



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Founder Ann Williams
Speaks at One Dance UK International Conference**

Dallas, TX. – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT) Founder Ann Williams** will participate in the **One Dance UK** international conference Re-generations – Dance and the Digital Space Conference 2019 in November at The Lowry Theatre in Salford in the **United Kingdom**. She will be a speaker on the panel “Exploring the Cultural Barriers to Outreach and Training.”

The event aims to bring the dance community together to share current practices and encourage new perspectives on the topic of the dance of the African Diaspora (DAD). Attendees will explore the ways digital technologies are used for artistic innovation and creative practices. The conference provides an international platform connecting UK artists, practitioners, and scholars with global leaders from Africa, the USA, Canada, the Caribbean, and Europe.

One Dance UK, IRIE! Dance Theatre, Middlesex University, Dance Immersion, and The Lowry are hosting the conference in a partnership. It will include panel discussions, lecture-demonstrations, master classes, workshops, academic paper presentations, and performances.

ABOUT ONE DANCE UK

One Dance UK is the sector support organization leading the way to a stronger, more vibrant, and diverse dance sector. We provide one clear voice to:

- Support all those working in the sector to achieve excellence in dance performance, education and management*
- Advocate for the increased profile and importance of dance in all its diverse forms and settings*

- *Enhance dancers' health, well-being, and performance*
- *Identify gaps, provide opportunities and improve conditions for dance to be learned, discussed, and seen*

Our aim is to create a workforce that is well-equipped to secure dance's prominence in the cultural landscape of the future. We do this by providing services, information, and opportunities for dance organizations and all dance professionals, including dance artists, choreographers, dance educators, dance managers, and producers, as well as dance medicine, science and, research professionals.

ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE: *Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) is an internationally recognized professional dance company that engages the cross-cultural community through contemporary modern dance presented from the African-American experience. The National Endowment for the Arts designated the 43-year-old company as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist in 2008. The company also received the Texas Medal of Arts Award for Arts Education in 2017. As Dallas' oldest and largest professional dance company, DBDT ranks as the 10th largest minority arts organization in America and the fourth largest black dance company in the nation.*

Ann Williams founded Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 1976. **Melissa M. Young** took over the helm as Artistic Director in 2018 after starting at the company as a dancer in 1994. **Zenetta S. Drew** has led the administrative side of the company since 1987 as Executive Director.

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 virtuosic dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre have mesmerized 4.3 million arts patrons across 16 countries, including two Olympic Cultural events.

Five performing companies comprise Dallas Black Dance Theatre and its training Academy. DBDT consists of 13 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. 2.7 million students, grades K-12, have experienced the dance company's performances and educational outreach programs.

Dallas Black Dance Academy, the official school of Dallas Black Dance Theatre celebrates 46 years of delivering dance instruction to a community of diverse backgrounds. The academy was the first in the nation to train a student who received the Presidential Scholar Award in Dance in 1980. More than 500 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 students ages four to adult. The academy has three performing ensembles: **Allegro Performing Ensemble**, DBDT's premier academy ensemble, **Senior Performing Ensemble**, and **Junior Performing Ensemble**.

Dallas Black Dance Theatre's primary home in the historic Moorland YMCA building in the Dallas Arts District includes dance studios, training facilities, and administrative offices. Dallas Black Dance Theatre is a resident company of the **AT&T Performing Arts Center** and its performance home is the **Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre**.

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

2019-2020 | DBDT Season Sponsors

Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund of The Dallas Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Arts and Culture – City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, International Association of Blacks in Dance, NBC 5, *The Downtown Business News*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *I Messenger*, TACA, American Airlines, The Shubert Foundation Inc., DART, and *The Dallas Weekly*.

2019 – 2020 | DBDT Season Supporters

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



Photograph of DBDT Founder Ann Williams by Brian Guilliaux.



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