



**ENLACES**

Panamá · 2015



FUNDACIÓN  
CALICANTO

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# who are we?

Fundacion Calicanto is a non-governmental, non-profit organization, founded in 1994 by members of the community of Casco Antiguo in Panama City, Panama. Casco Antiguo is the neighborhood where Panama City was founded in 1673 and a UNESCO World Heritage site that is quickly revitalizing after years of neglect.

Fundacion Calicanto's mission is to safeguard the Historic and Human Heritage of Casco Antiguo through social, educational, cultural, conservation programs and actions.



**"THERE IS A SOCIAL CRISIS DUE TO A WEAKENED EDUCATION SYSTEM, AND A LACK OF CULTURAL POLICIES THAT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH"**

## the problem.

As we worked on the restoration of the architectural heritage of the neighborhood, we recognized that residents moved out of Casco Antiguo because their economic situation did not allow them to participate in the revitalization of the area. It became evident that with this gentrification we were losing a diverse culture, which provided visitors and residents a fruitful social dynamic.

Most of the residents of Casco Antiguo and its surrounding communities, live in poverty or extreme poverty. From a young age these people are at a disadvantage due to the lack of financial capital, education, or other needs that could improve their lives. As a result, they have become dependent on the government for aid and support.

Along with these well-known issues, lies an epidemic of emotional poverty and violence among the residents of these communities. Poverty has led them to unhealthy life-styles that cause low self-esteem and generate cycles/waves of violence for the whole family.

Despite Panama's economical growth in the recent decade, there is a social crisis due to a weakened education system, and a lack of cultural policies that provide opportunities for our youth.

Experts point out that Panamanian youth is not well qualified to face modern life challenges, lacks values like assertive communication, team work, discipline and punctuality. The government invests very little in artistic development, infrastructure and content wise.



**"THEY LEARN TO RESPECT EACH OTHER,  
RESPECT THEIR BODIES  
AND IDEAS"**

## our proposal.

Taking all of these into consideration, in 2010 Fundación Calicanto created **Enlaces**, a preventive program for at risk children ages 9 to 18 that develops their artistic potential through contemporary dance and gives them tools for self-care and social skills. Enlaces provides them a safe environment where they learn to respect each other, respect their bodies and ideas through performing arts.



**Enlaces'** aim is to grow as a local and regional cultural reference by educating a generation that becomes participatory and protagonist of social change through art.

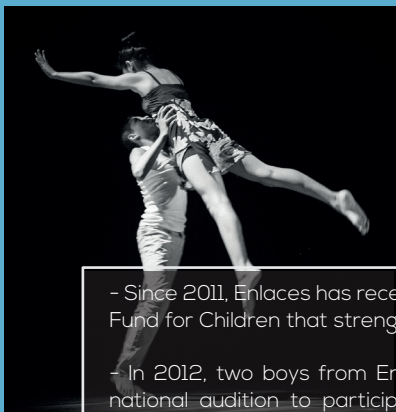
Beginning 2016, Enlaces will also have the support of **Fundación Espacio Creativo**, a local NGO that promotes and fosters contemporary dance, and together with Fundación Calicanto they are developing a strategy to make the program grow towards said aim.

# how we do it:

We capture talent by calling open auditions in public schools of Casco Antiguo. Twenty boys and girls assist to our center from Monday to Friday, and train intensively from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., beginning in March to December, parallel to Panama's school calendar. They arrive to our foundation as soon as they get out of school, and we provide them with a healthy lunch, appropriate for their age development and the physical activity they go through during the afternoon. They take contemporary dance, ballet and theatre lessons, and we also help them with school work and provide psychological support, working closely with their families and schools.

**"ASIDE FROM THE INTENSIVE PROGRAM AT CALICANTO, WE TEACH CONTEMPORARY DANCE ONCE A WEEK TO 157 CHILDREN FROM 4TH TO 6TH GRADE OF THE INSTITUTO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA MERCED, A SCHOOL OF THE AREA RUN BY THE MERCEDARIAN ORDER"**





## achievements.

- Since 2011, Enlaces has received ongoing strategic support from Global Fund for Children that strengthens the program's structure and impact.
- In 2012, two boys from Enlaces were selected from a 600 children national audition to participate in a Panamanian television program called "Pequeños Gigantes". The program consists of 12 episodes in which children demonstrate their dance skills and charisma.

- Two of our children have participated in the dance and theatre productions "Alice in Wonderland" (2011), "Hansel & Gretel" (2014) and "Romeo and Juliet" (2015) directed by the renowned Spanish choreographer Fernando Hurtado.

- In 2013, Enlaces received the CARSI Grant (Central American Regional Security Initiative) from the U.S. Embassy in Panama.

- Enlaces received in 2014 the prestigious award from STARS FOUNDATION, that celebrates innovative and impactful NGOs worldwide.

- In 2014 two of our students won Gold Medal in the international dance competition Danza Activa, held in Panama City.



# In 2015:

174

**CHILDREN ARE BENEFICIARIES OF  
OUR DANCE PROGRAM**



79%

**OF THE STUDENTS ARE AT A GOOD OR EXCELLENT  
LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT**

One of our students was granted a scholarship to study in an intensive dance workshop in Orlando, Florida organized by Dance Theatre USA International, and another of our students received the opportunity of an intensive dance residence for a week in El Colegio del Cuerpo, in Cartagena, Colombia.



96%

**HAVE GOOD TO EXCELLENT  
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE**

84%

**IMPROVED THEIR  
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

22

**OF THEIR PARENTS RECEIVED TRAINING  
IN THE PARENT'S CLUB**

48

**PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS  
WERE TRAINED IN CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION AND  
BULLYING PREVENTION**

Los niños de  
**Enlaces** te  
invitan a la  
muestra:



## “Un Pequeño Gran Equipo”

Una presentación de danza contemporánea y teatro  
creada en colaboración con nuestros profesores.  
¡Te esperamos!



Martes 4 de Diciembre de 2012.  
Teatro Guild de Ancon (Al lado de la D1J)  
4:00 p.m.  
Entrada gratuita



Para mayor información: [enlacesofundacioncalicanto.org](http://enlacesofundacioncalicanto.org) • 228-3646

# our productions.

## 2012 - Un Pequeño Gran Equipo (A Great Little Team)

Theatre Guild of Ancon, Panama City

The art of the small; drops of effort dripping onto one tiny spot can eventually break through and make significant change. We learn to focus on smaller things, and to learn to be persistent by working together.

**2013 – Fábrica de Sueños  
(Factory of Dreams)**

Theatre Guild of Ancon, Panama City

In a factory work is done, things are produced, and in this one, children work very hard shaping themselves into movement artists and molding their dreams, by vocalizing them and elevating them to the sky smoothly, like clouds.

The Theatre Guild Of Ancon & Fundación Calicanto  
PRESENT/PRESENTAN



**Fábrica  
de Sueños**

Enlaces Children End of 2013 Contemporary Dance and Theater Presentation.  
Presentación de Fin de Año de los niños de Enlaces de Danza Contemporánea y Teatro.

<b>Theatre Guild of Ancon</b> December 14 - 8 pm December 15 - 11 am	<b>Teatro Guild of Ancon</b> Diciembre 14 - 8 pm Diciembre 15 - 11 am
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**CALICANTO**  
**ENLACES**

Reserve online: [www.anconguild.com](http://www.anconguild.com) or email [tgapanama@anconguild.com](mailto:tgapanama@anconguild.com)

**2014 – Mi Cuerpo, Mi Fuerza  
(My Body, My Strength)**

Theatre Anita Villalaz, Casco Viejo

The relationship our body as a tool for success and a source of self-confidence and self-respect. The importance of taking care of ourselves and the concepts of individuality and how a group can act as a whole, too.



# REFLEJOS

Un espectáculo de  
danza contemporánea  
por los estudiantes del  
programa Enlaces.

**JUEVES 27 DE AGOSTO DE 2015**  
**TEATRO ANITA VILLALAZ · 7:00 P.M.**

**Reservaciones:**  
[enlaces@fundacioncalicanto.org](mailto:enlaces@fundacioncalicanto.org)



Fotografía cortesía de José Leonardo Amaya.

## **2015 – Reflejos (Reflections/Reflexes)**

Theatre Anita Villalaz, Casco Viejo

The word reflections with its many meanings summarize our children's work so far. Over the years, we have seen them grow, mature and improve not only on their artistic skills but also in finding their place in the world. They are a reflection of our dreams, fears and success. We look in the mirror of our own humanity. "All exterior movement is the result of an inner one". – R. Laban



# how to help?

Enlaces is a long term project that is in continuous transformation; we grow with our children and we want to provide a consistent platform for its development.



## International Donations

If you want to make an individual or recurring donation, you can do this thru our GlobalGiving site:

**[www.globalgiving.org/  
donate/6413/Fundación-calicanto/](https://www.globalgiving.org/donate/6413/Fundación-calicanto/)**

Donations made here are tax deductible for residents in the United States and United Kingdom.



**follow us. really.**



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