



Information

Barre Belle is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization designed to expose and provide universal access to the art of dance by way of local community centers and schools.

Barre Belle is a portable dance studio for elementary students to introduce ballet fundamentals. Classes are geared towards those with little to no previous ballet or dance training. Students will have an opportunity to learn, perform and attend a professional dance performance to reinforce what is learned during their session.

Our aim is for students to achieve an increased level of self-awareness, self-esteem and encourage movement through the art of dance whether it is ballet or any other form.

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Contact Us!

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Happy Fall Y'all!

BARRE BELLE newsletter

Issue 1, Volume 2

Fall 2020

You've inspired us!

We are so excited to announce that Barre Belle has been awarded a grant from the **Arts and Science Council of Charlotte (ASC)**. The \$6,000 matching grant will enable us to continue and expand our quality programming.

As part of the grant process, we were required to submit a **COVID-19** contingency plan. We designed and implemented a program that includes virtual dance classes supported by hands-on classroom activities. It is wonderful to be able to use this technology and see the students smiling faces as they experience the classes. Without your contributions and unwavering support, we would not have received the funding from the ASC.

As I write this letter, our thoughts and prayers for **health and wholeness** are with the families that have suffered from COVID-19. Additionally, we pray for an ease to the economic hardship for those who have been negatively impacted from the COVID 19 virus shelter at home order.

It is during these times of crisis that the arts become a welcome form of expression and distractions. Your **impact** allows us to bring joy, expression and a pleasant distraction from the crisis of the day. We thank you for helping us make a difference.



Juanita Pipkin

Meet the Fundraising Chair

Melissa Wentz



Hi Barre Belle friends!

I'm honored to act as the **Fundraising Co-Chair** for Barre Belle, an organization that hits close to my heart, not only because it's led by my dear friend and Founder, Noel Pipkin, but also because it benefits youth in the city I love and call home. As a mom of two young children, I see first-hand how exposing kids to new activities can **inspire confidence** and **open horizons**. To be able to play a small role in supporting Barre Belle's young dancers is a true honor, and I look forward to continuing to serve this community!

Stay tuned for our next fundraising event!

Brews for Ballet Fundraiser was a Success!

Barre Belle's first formal fundraiser was hosted at **Birdsong Brewery** in Charlotte's NODA neighborhood. Tickets were available for our supporters to buy online in advance as well as on location at the brewery, where Barre Belle signage, photos, and videos were available for guests to view and learn more about our mission. In addition, through **the generosity of Barre Belle's supporters**, several prizes were available for raffle including wine & cheese baskets, a Coach wristlet, event tickets to Bojangles' Coliseum, and more! Patrons could also buy additional tickets to increase their chances at the **raffle prizes**, which contributed greatly to the event's overall success.

In total, the event **exceeded our goal** of raising \$1,000! This profit has been applied to additional **barres** for the dancers, as well as the **leotards, tights,** and **ballet shoes** our dancers wear to class.



Connect with us on social media!



@barrebelleballet



facebook.com/barrebelleballet

barrebelleballet.org/

COVID-19

Virtual Classes



The Barre Belle team has been busy creating virtual class for you to do at home during our COVID-19 quarantine.

Check out our ballet, yoga and stories available via the link on our website to our YouTube page.



[Barre Belle YouTube](#)

Freedom School Partners

Freedom School Partners (FSP) **Fun Fridays** looked a little different this year amid the public health crisis. Barre Belle offered at-home activity kits with **ballet vocabulary**, coloring pages and information for our free virtual online offerings.

Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club

This summer Barre Belle partnered with the Salvation Army Boys and Girls club to offer a 5-week **summer session** for students. The sessions included weekly instruction along with **DIY activities** for students to share with their families at home to reinforce curriculum including ballet bingo, tutus, puzzles and dance vision boards. Students received participation **certificates** upon completion of the program.

We are excited to continue our partnership this fall!

Charlotte Community Services Association

Barre Belle is partnering with the Charlotte CSA for virtual classes weekly during the **fall semester** with a focus on both creative movement thanks to our newest intern Cecilia Whalen! While virtual classes are challenging, we look forward to how students will progress in our **new normal**.



Barre Belle Internships

Introducing Cecilia Whalen



Cecilia Whalen is a student at **UNC Charlotte**, currently pursuing **Bachelor's of Arts degrees in Dance and French**. She is a Charlotte-native: a graduate of East Mecklenburg High School and alum of the former Sullivan Dance Centre, where she trained in **ballet, jazz, and tap** under the direction of Melanie Sullivan-Coyle and Melissa Hale Coyle. She is pursuing a professional career as a dancer and choreographer and supplements her university training with intensives at the **Martha Graham School for Contemporary Dance** and the Paul Taylor School of American Modern Dance. Additionally, Cecilia is **an arts writer** for the Classical Voice of North Carolina, an online arts journal headquartered in Raleigh, NC.

Cecilia has performed in several UNC-Charlotte dance productions, as well as for other events such as the **American College Dance Association** and the **North Carolina Dance Educator's Organization**. She has also published numerous articles for CVNC.org, as well as the student-led UNCC Niner Times. Cecilia is excited to share her love of dance and the arts with Barre Belle. She firmly believes in those famous words by Alvin Ailey which state: "dance came from the people and should always be delivered back to the people;" Cecilia hopes to contribute to the forces which give dance back to all people through her work with Barre Belle

Interested in teaching community dance classes with us? Barre Belle is looking for **student interns!** If you know a dance major or minor that would be interested in teaching in the Charlotte area, please pass our information along! Internship applications can be completed on our website at barrebelleballet.org/instructors

Barre Belle in the Community

Testimonials



“ I learned how to do ballet and how to teach my mom ballet. I also taught my dad how to do ballet.”

Malaysia
Barre Belle Summer Student

“I enjoyed Barre Belle! I learned to do the five positions.”

Miracle
Barre Belle Summer Student

“I can share that ballet isn't just dancing and leaping on stage. It's also a professional dance from France. Thank you!”

Taylor
Barre Belle Summer Student

“The virtual classes were a great option. The at-home activities helped the girls feel more a part since they could not connect with you.”

Tonia
Boys & Girls Club Program Director

“I can express when I'm sad or happy with dance. Thank you :)”

Kennedi
Barre Belle Summer Student



Support Barre Belle

Thank You to Our Donors!

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The Amazon **Foundation** donates .5% of every dollar to the participating nonprofit you designate. As an Amazon shopper you can support our nonprofit Barre Belle by ordering your products from the [Smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). To support Barre Belle through smile.amazon.com you can:

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2. Go to your Account by selecting the horizontal lines in the top left corner
3. Near the bottom of the page see "Select a Charity"
4. Type in **Barre Belle**



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