



**DANCING
CLASSROOMS
ST. LOUIS**



2024 Annual Report

Building Community

Our mission is to cultivate essential life skills in children through the joyful art and practice of social dance.

Our vision is schools and communities throughout St. Louis and beyond, where every child is connected, respected and given an environment in which to thrive.

The goal of each of our performance and competition events is to provide a safe and fun environment for children and families from all regions of our larger community to come together, to perform ballroom/social dances and to celebrate the impact that art and culture can have on humanity.



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A Message to Our Community

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Members,

Wow! What a year!

As we reflect on the 2023/2024 program year, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible growth and impact Dancing Classrooms St. Louis experienced. It was a year of expansion, opportunity, and deepened engagement, marking a significant milestone in our mission to empower young people through the joyful practice of ballroom and social dance.

We are thrilled to share that, in 2023/2024, we added an unprecedented 8 new schools to our roster, partnering with a total of 28 schools, 46 classrooms, and 1100 students from across the St. Louis region. With each new school, we are able to bring the power of dance, discipline, self-expression, and enhanced human connection to a greater number of young people, teaching them not just the steps of swing or waltz, but also the important life skills of teamwork, resilience, and confidence.

This growth would not have been possible without the commitment of our dedicated staff, community partners, and supporters like you. Together, we have fostered a space where students can grow, learn, and thrive—not only through dance but through the values of respect, inclusion, and personal growth that we instill in every class. Our expansion is not just about numbers, but about deepening the impact we have on each individual who participates in our programs. With every twirl, step, and partnership, we are helping to build a brighter, more supportive, and connected future for our young people and our city.

As we look ahead, we are excited for the opportunities that the future will bring. We are committed to continuing our growth, enhancing our programs, and creating even more pathways for students to shine. But we cannot do it alone. Your continued support—whether through donations, volunteering, or simply spreading the word about our work—makes all of this possible.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey. We are so grateful for the trust and belief you place in us as we work together to create a lasting, positive impact in the lives of young people in St. Louis. We look forward to sharing many more stories of success, growth, and transformation in the year(s) to come.



With deep appreciation,

Angie Brooks, Executive Director
Dancing Classrooms St. Louis



DCSTL Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vicki Sheehan-Piontek, Board Chair
 Andrea Luebbert, Vice-Chair
 Alexandr Borodko, Treasurer
 Laura Maier-Schuepfer, Secretary
 Ken Lederle
 Robbye Toft
 Tyler Johnson

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Angie Brooks, Executive Director
 Laura Maier-Schuepfer, Program Manager
 Jim Kimker, Program Outreach

TEACHING ARTISTS

Anthony Bady	Joyce Jones
Carmen Guynn	Lauren Cram
Carrie Fernandez	Laurie Clark
Jenny Battenberg	Lawrence Haliburton
Jordan Woods	Mauricio Villanueva



From A Teaching Artist's Perspective:

As a teaching artist, I love to dance. I grew up dancing. However, to be a teaching artist for Dancing Classrooms is a calling. We all come from different backgrounds and pursuits, but there is something that brings each of us together, and that is a passion to see students given the opportunity to mature, grow and transform, not as dancers, but as human beings.

At the heart of this program, if you ask any student who has finished all ten weeks, he/she will tell you that our program really isn't about dancing. It's about learning to work as a team by showing kindness, using cooperation, and having compassion. In the process they learn a lot about respect, having confidence, being a leader and working on our attitudes.

On a professional level, we often become aware of the issues of life that impact these students personally. They often share with us about their world because a relationship of kindness and compassion has been built. It is a program unlike any other. As a teaching artist it is a joy to be a part of Dancing Classrooms!

- Joyce Jones



2023/24 DCSTL Partner Schools

All Saints Academy - St. Ferdinand / Archdiocese of St. Louis

Ascension Catholic School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

Christ the King School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

*Grannemann Elementary / Hazelwood School District

*Green Park Lutheran School

Gotsch Intermediate School / Affton School District

Hickey Elementary School / St. Louis Public Schools

*Holy Child School (Arnold) / Archdiocese of St. Louis

*Incarnate Word Parish School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

*Mallinckrodt School of Gifted Instruction / St. Louis Public Schools

Mason School of Academic & Cultural Literacy / St. Louis Public Schools

Our Lady of Guadalupe School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

*Sacred Heart School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Ann Catholic School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Cecilia Catholic School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Frances Cabrini Academy / Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Gabriel the Archangel School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Gerard Majella School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Justin Martyr School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Louis Catholic Academy / Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Margaret of Scotland School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

*St. Raphael the Archangel School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Stephen Protomartyr School / Archdiocese of St. Louis

South City Catholic Academy / Archdiocese of St. Louis

Walbridge Elementary / St. Louis Public Schools

Washington Elementary / Normandy Schools Collaborative

*Washington Montessori / St. Louis Public Schools

*Denotes NEW school partnership



Colors of the Rainbow

Over 500 people attended DCSTL's largest event, the Colors of the Rainbow Team Match Championship, on Monday, May 6, 2024 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Missouri - St. Louis. It was a sea of elegance and a rainbow of colors as nine schools, awarded Gold Level at the Fall and Spring Qualifiers, came together for an evening of top-notch dancing and fierce competition. Dressed to impress, armed with pom-poms and glittery signs, and bursting with enthusiasm and positive energy, these nine schools gave it their all as they vied for the top spot.

TEAM RED: Ascension School

TEAM ORANGE: Christ the King School

TEAM YELLOW: Incarnate Word Parish School

TEAM LIME: Sacred Heart School

TEAM EMERALD: St. Gabriel the Archangel School

TEAM TEAL: St. Gerard Majella School

TEAM INDIGO: St. Justin Martyr School

TEAM PURPLE: St. Margaret of Scotland School

TEAM PINK: South City Catholic Academy

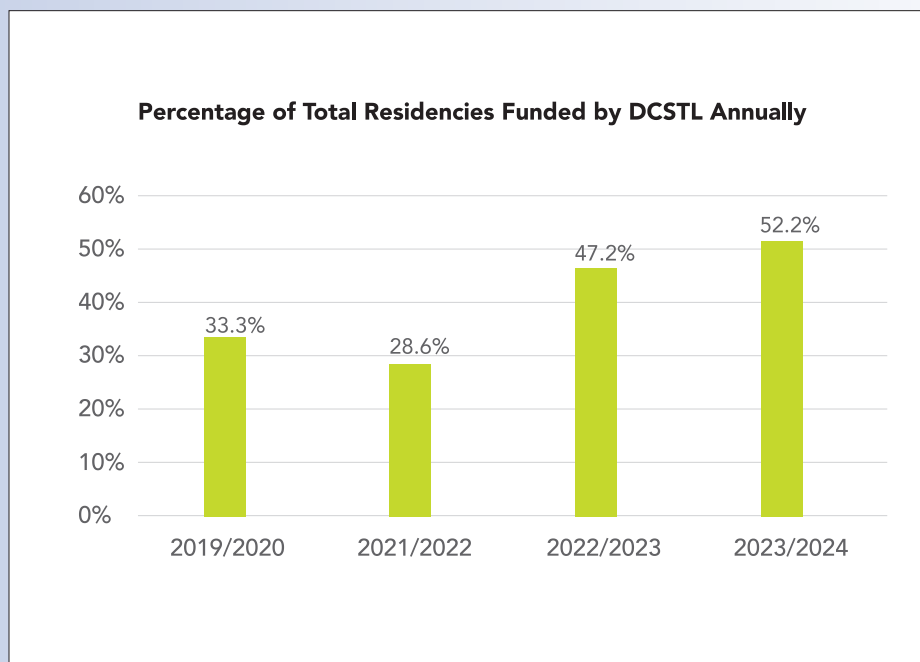
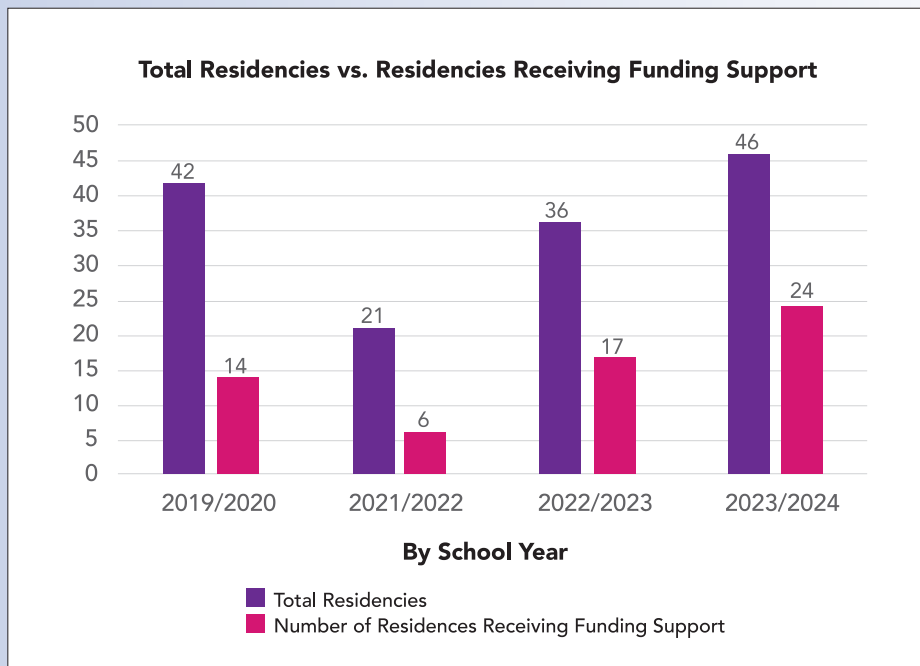
Top honors and the title of 2024 Colors of the Rainbow Champion went to St. Gerard Majella School for their award-winning performances. It was St. Gerard Majella's first Colors of the Rainbow win. The team was coached by Teaching Artist, Lauren Cram.

To cap the night off, attendees were able to enjoy a sweet treat before heading home! Through a generous donation, DCSTL was able to partner with Cool Times Ice Cream to provide 3 ice cream trucks and complimentary frozen treats for all!



2023/24 Expanding Our Reach

In the 2023/24 program year, Dancing Classrooms St. Louis served 28 schools, 46 residencies, and over 1,100 students. Through our outreach efforts, an unprecedented 8 new schools and 13 residencies were added to our roster. As we increase the number of schools we serve, the number of schools requiring financial assistance has also grown. This year, of the 46 residencies we facilitated, 24 (52%) received financial assistance. That's a 19% increase from 2019/2020. Dancing Classrooms St. Louis is committed to working with schools and communities to remove cost as a barrier to participation in its program.



Program Impact

100% of collaborating teachers and school staff reported their students **LIKED** participating in the DCSTL program, with **81%** saying their students **LIKED IT A LOT**.

98% of collaborating teachers and school staff reported their students **TALKED** about their DCSTL residency experiences in/out of the classroom.

87% of collaborating teachers and school staff reported that the DCSTL program helped their students **overcome social anxieties** and **improved their confidence and self-esteem**.

92% of collaborating teachers and school staff observed improvements in students' **etiquette and social skills** and **cooperation and teamwork skills** as a result of the DCSTL program.

83% of collaborating teachers and school staff reported that the DCSTL program **increased** students' **awareness of other cultures**.

94% of collaborating teachers and school staff reported that the DCSTL program **increased** students' **physical coordination, bodily awareness, and agility**.

A LETTER FROM A DCSTL ALUM

Hey Dancing Classrooms!

This is a bit random, but I was in your program at St. Margaret of Scotland school YEARS ago and just wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for everything that you do. I believe Laura was our instructor back in 2017 or 2016. She coached our school into Gold at regionals (still proud of that). Even as a kid I loved working with her in the program. I had no prior dance experience and never danced competitively... almost a decade later I'm a freshman at Rice University and I just finished my first competition with the Rice Ballroom team last weekend (and medaled in six of my events!!)

All this to say, you all are doing amazing work and it's still impacting your students years later.

Thanks for everything, and yes, I still make sure my arms are crispy chicken wings ;)

- Ava Carson

"I thought that Dancing Classrooms was going to be embarrassing, hard, gross, and weird. I thought it was going to be annoying so whenever someone said 'Dancing Classrooms time' I would be not happy and in a bad mood for it. But, it turns out that it's actually fun and embarrassing. It's also active and cool, still a bit weird, but also good for me. The teacher is kind, gentle, joyful, patient, and loving!"

- Bridget

"Dancing Classrooms helps us grow. We have to help each other and we end up learning more about each other. Teamwork is better than being by yourself, and dancing with people can be awkward but two people make it better."

- Brayden



DANCING CLASSROOMS ST. LOUIS

**2023/24 School Year
by the Numbers**

**28 School
Partners across
22 zip codes**

**5 Community
Events held**



**47 students in need received
NEW clothing/shoes/accessories
from the DCSTL Costume Closet**

**46
Residencies**

**10
Teaching Artists**

**1100
Students
Served**

**2
New Hires**



\$66,500
in funding support
provided by
DCSTL during the
2023/24 program
year

920
Hours of Instruction

WINNER

**2024 Colors of
the Rainbow
Team Match
Champion**

St. Gerard Majella School



**9 Schools
Participated
in the Colors
of the Rainbow
Event**

**8 New
Schools
Added**



**Quality
Equitable
Programming**

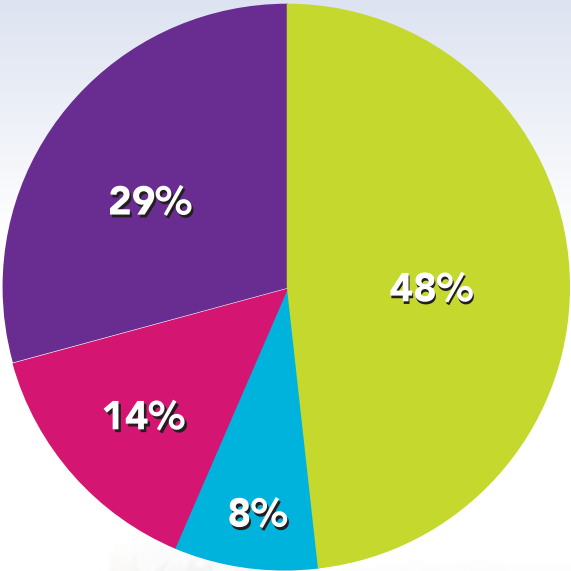


24 Residencies

**provided for free or at reduced
cost in under-resourced schools**



Financials

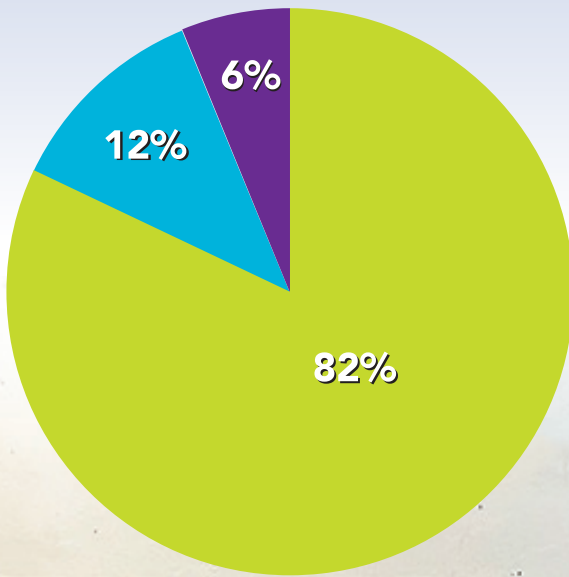


FY 2024 Revenue

Individual Support	\$114,747.00
Program Income	\$69,900.00
Foundations/Grants	\$33,751.00
Corporate Contributions	\$19,669.00
Total Revenue:	\$238,067.00

- Individual Support
- Program Income
- Foundations/Grants
- Corporate Contributions

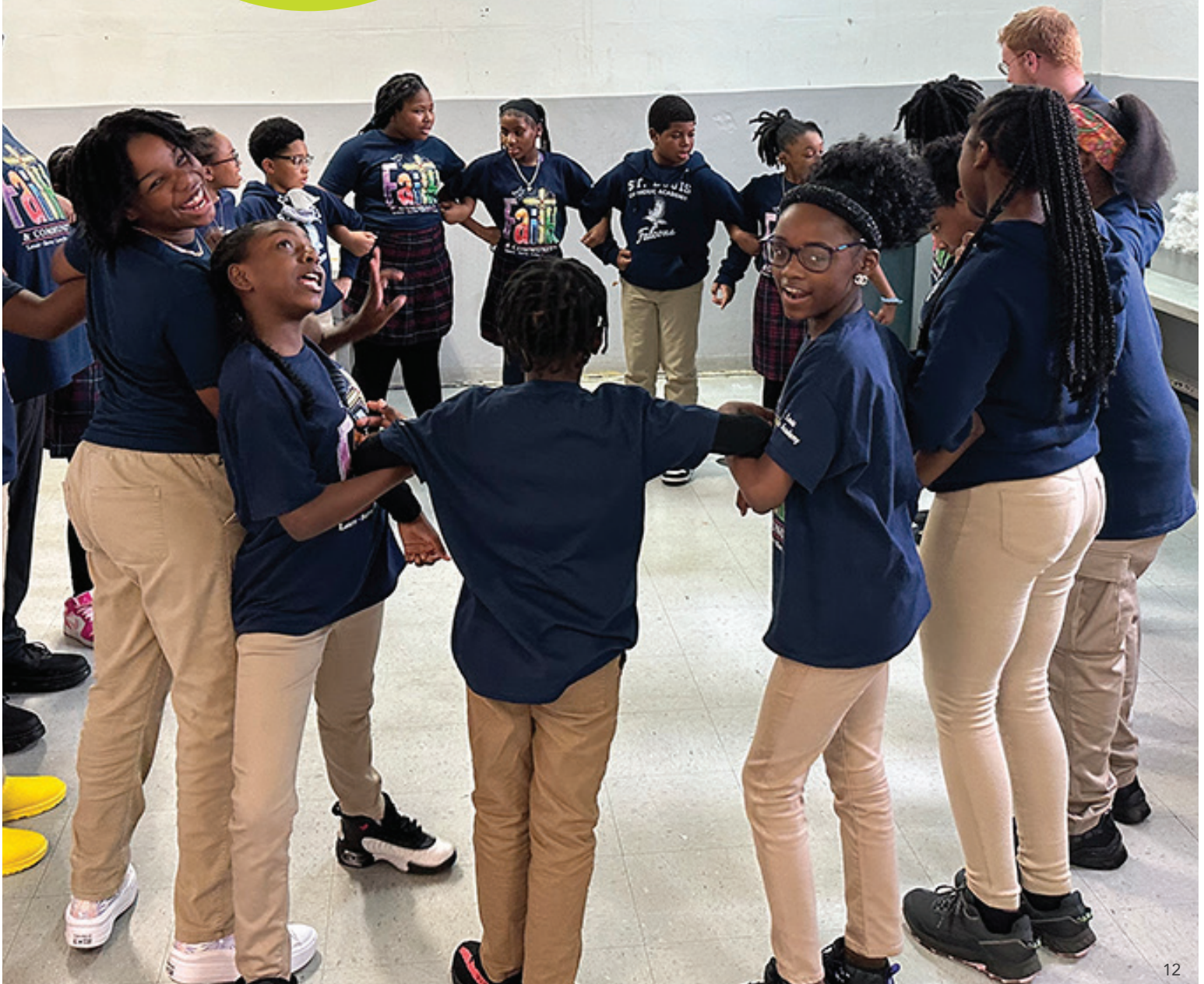




FY 2024 Expenses

Programming Expenses	\$171,276.00
Management & General	\$24,539.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$13,333.00
Total Expenses:	\$209,148.00

- Programming Expenses
- Management and General
- Fundraising Expenses



Recognition and Support

DCSTL SUPPORTERS

COMPETITION EVENT HOSTS



IN KIND DONORS



VOLUNTEERS

UMSL Community Agency Partnership Volunteers: TJ Hackenjos, Megan Thompson

Colors of the Rainbow Volunteers: Alessya Borodko, Terry Fairchild, Rob Ketterer, Sandy Lato, Meredith Lederle, William Lederle, Nancy Nyikes, Jerry Piontek, Denice Seal

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

JK Group / Air Products

GRANTS



UMSL University of Missouri–St. Louis



INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

PLATINUM LEVEL

Edward & Margot Monser

GOLD LEVEL

Andrea & Steve Luebbert

Lelia & David Farr

SILVER LEVEL

Don & Debbie Gerhardt

Sara & Joe Bosco

BRONZE LEVEL

Tyler & Cindy Johnson

Tom & Becky Minogue

Vicki & Jerry Piontek

JoBeth Brown

Jim & Terry Lucas

Barbara Willbrand-White

The Wednesday Club of St. Louis

Anne & Rick Bresnahan

Nancy Davidson

Janice Goodman

Lucy Krause

Jerry & Jenny O'Neil

Sally Roth

Mark & Judy Schnoebelen

Tracy Rhea

Rebecca Blase

Freda Cook

Susan & Glenn Davis

Mary Howe

Elizabeth Moore

Sally Stephen

Martha Wastler

Karen J Cowan

Carol S Murphy

Jill M Witterschein

Patricia Azar

Marcia Jeanne Hart

Nancy E Tegeler





Coming Soon in 2025/2026

St. Louis Dancing Classrooms is changing its name! Same organization with a new & improved name and look!



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
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