure the full participation and engagement of individuals with disabilities or different needs.
4. Incorporate our principles of equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion into the framework of all organizational policies and practices.

4

Build and grow sustainably for the future by increasing organizational capacity and operations

## OBJECTIVES:

1. Create a diverse and high functioning governing body by identifying and implementing strategies to identify, recruit and seat potential members for the Board of Directors, as well as a plan for officer and director development, and succession.
2. Establish a sound financial and operational structure that supports the growth of both artistic and administrative aspects of TRBP to increase organizational capacity.
3. Develop a robust, diverse, and growing revenue stream that includes institutional and individual contributed income, earned income, and invested capital to sustainably increase annual budget.
4. Develop a robust plan to drive a vision for sustainable studio, performance, and office space expansion for all elements of TRBP, including how to pay for it.

## Current Priority Items

- **Building Capacity**
  - Expanding administrative team including executive personnel, development department, and program managers
  - Increasing artist salaries and contracted season length
  - Expanding/ acquiring larger rehearsal space and administrative facilities
- **Increasing & Diversifying Revenue**
  - Earned revenue: ticket sales, paid programming, performance for hire
  - Contributed: increasing Major Gifts and Recurring Major Gifts

# SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



**PREBYS**  
FOUNDATION



**Cultural**  
**Affairs**



**LAS PATRONAS**  
PARTNERING WITH THE SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY SINCE 1946



**ARTS DISTRICT**  
**LIBERTY STATION**



RESTORE BODY

