



ALVIN AILEY
AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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AileyCamp Enriches Inner-City Youth this Summer in 9 Cities Nationwide Including the Launch of the First Ever AileyCamp Baltimore

Innovative Summer Program Inspires and Educates Students through Dance and Personal Development to Believe in their Unlimited Potential and Possibilities

(New York, NY) June 25, 2014 – **AileyCamp**, the innovative full-scholarship day camp will provide life-changing and meaningful experiences to students in nine cities across the United States and welcomes the first ever AileyCamp in Baltimore, Maryland thanks to the support of Towson University. This inspiring program uses **the art of dance as a means to stretch the mind, body, and spirit** of approximately 900 inner-city students this summer.

Founded by Alvin Ailey and Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey in 1989, AileyCamp gives **inner-city students ages 11-14** a supportive environment to use dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical-thinking skills. Personal development and creative communication classes teach campers how to express themselves in a positive way and discuss topics such as nutrition, conflict resolution, and career development. The camp's curriculum includes daily technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz, and West African dance. In recent years, a boy's percussion class was developed to enhance camper musicality by learning the history, technique, and rhythms of different instruments.

"AileyCamp is a significant part of the organization's mission of using dance to inspire and educate," said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "AileyCamp provides that eye-opening experience, teaching students that we're only limited by our imagination and that anything is possible when it comes to their future. It's one of the essential ways we fulfill Mr. Ailey's belief that 'dance came from the people and should always be delivered back to the people.'"

AileyCampers learn important life skills, 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 an encouraging framework that gives them an important foundation for the future. **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.

"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 young people all over the country."

In addition to **Baltimore** (June 20 – July 3), **Newark** (June 30 – August 8) and **Washington Heights** (July 7 – August 15), **AileyCamps** will provide a safe environment to motivate and educate students in **Kansas City, MO** and **Kansas City, KS** (June 4 to July 10); **Atlanta, GA** (June 9 – June 20); **Berkeley, CA** (June 23 – August 1) and **Miami, FL** (June 23 – August 2); and **Bridgeport, CT** (June 30 – August 1).

All 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 improvisations. The performance not only highlights the creative and technical skills of the campers, but also serves as an exciting display of the self-confidence, performance skills, and pride developed during camp. In the New York area, **the final performance for AileyCamp Newark** will be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on **August 7th at 7:00pm** and **AileyCamp Washington Heights' final performance** will be held at Hostos Community College/CUNY Theater on **August 14th at 7:00pm**.

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. Earlier this month, select AileyCamp Newark and Washington Heights campers were invited to perform at the Ailey Spirit Gala at Lincoln Center and thrilled the audience with a dance inspired by Ronald K. Brown's *Grace*.

Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs are committed to bringing dance into classrooms, communities, and the 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.

PRESS

For photos and video visit:

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

For additional press materials regarding AileyCamp visit 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.

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Major support for Ailey's Arts In Education and Community Programs in Newark is provided by the Victoria Foundation

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.