



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Dallas Black Dance Theatre, One of Five Dance Companies in Nation
To Receive \$100K Grant**

Dallas, Texas – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** is one of only five dance companies across the nation to receive a grant of \$100,000 from the **International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD)**. IABD received a multi-year grant award from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** for its continued support of the organization’s Comprehensive Organizational Health Initiative (COHI). The COHI includes clinics administered by the **Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF)** consultants, information, and tools to support longevity and strengthen the capacity of the dance organizations that focuses on executive leadership training for organizational health.

The five dance companies are Dallas Black Dance Theatre, **Cleo Parker Robinson Dance** (Denver, CO), **Dayton Contemporary Dance Company** (Dayton, OH), **Lula Washington Dance Theatre** (Los Angeles, CA), and **The Philadelphia Dance Company** (*PHILADANCO! of Philadelphia, PA*).

The grants are unrestricted and can to be applied to general operating expenses. **Dallas Black Dance Theatre Executive Director Zenetta S. Drew** stated, “This unrestricted grant gives Dallas Black Dance Theatre the financial flexibility to be more efficient and secure in executing season plans for dancers, choreographers, and artistic programs and assists with mitigating the rising costs of employee benefits.”

“These grants will enable five leading dance companies, that are all deeply vested in African American neighborhoods across the United States as evidenced by their operations of dance companies, facilities, programs, and schools to pursue greater innovation and take new risks, both organizationally and artistically,” said **Denise Saunders Thompson, President and CEO of IABD**. “Despite their creative excellence and international acclaim, many smaller and

midsized Black dance companies have had to come to terms with inadequate capitalization and other business challenges.”

Dallas Black Dance Theatre Founder Ann Williams was among the dance company leaders who formed IABD in 1991. DBDT has hosted the IABD conference in Dallas eight times, attracting dancers and dance companies from around the world. In 2017 the Dallas conference included the Second Annual Ballet Audition for Women of Color. Representatives from a dozen premier ballet companies from across the nation convened at DBDT studios, where dozens of female dancers were part of a multi-company audition for professional contracts and training opportunities.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre is launching its 42nd season as the oldest leading dance company in Dallas. The contemporary modern dance company is the 10th largest minority arts organization in America. D Magazine recently named DBDT the Best Dance Company in Dallas.

For more information about Dallas Black Dance Theatre, visit www.DBDT.com.



ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE: Dallas Black Dance Theatre is an internationally recognized professional dance company that engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African-American experience. Founded by **Ann Williams** in 1976, the company has been designated as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist by the **National Endowment for the Arts** in 2008 and received the Texas Medal of Arts Award for Arts Education in 2017.

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. The company is the 10th largest minority arts organization in America and the fourth largest black dance company in the nation. The virtuosic dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre have mesmerized 4.2 million arts patrons across 15 countries, including two Olympic Cultural events.



ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE: The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) preserves and promotes dance by people of African ancestry or origin, and assists and increases opportunities for artists in advocacy, audience development, education, funding, networking, performance, philosophical dialogue, and touring.

IABD has become the Mecca for Blacks in Dance, such as administrators, artists,

choreographers, dance companies, directors, educators, researchers and scholars, and those interested in artistry, Black dance issues, and performance presentations. The Association, founded in 1991, provides a network, formal newsletters, choreographer's directory, and published papers; it is the *raison d'être* for the annual conference and festival. The Association also responds to and initiates dialogue around issues that impact the Black Dance Community as well as the Dance community at large. IABD has developed national prominence and allowed the Black Dance Community to come together on important issues. For more information on IABD visit iabdassociation.org.

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ABOUT THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION: Founded in 1969, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation endeavors to strengthen, promote, and, where necessary, defend the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse and democratic

societies by supporting exemplary institutions of higher education and culture as they renew and provide access to an invaluable heritage of ambitious, path-breaking work. Additional information is available at mellon.org.



Dallas Black Dance Theatre Founder Ann Williams holds a replica check from IABD.



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