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**Dallas Black Dance Theatre is among 27 Arts Organizations
to receive**

A Total of \$1.5 Million in Mid-America Arts Alliance Awards

Dallas, TX – **Mid-America Arts Alliance (M-AAA)** announced that **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** is among 27 grantees to receive a total of \$1,536,000 in funding from the **United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund (USRARF)**. Dallas Black Dance Theatre received \$85,000 from the fund. The grantees were from a six-state region of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

“Dallas Black Dance Theatre is extremely grateful for this level of investment by Mid-America Arts Alliance,” said Dallas Black Dance Theatre Executive Director **Zenetta S. Drew**. “This funding through the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund is a game-changer and lifeline for the organization as we launch our 44th Season during a world-wide pandemic.”

The program was created through the collaboration of Mid-America Arts Alliance, Arts Midwest, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, New England Foundation for the Arts, South Arts, and Western States Arts Federation. The USRARF was funded through a \$10 million grant from **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and amplified in the Mid-America region through additional funding from The Windgate Foundation in Little Rock, Arkansas for visual arts organizations. The grant amounts range between \$30,000 and \$100,000, a significant investment supporting the resilience of small to mid-sized arts organizations led by or supporting communities of color, rural communities, and historically under-resourced populations in response to the impact of COVID-19.

“We are honored to provide this critical support to these extraordinary arts organizations within the Mid-America region,” said Mid-America Arts Alliance President and CEO **Todd Stein**. “In focusing on organizations led by or supporting communities of color and rural communities, we reinforce the importance of these organizations and their vital role within

our arts ecosystems. The arts have the power to unite, uplift, and propel our region forward, and it is a crucial need to fund these organizations that are often overlooked and historically under-resourced.”

The grants support expenses associated with general operations, immediate response activities, future scenario planning, support for new media needs, help with the costs of collaborations, and expenses associated with assisting organizations to reimagine their work and increase their resilience.

2020-2021 | DBDT Season Sponsors

Legacy Sponsor: Simmons Sisters Fund of The Dallas Foundation

Season Sponsors: Office of Arts and Culture – City of Dallas, Texas Instruments, NBC 5, *The Downtown Business News*, *Texas Metro News*, *The Dallas Morning News*, NorthPark Center, TACA, American Airlines, The Shubert Foundation Inc., DART, and *The Dallas Weekly*.

2020 – 2021 | DBDT Season Supporters

Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Lexus, *Elite News*, *FYI-50+*, *The Dallas Examiner*, *The Dallas Post Tribune*, *OverseeMyIT*, *Trendy Africa*, and *Arts+Culture*.

2020-2021 | DBDT COVID Resilience Sponsors

Anonymous, LKS Foundation, Mid-America Arts Alliance United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, National Endowment for the Arts CARES Act, Dallas Black Dance Theatre Board of Directors, Henry C. Beck, Jr. Donor Advised Fund at Texas Women’s Foundation, Kate Wilson Davis Fund at Texas Women’s Foundation, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, PNC, Wells Fargo, Anonymous, Communities Foundation of Texas/North Texas Giving Day, Chase, Deedie Rose, TACA Emergency Arts Relief Fund, Sally Pian & Ira Silverman, Lucy and Henry Billingsley Fund at Texas Women’s Foundation, Ford Reynolds Fund of the Southwest Community Foundation, UPS Foundation, Keron Wright.

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 44-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 with 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 47 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.



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