
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation

Sponsors 2023 Monthlong

Black History Month Programming

Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** announces **Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation** as the Presenting Sponsor for all its Black History Month events during February 2023. Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation’s sponsorship will support Dallas Black Dance Theatre’s annual Cultural Awareness Performance Series, student matinee performances (in-person and virtual), community outreach programs, and subsidize fees for educational tours during Black History Month.

“During Black History Month, the Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation proudly recognizes and honors the great work of the internationally recognized Dallas Black Dance Theatre. DBDT’s intentionality toward expanding cultural awareness while uplifting exceptional Black artists is important to our humanity. We are ecstatic that company performances will also travel beyond the Dallas region to share this amazing experience with college students at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Arkansas,” shared **Suzanne Massey**, Head of the Santander Consumer USA, Inc. Foundation.

Zenetta S. Drew, DBDT’s Executive Director states, “We are so grateful for the Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation’s commitment to support all of Dallas Black Dance Theatre’s Black History Month programming. This is the first time for DBDT and certainly an important leadership commitment that underscores the importance of celebrating Black History Month and the value of arts programming that is representative of Black Culture.”

Cultural Awareness Performance Series

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) celebrates Black History Month 2023 by presenting its annual Cultural Awareness Performance Series with two evening concert performances scheduled for Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2023, in the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre, Dallas, Texas, in the Dallas Arts District.

Cultural Awareness Student Matinees - In Person

On Thursday, February 16 and Friday, February 17, DBDT will present three sold-out student matinee programs for K-12 school children during the Cultural Awareness series at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre. Over 1,600 students from Dallas ISD, Arlington ISD, Grand Prairie ISD, Lancaster ISD, Good Shepherd Episcopal, and the Region 10 Education Service Center will be attending the in-person matinees.

Cultural Awareness Student Matinees - Virtual

Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Virtual Student Matinee Arts Education Initiative which began in 2022 with the Dallas ISD and Broadway Dallas will continue in 2023. Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation has provided support to expand this initiative to area school districts including Lancaster ISD with 7,145 students for February 2023. This new DBDT initiative promotes cultural literacy at a broader level and provides virtual accessibility for all students in a school district to experience DBDT matinee performances and education programming.

"This year feels like a time of renewal and Lancaster ISD is overjoyed to receive this program, and its virtual reach to all of our students," states **Stacy Lotten, Director of Fine Arts for Lancaster ISD**. Our fine arts department recognizes the value in our students experiencing a respect for culture and a renewed sense of themselves. It's important to support the social emotional growth and we believe this awareness will be brought forward from this Dallas Black Dance Theatre performance. We are excited for our students and the possibility of new thought processes!"

Community Outreach

DBDT's annual Black History Month programming during the month of February includes providing cultural access and outreach performances to the public throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation's funding enables the organization to provide dance services to community partners for a nominal fee or at no cost. DBDT will conduct outreach programs at the Dallas Public Library, City of Desoto, Episcopal School of Dallas, Lamplighter School, Leadership Texas, and Cedar Valley College.

DBDT will conclude its Black History Month Outreach by hosting 25 members of the current Moorland Family YMCA located in Oak Cliff. The group will tour, take photos, and share stories from several attendees who were former users of the historic Moorland YMCA Building that is now DBDT's Arts District home.

Touring

During February each year, Dallas Black Dance Theatre focuses its touring on reaching collegiate and university students as part of its Black History Month higher education programming. DBDT: *Encore!* will perform at the University of Arkansas on February 9,

2023 and Dallas Black Dance Theatre will perform at the University of Oklahoma February 23-24, 2023.

DBDT | CULTURAL AWARENESS PERFORMANCE SERIES

February 17-18, 2023 - 7:30 pm

Wyly Theatre

Dee & Charles Wyly Theatre

2400 Flora St.

Dallas, TX

In-person + Live streaming + On-demand

Dallas Black Dance Theatre limits seating capacity to allow for social distancing in all performance venues. DBDT encourages the use of masks at its performances.

For more performance details, visit www.DBDT.com.

2022-2023 | Legacy Sponsor

Harold Simmons Foundation

2022-2023| Catalyst Sponsors

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, Texas Instruments, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Anonymous

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City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, NBC 5, *The Dallas Morning News*, *Texas Metro News*, American Airlines, Oversee My IT, Shubert Foundation, Inc., DART, TACA, *Dallas Weekly*, and Texas Commission on the Arts

2022- 2023 | DBDT Season Supporters

The Rea Charitable Trust, Lexus, *fyi50+*, *The Dallas Examiner*, *The Dallas Post Tribune*, *Elite News*, *Trendy Africa*, and *Arts+Culture*

ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE: *Ann Williams* founded Dallas Black Dance Theatre in 1976. The dance company is now under the direction of Artistic Director **Melissa M. Young**. **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's** mission is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at the highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities. As the largest and oldest professional dance company in Dallas, DBDT is the fourth-largest Black dance company in the nation, the ninth-largest contemporary modern dance company, and ranked 40th among the nation's leading ballet companies. Located in the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District, DBDT has performed worldwide for over 4.5 million arts patrons and 2.7 million students in 32 states and 16 countries on five continents. The performances include two Olympics (1996 & 2012), the nation's most prestigious venues (**Lincoln Center, Kennedy**

Center, Broadway, Jacob's Pillow), and for such luminaries as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and South African President Nelson Mandela. Since the pandemic began in 2020, DBDT performances have been viewed virtually in 34 countries and 38 states. The Company has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts as an American Masterpiece Touring Artist (2008) and received the Texas Medal of the Arts Award for Arts Education (2017).

For more details on DBDT, visit DBDT.com.



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