

Testimony For the Record  
Cultural Trust Hearing  
January 9, 2023

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Sarah Milligan and I am a Board Member on the Montana Ballet Company (MBC). I am testifying on behalf of grant number #2441 requesting funding for an operational support grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the Montana Ballet Company.

For 39 years, MBC has presented the highest caliber dance performances, offered the finest quality training, and provided meaningful access to the arts. MCB's reach and visibility within the Bozeman and Gallatin Valley community is continually expanding. The Academy boasts almost 300 students; we are at capacity, and we have a waitlist for students to be added to classes.

In December, MBC had three performances of The Nutcracker in Bozeman. The performances were sold out weeks in advance. Our Nutcracker featured a cast of 120 local performers, and guest artists from the renowned San Francisco Ballet. The ability to bring world-class talent to Bozeman is a tremendous opportunity for our students and audience.

In addition, I want to take this opportunity to highlight the following programs this operation grant will help MBC continue:

- MBC Moves- a dance residency program which provides dance education to elementary students across our community.
- Discover Dance- provides excerpts of full-length classical ballets and performances to elementary students within our community.
- Share the Dance- provides tickets to performances to populations within our community that may not otherwise have access.
- Share the Dance and Dinner- provides performances and food to support those in our community experiencing food insecurity.

This \$10,000 grant is critical in allowing MBC to continue the above initiatives and programs within our community.

With gratitude,

Sarah Milligan  
Board Member, Montana Ballet Company  
Bozeman, Montana