



AILEY
Arts In Education &
Community Programs

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AILEYCAMP - NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED FREE SUMMER PROGRAM – TRANSFORMS INNER-CITY YOUTH THROUGH DANCE, STRETCHING THEIR MINDS, BODIES AND SPIRITS

Innovative Program in 10 Cities Nationwide Inspires New York and Newark Students, Guiding them to Believe in their Unlimited Potential in Collaboration with Children’s Aid, Newark Public Schools and NJPAC

New York, NY – July 1, 2019 – This summer, [AileyCamp](#) will provide **1,000 inner-city students in 10 cities nationwide** a safe space to be themselves and explore their creativity during a six-week life-changing program. Founded by Alvin Ailey and Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey in 1989, this innovative full-scholarship day camp uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical-thinking skills. Driven by Alvin Ailey’s mission to bring dance to everybody, AileyCamp continues Ailey’s legacy inspiring students in **Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Berkeley/Oakland, CA; Chicago, IL; Kansas City, MO; Kansas City, KS; Miami, FL; Newark, NJ; New York, NY; and Seattle, WA.**

The nationally acclaimed summer program provides classes in dance techniques such as **ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, tap and West African dance.** Personal development and creative communication classes will teach campers how to express themselves in a positive way and tackle challenging subjects that include decision-making, peer-pressure, conflict resolution, and self-awareness. Each day begins with 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. **Camp tuition, uniforms, dance attire, field trips, breakfast and lunch are provided to each student free of charge.**

“Your imagination costs you nothing, but can cost you everything if you don’t use it,” says **Artistic Director [Robert Battle](#).** “Alvin Ailey was dedicated to using the power of dance to enrich and positively alter the lives of underserved youth. Mr. Ailey once said, ‘The creative process is not controlled by a switch you can simply turn on or off; it is with you all the time.’ Through the power of dance, writing, and visual arts, AileyCampers across the nation will be given the tools to unleash their imagination and open the door to endless possibilities.”

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. 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. Last month, select AileyCamp Newark and New York campers were invited to participate in a special tribute ballet at Lincoln Center launching The Ailey School’s 50th Anniversary celebration. The piece d’occasion, entitled *Testimony*, followed a young boy from an Arts In Education program to the Company, which parallels the inspiring journeys of Dumas and Ailey II Artistic Director [Troy Powell](#) – who was discovered by Mr. Ailey at an outreach activity at age 9 and awarded a scholarship to The Ailey School, before dancing with both companies and later leading the junior company.

“AileyCamp gives students an opportunity to dream big and take steps towards a successful future,” says [Nasha Thomas](#), **National Director of AileyCamp/Arts In Education Spokesperson & Master Teacher**. “The program is aimed at using dance in an atmosphere of warmth, respect and trust to develop self-confidence, critical thinking, and communication skills – tools to success. We are teaching these students anything is possible if you believe in yourself. As I visit the camps throughout the summer, I am inspired by the nearly 1,000 students I meet and their transformation from week one to the conclusion of camp.”

All AileyCamps 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 improvisations. All ten cities will celebrate **Imagination** in their final performances, the theme guiding the AileyCamp curriculum this year. Campers will perform an excerpt inspired by Donald Byrd’s *Shards*, a skillfully crafted ballet showcasing eclectic and complex choreography, his first work that was set on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1988. The performances not only highlight the creative and technical skills of the campers, but also celebrate their growth in a dynamic display of the self-confidence, performance skills and pride developed during camp. **In the New York area**, the final performance for Children’s Aid/AileyCamp New York will be held at Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture on **Thursday, August 8 at 7pm** and **AileyCamp Newark’s** final performance will be held at New Jersey Performing Arts Center on **Friday, August 9 at 7pm**.

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

Atlanta, GA — Atlanta Ballet (May 30 – July 6)

Kansas City, MO and **Kansas City, KS** — Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (June 6 – July 3)

Miami, FL — Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (June 24 – August 3)

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

Chicago, IL — Chicago Park District and Academy for Urban School Leadership (June 25 – August 2)

New York, NY — Children’s Aid (July 1 – August 9)

Newark, NJ — New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Newark Public Schools (July 1 – August 9)

Seattle, WA — Seattle Theatre Group (July 3 – August 2)

Baltimore, MD — Towson University (July 8 – August 16)

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 and reading [New York Times](#) feature on Solomon Dumas.

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

Additional major support for AileyCamp Newark provided by Fund II Foundation.

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

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 Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation’s highest civilian honor, 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. In addition to being the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, where its performances have become a year-end tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami, The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark (where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the United States and the world during extensive yearly tours. 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 The 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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