



AILEY
Arts In Education &
Community Programs

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AILEYCAMP CELEBRATES 30 YEAR MILESTONE OF ENRICHING AND INSPIRING INNER-CITY YOUTH NATIONWIDE

**Innovative Summer Program Now in 10 Cities to Guide New York and Newark Students on a Path to
Becoming Productive and Motivated Individuals Through Dance and Personal Development in Collaboration
with Children's Aid and Newark Public Schools and NJPAC**

**10th Anniversary of The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation
Collaboration to Bring AileyCamp Miami to South Florida at-risk Middle Schoolers**

New York, NY – July 9, 2018 – As Ailey enters its sixth decade, [AileyCamp](#), the organization's innovative full-scholarship day camp, **marks its 30th anniversary** reaching over **1,000 inner-city students in 10 cities nationwide** with a life-changing experience. Founded by Alvin Ailey and Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey in 1989, AileyCamp is being implemented in collaboration with local organizations in **Kansas City, MO; Kansas City, KS; Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Berkeley, CA; Chicago, IL; Miami, FL; Seattle, WA; Bronx, NY and Newark, NJ.** The valuable summer program gives underserved students ages 11 to 14 a supportive environment to use dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression and critical-thinking skills.

AileyCamp's curriculum offers a variety of dance techniques, including **ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz and West African dance**, as well as personal development and creative communication classes, which teach campers how to express themselves in positive ways. Daily affirmations are recited, such as **"I will not use the word 'can't' to define my possibilities"** and **"I am a winner,"** to serve as a guide to these students in becoming confident, productive and motivated individuals. **Camp tuition, uniforms, dance attire, field trips, breakfast and lunch are provided to each student free of charge.**

"AileyCamp was the last program Alvin Ailey founded before his passing in 1989," says **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "Over the past 30 years, the camp's growth and impact nationwide has been amazing. It's provided direction and hope to thousands of children who are most in need of knowing how to overcome challenges and achieve their dreams."

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 to pursue training at other accredited dance schools and have later performed with professional dance companies. In May 2016, [Solomon Dumas](#) became the first **former AileyCamper** to join Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Dumas attended AileyCamp Chicago, was on scholarship at The Ailey School, danced as a member of Ailey II, and taught at Ailey Extension before joining the Company.

"Alvin Ailey was a visionary who recognized the power of dance to open hearts and minds through performances, as well as programs that enrich the lives of young people," says [Nasha Thomas](#), **National Director of AileyCamp/Arts In Education Spokesperson & Master Teacher**. "It was an honor to be a member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater under his direction, and it is now a privilege to carry on his legacy of positively influencing children through AileyCamp."

As I visit the camps across the country, I'm moved by the countless stories of success I hear from former campers, and seeing current participants begin a journey of possibility – step by step.”

All AileyCamps culminate with a grand finale 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. **In honor of 60 years since the founding of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, this year's opening number will pay homage to Alvin Ailey showcasing works central to the Ailey repertory. Campers will perform excerpts from *Hymn*, *Revelations* (“I Been ‘Buked”), *Blues Suite* (“Mean Ol’ Frisco”), *Night Creature*, *Divining* and *The Hunt*.** 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 New York will be held at Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture on Thursday, August 9 at 7pm and AileyCamp Newark's final performance will be held at New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Friday, August 10 at 7pm.**

In partnership with local organizations, **AileyCamps** will provide a safe environment to motivate and educate students in cities nationwide including:

Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS — Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (May 29 – July 6)

Atlanta, GA — Atlanta Ballet (May 31 – July 6)

Baltimore, MD — Towson University (June 18 – July 27)

Berkeley/Oakland, CA — Cal Performances (June 25 – August 3)

Chicago, IL — Chicago Park District and Academy for Urban School Leadership (June 25 – August 3)

Miami, FL — Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (June 25 – August 4)

Seattle, WA — Seattle Theatre Group (June 27 – August 3)

Bronx, NY — Children's Aid (July 2 – August 10)

Newark, NJ — New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Newark Public Schools (July 2 – August 10)

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 <http://www.alvinailey.org/AIE>.

PRESS: For photos, videos, and additional press materials regarding AileyCamp visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

Take a virtual tour and get an inside look of the impact of AileyCamp by watching [The Today Show](#) and [NBC Nightly News](#) segments.

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.

Children's Aid /AileyCamp New York is administered in collaboration with Children's Aid.

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.

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