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AILEYCAMP INSPIRES YOUTH IN 10 CITIES NATIONWIDE WITH LIFE-CHANGING *PERSPECTIVE*

Free 6-Week Summer Program Utilizes Dance and the Arts to Help Middle-School Students Reach for Unlimited Potential

New York, NY – JUNE 27, 2023 – [AileyCamp](#), the nationally acclaimed program that helps middle schoolers reach for their potential, will positively impacts students ages 11-14 this summer with a curriculum guided by the theme, “perspective.” Fulfilling Alvin Ailey’s belief in enriching young lives through the arts, AileyCamp became a reality nearly 35 years ago in 1989 in partnership with the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey. This summer, with the launch of [AileyCamp Atlanta](#) in partnership with Purpose Built Schools, AileyCamp uplifts youth in 10 cities nationwide: **Baltimore, MD; Berkeley, CA; Chicago, IL; Kansas City, KS and MO; Miami, FL; New York, NY; Newark, NJ and Seattle, WA.**

This innovative, full-scholarship program focuses on developing self-esteem, creative expression, and critical thinking skills while engaging in a variety of dance techniques daily, including **ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, and West African dance.** “[AileyCamp] is a safe space for me. I can express myself without feeling judged,” said a New York camper ([watch program overview video here](#)). In addition to stretching their minds, bodies, and spirits, campers learn how to express themselves in a positive way and tackle challenging subjects that include decision-making, peer pressure, conflict resolution, and self-awareness.

Unique to AileyCamp, students also engage in curated theme-based lessons and begin each day reciting [daily affirmations](#) such as **“I will pay attention with my mind, body, and spirit,”** and **“I will not use the word ‘can’t’ to define my possibilities,”** to guide AileyCampers on a path to becoming confident, productive, and motivated individuals. **Alvin Ailey** once said, **“to be who you are and become what you are capable of is the only goal worth living,”** and this year’s guiding curriculum theme “perspective” helps drive campers to explore their unlimited possibilities.

“Alvin Ailey started AileyCamp because he knew how transformative and impactful the arts can be on a young person,” said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. “Both Mr. Ailey and I experienced a life-changing transformation when we stepped into the world of dance and it’s inspiring to witness his legacy continuing to reach youth across the country in programs like AileyCamp.”

AileyCamp culminates in a special final performance for family, friends, and community leaders where the AileyCampers showcase their hard work in original productions of choreographed dances, poetry readings, and theatrical improvisations. **All camps will perform an excerpt inspired by Artistic Director Robert Battle’s *Takademe*, a thrilling work that will challenge AileyCampers to keep up with its fast-paced and high-energy movement. To commemorate the metro area youth’s transformations and accomplished goals this summer, AileyCamp Newark’s final performance will be on Wednesday, August 2 at 7pm at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Children’s Aid/AileyCamp New York on Thursday, August 10 at 7pm at HOSTOS Community College.**

“AileyCamp gives young people an opportunity to have a quality arts experience, make friends, express themselves, and recognize that they matter,” says [Nasha Thomas](#), **National Director of AileyCamp/Arts In Education Spokesperson & Master Teacher**. “Every year, it is a joy to witness the campers’ transformation from the first day to the final performance, and it’s incredibly special to watch our former campers step into leadership roles that pay it forward to the next generation – it’s a testament to Alvin Ailey’s mission of enriching the lives of youth through dance.”

With Newark camp opening this week and New York on July 5, nearly 200 local students will participate in AileyCamp, where they will engage with AileyCamp alumni who are returning this summer in leadership roles to help guide their younger peers and further strengthen the AileyCamp community. To round out their fulfilling experience with Ailey, during the year campers also have an opportunity to witness a performance by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, where currently two members were introduced to dance through the program: [Solomon Dumas](#) (Chicago) is the first former AileyCamper to join the troupe, and [Christopher Taylor](#) (Newark) shares a similar path as Dumas – studying on scholarship

at The Ailey School and dancing with Ailey II prior to joining the Company. Although AileyCamp is not meant to be a training ground for professional dancers, some students are also awarded scholarships to further study at The Ailey School or pursue training at other accredited dance schools and have later performed with professional dance companies.

As the last program Alvin Ailey founded before his passing, his trailblazing legacy continues to reach thousands of young people through AileyCamp every summer, providing direction and aspiration to students across the country.

2023 AileyCamp Schedule:

Atlanta, GA: Purpose Built Schools Atlanta (June 5 – July 15)

Baltimore, MD: Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University (June 26 – August 4)

Berkeley/Oakland, CA: Cal Performances (June 20 – July 28)

Chicago, IL: AileyCamp Chicago (June 26 – August 4)

Kansas City, MO & KS: Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (June 5 – July 13)

Miami, FL: Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (June 20 – July 29)

New York, NY: Children’s Aid (July 5 – August 11)

Newark, NJ: New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Newark Public Schools (June 26 – August 4)

Seattle, WA: Seattle Theatre Group (July 5 – August 10)

PRESS: Click here for [photos](#) and [videos](#). For additional information, please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

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Simin & Herb Allison Arts In Education Endowment Fund.**

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About Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs

Since 1992, Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs has been committed to bringing dance into homes, classrooms, and communities across the country to positively impact people of all ages through the power of dance. In addition to AileyCamp, a full scholarship day camp for youth, in-person and remote programs include, lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; innovative curriculum based residencies inspired by *Revelations* and *Night Creature*; and AileyDance for Active Aging, a program that serves as an outlet for artistic expression and fosters a sense of joy. For more, visit www.alvinailey.org/AIE.

About the Ailey organization:

In accordance with groundbreaking choreographer Alvin Ailey’s dictum that “dance is for everybody,” the Ailey organization offers dance performances, training and education and community programs that use the American modern dance tradition and the beauty of the African American heritage and other cultures to enlighten, unite and inspire all people. 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 March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Today, under the leadership of artistic director, Robert Battle, the Company continues Mr. Ailey’s mission by presenting important works of the past and commissioning new ones. The Ailey organization also includes Ailey II (1974), a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), one of the most extensive dance training programs in the world; Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, which brings dance into the classrooms, communities, and lives of people of all ages; and Ailey Extension (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey’s permanent home—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world—named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.

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