



**AILEY**  
Arts In Education &  
Community Programs

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## **AILEYCAMP KEEPS INNER-CITY YOUTH DANCING AND DISCOVERING THIS SUMMER IN 10 CITIES NATIONWIDE**

**The Innovative Summer Program to Inspire New York and Newark Students to Believe in Their Unlimited Potential in Collaboration with Children's Aid Society and NJPAC and Newark Public Schools**

New York, NY – July 6, 2017 – Now in its 29th year, [AileyCamp](#) is now underway this summer in **10 cities nationwide** - inspiring students in challenging situations to discover their underlying potential, as well as the paths to set and achieve positive goals. Founded in 1989 by Alvin Ailey, the **full-scholarship day camp** uses the **art of dance as a means to stretch the mind, body and spirit** of more than **1,000 underserved students ages 11 to 14**.

During the summer program, AileyCampers learn a myriad of dance forms daily including **ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz and tap**. Personal development and creative communication classes deepen student's awareness of their potential and discuss topics such as nutrition, conflict resolution, and career development. Additionally, daily affirmations, such as **"I will not use the word 'can't' to define my possibilities"** and **"I am a winner,"** serve as a guide to these students in becoming productive and motivated individuals. **Camp tuition, uniforms, dance attire, field trips, breakfast and lunch are provided.**

**"One of Alvin Ailey's most powerful messages was 'dance is for everybody,'"** says Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#). "It's a joy to see his vision come to fruition with AileyCamps, offering underserved children the opportunity to explore the magic of dance while instilling self-esteem and confidence. My experience with the Ailey company while I was a young boy is the backbone to my success in life, and I know these students will feel just as inspired as I did to conquer the world."

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. Last year, for the first time, a **former AileyCamper [Solomon Dumas](#)** joined the incomparable Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Solomon Dumas attended AileyCamp Chicago, was on scholarship at The Ailey School, and danced as a member of Ailey II before joining the company in May 2016.

"It's always a delight to see the profound impact of AileyCamp on students, just like it had on Solomon," says [Nasha Thomas](#), **National Director of AileyCamp/Arts In Education Spokesperson & Master Teacher**. "AileyCamp truly is a transformative experience for all students to overcome adversity, preparing them with the skills they need to achieve their dreams."

**AileyCamps** will provide environments for young people to nurture their dreams in cities nationwide including:

**Atlanta, GA** — Atlanta Ballet (June 1 – July 6)

**Kansas City, MO** and **Kansas City, KS** — Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (June 5 – July 14)

**Baltimore, MD** — Towson University (June 20 – July 14)

**Berkeley/Oakland, CA** — Cal Performances (June 26 – August 4)

**Chicago, IL** — Chicago Park District and AUSL (June 26 – August 4)

**Miami, FL** — Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (June 26 – August 5)

**Seattle, WA** — Seattle Theatre Group (June 28 – August 4)

**Washington Heights, NY** — Children’s Aid Society (July 5 – August 11)

**Newark, NJ** — NJPAC and Newark Public Schools (July 5 – August 11)

All AileyCamps culminate with a high-energy 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 improvisations. The performances not only highlight the creative and technical skills of the campers, but also serve as a dynamic display of the self-confidence, performance skills and pride developed during camp. **In the New York area**, the final performance for **AileyCamp Washington Heights** will be held at Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture on **Thursday, August 10th at 7:00pm** and **AileyCamp Newark’s** final performance will be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on **Friday, August 11th at 7:00pm**.

**Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs** are committed to bringing dance into classrooms, communities, and the lives of people of all ages. In addition to AileyCamp, programs include special student performances; lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; and innovative curriculum based residencies inspired by *Revelations* and *Night Creature*. 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, videos, and additional press materials regarding AileyCamp visit [pressroom.alvinailey.org](http://pressroom.alvinailey.org).

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

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

**Major support for AileyCamp is provided by the Meringoff Family Foundation.**

**AileyCamp Newark is administered in collaboration with Newark Public Schools and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.**

**CAS/AileyCamp New York is administered in collaboration with The Children’s Aid Society.**

## **About Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Ailey organization**

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. Founded by Alvin Ailey, recent posthumous recipient of the nation’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and guided by Judith Jamison beginning in 1989, the Company is now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. 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; and The Ailey Extension (2005), a program of dance and fitness classes for the general public. Each year, Ailey’s Arts in Education & Community Programs educate and inspire over 100,000 young people in classrooms and communities through student performances, lecture-demonstrations, technique classes, curriculum-based residences inspired by Alvin Ailey’s signature masterpieces *Revelations* as well as *Night Creature* and AileyCamp, a unique summer day camp in 10 cities nationwide. The permanent home of the Ailey organization at 55th Street and 9th Avenue – named The Joan Weill Center for Dance – is the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City – the dance capital of the world. For more information on the Ailey organization’s performances, training and educational programs, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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