

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



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MEDIA ADVISORY
November 23, 2016

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National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu To visit Dallas Black Dance Theatre November 28, 2016

Who: Jane Chu, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will visit Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT).

What: Chairman Chu will tour Dallas Black Dance Theatre facility, experience a performance, learn more about the programs DBDT provides and participate in a roundtable discussion on cultural equity and the role of the arts. In FY 2016, Dallas Black Dance Theatre received a grant from the NEA to support its 2016 Cultural Awareness series, which included three world premieres.

When: Monday November 28, 2016
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Dallas Black Dance Theatre
2700 Ann Williams Way
Dallas, Texas 75201

Complimentary parking in the parking lot south of the building.

Participants in the Round Table Discussion

Jane Chu, chairman, National Endowment for the Arts
Gary Gibbs, executive director, Texas Commission on the Arts
Zenetta S. Drew, executive director, Dallas Black Dance Theatre
Ann Williams, founder/artistic advisor, Dallas Black Dance Theatre
Georgia Scaife, board president, Dallas Black Dance Theatre
Gilbert Gerst, board chairman, Dallas Black Dance Theatre
Jennifer Scripps, director, Office of Cultural Affairs
Sylvia Hougland, vice chair, Cultural Affairs Commission
Lauren Embrey, philanthropic vision and chair, Embrey Family Foundation
Kevin Hurst, director of charitable giving, Neiman Marcus Group

The media is welcome to record Chairman Chu's visit, including the round table discussion.

If you would like an individual interview with the NEA chairman at Dallas Black Dance Theatre please contact Judith Kargbo at kargboj@arts.gov.

About Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Founded in 1976 by **Ann Williams**, **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** is the oldest continuously operating professional dance company in Dallas. It has become the largest minority arts organization in Dallas and the 10th largest in the nation. 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 backgrounds.

Located in a historic facility at the eastern end of the thriving downtown **Dallas Arts District**, Dallas Black Dance Theatre is a nationally and internationally recognized professional modern dance company. DBDT engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African American experience. Dallas Black Dance Theatre is a resident company member of the **AT&T Performing Arts Center-Dee and Charles Wily Theatre** located in Dallas's Art District.

During its 40-year history, Dallas Black Dance Theatre has performed on five continents, in 15 countries and 31 states, including two Olympic Cultural events. Over the years, more than 4 million arts patrons and 2.6 million students, grades K-12, have experienced the dance company's performances and educational outreach programs. DBDT serves more than 100,000 people annually, including more than 20,000 youth in grades K-12 in Dallas-Fort Worth area schools. DBDT offers community outreach services through workshops, lecture/demonstrations, master-classes, residences, mini-performances and student matinees that are designed level-specific for elementary, middle, high school and university students. Another 40,000 youth and adults are reached through local, national and international festivals, tours, special performances at universities, social service agencies, professional and corporate organizations, civic events and community venues.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is comprised of five performing companies and its training Academy. 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 national and international choreographers. **DBDT: *Encore!*** (formerly DBDT II) features eight artists of rising excellence from across the nation that support DBDT's growing local and regional educational outreach.

Dallas Black Dance Academy, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, celebrates 43 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. Over 500 students participate weekly in 50 dance classes of ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African at DBDT studios for ages four to adult. The academy has three performing ensembles: Allegro, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, Senior Performing Ensemble, and Junior Performing Ensemble.

For more details visit www.DBDT.com and www.dbdt.com/academy.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre, 2700 Ann Williams Way, Dallas, TX 75201

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