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**Dallas Arts Community Joins Forces
To Celebrate Legacy of DBDT Founder Ann Williams**

[May 5, 2014] –DALLAS – May 16 and May 17, 2014 the downtown **Dallas Arts Community** will be in full force as members come together to celebrate the final performances of the **Dallas Black Dance Theatre** with Founder **Ann Williams** at the helm. The AT&T Performing Arts Center Winspear Opera House will be the stage for five performing arts organizations to pay tribute in dance.

Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico, Bruce Wood Dance Project, Texas Ballet Theater and guest performer **Kirven Douthit-Boyd (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater)** will perform both evenings as a gift to the retiring Williams. In addition, DBDT will perform new choreography by **Lily Weiss** (Booker T. Washington HSPVA), **Christopher Vo** (Booker T. Washington HSPVA alum and participant in the NBC hit series SMASH) and **Bruce Wood**, who has choreographed a work that features members from his own company and DBDT.

Both evenings will begin with a red carpet reception featuring the biopic ***The Dream***, a biographical film that chronicles the history of Dallas Black Dance Theatre and features interviews with several community supporters. After the performance, a VIP reception will be held for performers, guests artists and audience members to mingle with Williams.

TACA (The Arts Community Alliance) returns as the presenting sponsor for the series. TACA champions artistic excellence in performing arts organizations and has been a supporter of DBDT since 1978. “TACA has had the privilege of providing financial support to Dallas Black Dance Theatre since 1967. To date, TACA has awarded DBDT \$641,000. We value the work that this important company does in our community as well as its role as an international ambassador for our city. DBDT has helped shaped our cultural landscape in many ways,” said Rebecca Young, TACA President & Executive Director.

Serving as Honorary Chairs for the performances are **Anita N. Martinez** (Founder, Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico), **Linda James** (Dance Council of North Texas) and **Alfreda Norman (Federal Reserve Bank)**.

The Spring Celebration Series will be Williams’ final act after 40 years of dedicated service providing exceptional dance education and performances to an international dance audience. During her reign as Artistic Director, the Dallas Black Dance Academy and Dallas Black Dance Theatre have provided performances to over 3.5 million arts patrons and 2.5 million students worldwide in 30 states and 12 countries.

Performances for the series will be held **Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 18 at 7:30pm**. Tickets for the performances and VIP receptions are available and can be purchased by calling the **ATTPAC Box Office at 214.880.0202** or visiting the website at **dbdt.com**. Donations may also be made in honor of Ann Williams’ legacy at dbdt.com/support, and social media congratulations are welcome using #ThankYouAnnWilliams.

About Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Founded by Ann Williams, the mission of Dallas Black Dance Theatre is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at its highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities. With an ever-expanding national and global audience, the company employs a diverse, multi-ethnic troupe of dancers performing for audiences of all ages and background.

Located at the eastern end of the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District, Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is a nationally recognized professional modern dance company that engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African-American experience. Over the course of its history, DBDT has performed worldwide for 3.5 million arts patrons and 2.5 million students, grades K-12, and annually serves more than 100,000 persons in Dallas and the North Texas area, including more than 20,000 youth.

*Dallas Black Dance Theatre's professional company, **DBDT**, consists of 12 full-time professional dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, African and spiritual works by nationally and internationally known choreographers. DBDT's second performing company, **DBDT II**, consists of 10 semi-professional artists from around the nation to support DBDT's growing local and regional educational outreach.*

Dallas Black Dance Academy celebrates 40 years of providing dance instruction to the community. Over 450 students participate weekly in over 50 dance classes in the disciplines of ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African. Classes are offered at the DBDT studios located at 2700 Flora Street in the Dallas Arts District.

Sponsors for the 37th Season of Dance (2013-2014)

Dallas Black Dance Theatre appreciates the support provided by the following generous community, corporate and philanthropic organizations for its 37th Season of Dance: Season Sponsor - Texas Instruments Foundation and The Eugene McDermott Foundation. Choreography sponsors: NorthPark Center, and National Endowment for the Arts-ArtWorks. Additional support by: Office of Cultural Affairs-City of Dallas, American Airlines, Texas Commission on the Arts, Lexus, Yellow Cab, Downtown Business News, Southside on Lamar, Black Business Directory, Elite News, DallasBlack.com, Dallas Examiner, Dallas Weekly, Post Tribune, WRR and Radio One.

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