



**ALVIN AILEY**  
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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## **AileyCamp Enriches Inner-City Youth this Summer in 10 Cities Nationwide**

### **Innovative Six-Week Program Inspires and Educates Students through Dance and Personal Development to Believe in their Unlimited Potential and Possibilities**

(New York, NY) June 28, 2012 – **AileyCamp**, the innovative full-scholarship day camp, will provide approximately one thousand inner-city students in 10 cities across the United States this summer with an inspiring six-week program that **uses the art of dance as a means to stretch their minds, bodies and spirits.**

AileyCampers, **ages 11-14**, will learn important life skills through classes in a variety of dance techniques, as well as in personal development and creative communication. Participants cultivate respect for themselves and others, learn the importance of setting and achieving goals, gain experience in decision making and carve out their own identities within a supportive framework that gives them an important foundation for the future.

“I remember being inspired by the Ailey company as a middle-school student when I saw Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations* as 12-year-old boy in Miami,” said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. “I really do feel that experience motivated me on my journey and I’d like to ensure that other young people can have that same transformative experience. Now, being at the helm, it’s an honor to continue Mr. Ailey’s vision that ‘dance came from the people and should always be delivered back to the people.’”

Founded in 1989, AileyCamp gives underserved students a supportive environment to use dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression and critical thinking skills. The camp’s curriculum includes daily technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz, and West African dance. Personal development and creative communication classes deepen student’s awareness of their potential and discuss topics such as nutrition, conflict resolution, and career development. Camp tuition, uniforms, dance attire, field trips, breakfast and lunch are provided. Daily affirmations, such as “I will not use the word ‘can’t’ to define my possibilities,” serve to guide them on a path to becoming productive and motivated individuals.

**AileyCamp Newark** returns, July 2 – August 10, after its successful launch last summer, and **AileyCamp Washington Heights**, July 9 – August 17, will celebrate over 20 years of providing local students with life-changing experiences. **Mayor Cory Booker** made a special visit to the inaugural class of Newark AileyCampers to encourage them to fully enjoy this new opportunity, keep an open mind, explore new ideas and enhance their potential. In May, select AileyCamp Newark and Washington Heights students excitedly performed for the first time at Ailey’s annual Apollo gala and charmed the audience with a dance inspired by Artistic Director Robert Battle’s *The Hunt*.



Mayor Cory Booker and Judith Jamison with Newark AileyCampers.  
Photo by Jack Grabow

“Alvin Ailey recognized that dance could inspire young people in life-changing ways and be an agent in helping them set and achieve goals,” explains **Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, National Director of AileyCamp and former member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**. “As I travel throughout the summer visiting camps from Newark to Miami and everywhere in between, I am inspired by each student’s growth. It’s a joy to see AileyCamp’s positive impact on their development as young adults.”

In addition to **Newark** and **Washington Heights**, **AileyCamps** provide a safe environment to motivate and educate students and is already in full swing in **Atlanta, GA**; **Kansas City, MO**; and **Kansas City, KS** (June 4 to July 13). The program is scheduled for **Berkeley, CA** and **Chicago, IL** (June 25 – August 3); **Miami, FL** (June 25 – August 4); **Boston, MA**; **Bridgeport, CT** (July 2 – August 10).

AileyCamps will culminate with a final performance for family, friends and community leaders where campers showcase their hard work in an original production of specially choreographed dances, poetry readings and theatrical improvisation. Although AileyCamp is not meant to be a training ground for professional dancers, some students are awarded scholarships for further study at The Ailey School or pursue training at other accredited dance schools and have later performed with professional dance companies. Former Chicago AileyCamper Solomon Dumas built upon the skills he obtained at camp and decided to attend The Ailey School which lead to dancing as a member of Ailey II.

**Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs** are committed to bringing dance into classrooms, communities, and lives of people of all ages. Programs include special student performances; lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; AileyCamp, a full scholarship summer camp for underserved inner-city youth; and innovative curriculum based residencies inspired by *Revelations*. For further details on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey organization’s performances, training programs and Ailey Arts In Education activities, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

#### **PRESS**

For photos and video visit:

- AileyCamp [Newark](#)
- AileyCamp [Washington Heights](#)

For additional press materials regarding AileyCamp visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).

**Prudential is proud to be the lead funder of AileyCamp Newark**

**Bloomberg is the sponsor of AileyCamp New York**

**Leadership support for Ailey’s Arts In Education and Community Programs is provided through the Simin & Herb Allison Arts In Education Endowment Fund.**

**AileyCamp Newark is administered in collaboration with Newark Public Schools and NJPAC.**

**AileyCamp Washington Heights is administered in collaboration with the Children’s Aid Society.**

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**Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater**, recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American “Cultural Ambassador to the World,” grew from a now-fabled 1958 New York performance that changed American dance. Now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011, the Company has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa, celebrating the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. The Ailey organization also includes; **Ailey II** (1974), a second company of young dancers and choreographers; **The Ailey School** (1969), extensive dance training programs; **Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs**, bringing dance into classrooms and communities; and **The Ailey Extension** (2005), dance and fitness classes for the general public at Ailey’s home – The

Joan Weill Center for Dance in New York City—the largest building for dance in New York City – the dance capital of the world.