

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

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90 STUDENTS COMPLETE DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE SUMMER ENRICHMENT DANCE PROGRAM

Dallas, TX - Ninety students learned both dance and life skills during **Dallas Black Dance Theatre 2017 Summer Enrichment Youth Dance Workshop**. The three-week program concluded Friday, June 23, 2017, with two showcase performances of the talented young dancers. The program was supported in part by **The Hersh Foundation**, the **Texas Commission on the Arts**, and the **Rosemary Haggar Vaughan Family Foundation**.

For six hours per day, boys and girls explored ballet, modern, jazz/hip hop, and African dance taught by professional dancers from Dallas Black Dance Theatre. In addition, participants benefited from enrichment discussions by community leaders and health professionals. **Attorney Cicely Jefferson** spoke on leadership, retired **Registered Nurse Dr. Brenda Richardson** cautioned against risky behaviors, **Preston Place Counselor Von Eaglin** offered positive ways to channel anger, **Psychotherapeutic Yoga expert Laura Abbott Coan** spoke on mindfulness, and **Erica Henry, Deaf Ministry Leader at Concord Church**, spoke on awareness of young people who are deaf.

Dallas Black Dance Academy has provided the Enrichment program for trained dance students between the ages of 7-13 years old for 27 years.

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**. Dallas Black Dance Theatre has been designated as an **"American Masterpiece Touring Artist"** by the **National Endowment for the Arts** and in 2017 was named **Texas Medal of Arts Awards recipient for Arts Education**.

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 Wylie Theatre** located in Dallas's Arts District.

During its 41-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 each year. 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. Annually another 20,000 youth and adults are reached through 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 salaried 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 44 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. Over 550 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.

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Photographs by Kristen Vogel.



Dallas Black Dance Academy Summer Enrichment students work out on the Ballet barre.



Dallas Black Dance Academy Summer Enrichment students demonstrate what they learned during a recital before family and friends.



Dallas Black Dance Academy Summer Enrichment students work on Horton technique.

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