

# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



*RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 19, 2017

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## **Dallas Black Dance Theatre 22nd and Final Founder's Luncheon Honors Andy McCarthy, Herdercine Nash and Linda Todd**

Dallas, TX - **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)**, the 10th largest minority arts organization in America, is closing a chapter on a fundraising staple with its 22nd and final Founder's Luncheon, Jan. 17, 2018, at noon, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway, in Dallas. DBDT is transitioning to a new fundraiser plus a new initiative to be announced at the farewell event.

For the eighth consecutive year, **JPMorgan Chase** is the presenting sponsor. "JPMorgan Chase is proud to sponsor the Farewell Founder's Luncheon," said **Michelle R. Thomas, vice president of global philanthropy**. "The impact Dallas Black Dance Theatre makes on children through arts education is commendable, and we're honored to help bring dance to thousands of children in North Texas."

The Farewell Founder's Luncheon will honor longtime DBDT supporters **Andy McCarthy, Herdercine Nash** and **Linda Todd**, according to **DBDT Founder Ann M. Williams**. Leading the event are: Honorary Chairs **Lucy Billingsley**, of the **Billingsley Company**, and **Doug Curtis**, of **AT&T Performing Arts Center**; and General Chairs, the **Rev. Lelious Johnson**, of **St. Paul Baptist Church in Dallas**, and **Kimberley Runnels**, of **Dallas Independent School District**. Fox 4 News Anchor **Clarice Tinsley** will be the emcee.

Nash has been a DBDT board member since 1988 and helped launch the Founder's Luncheon 22 years ago as a fundraiser for the organization. McCarthy has been a supporter for more than 25 years, serving on the Board during the 1990s, and recently gave a leadership gift to support a resident choreographer. Todd has been a Board member for more than two decades and supported the renovation of DBDT's home, the historic Moorland YMCA Building, by underwriting the elevator installation.

DBDT supporters started the luncheon as a way to honor Ms. Williams, while sustaining the 41-year-old dance institution. The luncheon will highlight the legacy and extraordinary service of Ms. Williams, whose dynamic contributions to Dallas and the field of dance are unparalleled. Founder's Luncheon proceeds benefit DBDT's community outreach and educational programs that shared the magic and power of dance with more than 20,000 students (grades K-12) in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

For luncheon sponsorship information or tickets, contact [development@dbdt.com](mailto:development@dbdt.com).

**2018 | DBDT Luncheon Presenting Sponsor**  
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Linda and Frederick D. Todd II

### **2017-2018 | DBDT Season Sponsors**

Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund of The Dallas Foundation

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### **2017 - 2018 | DBDT Season Supporters**

Season Supporters: NorthPark Center, Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Lexus, OverseeMyIT, The Dallas Examiner, KZMJ Majic 94.5, The Dallas Post Tribune, Elite News, AT&T Performing Arts Center and Arts+Culture.

### **About Dallas Black Dance Theatre**

Founded in 1976 by Ann Williams, Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is the 10th largest minority arts organization in America, the fourth largest black dance company in the nation and the oldest continuously operating professional dance company in the city of Dallas.

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. In its 41-year history, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, the nationally and internationally recognized modern dance company, has performed on five continents, in 15 countries and 31 states, including two Olympic Cultural events. During that time, 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.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is comprised of five performing companies and its training Academy. DBDT, consists of 12 full-time salaried dancers performing a mixed repertory of modern, jazz, African and spiritual works by national and international choreographers. **DBDT: *Encore!*** features eight artists of rising excellence from across the nation who support DBDT's growing local and regional educational outreach.

Dallas Black Dance Academy, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre, celebrates 44 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. More than 550 students participate weekly in 50 dance classes, which include ballet, jazz, tap, modern, and African. Classes are held at DBDT's studios and are open to children starting at age four and adults. The academy has three performing ensembles: **Allegro**, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, **Senior Performing Ensemble**, and **Junior Performing Ensemble**.

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.

For more details visit [www.DBDT.com](http://www.DBDT.com) and [www.dbdt.com/academy](http://www.dbdt.com/academy).

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DBDT Founder's Luncheon Honorees Herdercine Nash, Andy McCarthy and Linda Todd.  
Photograph by Derrick Waiters.



DBDT Founder's Luncheon Honorary Chairs Doug Curtis and Lucy Billingsley, with DBDT Founder Ann Williams. Photograph by Derrick Waiters.

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

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