



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SANTANDER CONSUMER USA INC. FOUNDATION

RENEWS SUPPORT OF DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE WITH SECOND YEAR OF

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPONSORSHIP

Dallas, TX – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT)** is thrilled to announce that the **Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation** is renewing its commitment as the Presenting Sponsor for all DBDT's Black History Month events during February 2024 for the second year.

The Foundation's generous sponsorship will provide crucial support for DBDT's annual **Cultural Awareness Performance series**, as well as in-person and virtual student matinee performances, community outreach programs, education tours, a lecture series and expanded access to Black history and Black arts programming throughout Black History Month. With Santander Consumer USA Inc. Foundation's continued dedication to building cultural awareness, DBDT is excited to bring its signature blend of contemporary and traditional dance to audiences across the community.

"Santander is pleased to continue our partnership with Dallas Black Dance Theatre, an organization committed to promoting diversity and inclusivity through the arts. Our collaboration aims to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Black Americans during Black History Month and beyond, as we work together to uplift our community. We believe that by coming together, we can build a city that fosters inclusivity and pride for all. At Santander, we remain dedicated to supporting initiatives that strengthen our communities and celebrate diversity," said Christopher Pfirman, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel - Santander Consumer USA and Chair, Santander Consumer USA Inc., Foundation.

Cultural Awareness Performance Series

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) celebrates Black History Month 2024 by presenting its annual Cultural Awareness Performance Series with two evening concert performances scheduled for Friday and Saturday, February 9-10, 2024, in the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre, Dallas, Texas, in the Dallas Arts District.

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE



RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

The program will feature two world premieres, one by current Dallas Black Dance Theatre company member **Hana Delong** titled *Postmortem* and another by **Dallas Black Dance Academy (DBDA)** alumni and graduate of **The Juilliard School Alysia L. Johnson** titled *Falling into Place*, in addition to performances of *His Grace* by **Christopher L. Huggins** and *ODETTA* by **Matthew Rushing**. A post-performance talkback will conclude each evening's program.

Before the Friday, February 9th performance a special reception will be held as part of DBDT's new **Living Witness Speaker Series**, featuring special guest **Dale Long**. A survivor of the **1963 Birmingham Church Bombings**, Mr. Long will sit down with retired veteran news anchor and reporter **Ramona Logan** to share his inspiring story of resilience, advocacy, and insights on the theme of "The Power of Community: Uniting for Change through Art and Activism."

For more performance details, visit DBDT.com.

Cultural Awareness Student Matinees – In Person

On Thursday, February 8 and Friday, February 9, DBDT will present three student matinee programs for K-12 school children during the Cultural Awareness Performance Series at the Dee and Charles Wyly Theatre.

Cultural Awareness Student Matinees – Virtual

Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Virtual Student Matinee Arts Education Initiative, in conjunction with **Broadway Dallas** and **Dallas ISD**, returns for a fourth year. The initiative, which began in 2022, will provide access to 150,000 students this year.

Lectures/Presentations

This February, DBDT will be represented in the local and national community by Founder **Ann M. Williams**, Artistic Director **Melissa M. Young**, and Executive Director **Zenetta S. Drew** at various lectures and presentations throughout the month. A range of presentations and lectures will be offered on topics regarding the impact of Black dance on American culture.

- George Mason University (Fairfax County, Virginia)
- University of Houston (Houston, TX)
- Department of Homeland Security (National)
- Department of Labor (National)
- Kenco Group (National)
- Pioneering Black Excellence (Frisco, TX)
- Ballet Hispánico Diálogos (New York City, NY)
- Downtown Dallas, Inc. (Dallas, TX)
- University of Texas at Dallas, Center for BrainHealth (Dallas, TX)

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- Leadership Texas (Dallas, TX)

Tours & Community Outreach

With a special emphasis on Black History Month, Dallas Black Dance Theatre is committed to spreading awareness about the rich and vibrant cultural heritage of the Black arts. Every year in February, Dallas Black Dance Theatre partners with universities, colleges, community groups and corporate partners. This year, performances will take place throughout the metroplex at the following venues:

- Dallas Museum of Art (*Encore!*) – Dallas, TX | February 9th
- Irving Symphony Association (*Encore!*) – Irving, TX | February 10th
- Facility Host: The Ailey Experience Tour – Dallas, TX | February 10th – 11th
- University of Arkansas (*Encore!*) – Fayetteville, AR | February 15th
- Texas Instruments (DBDT) – Richardson, TX | February 22nd
- Caldwell Arts (*Encore!*) – Tyler, TX | February 22nd – 23rd
- Houston Christian University (DBDT) – Houston, TX | February 22nd – 23rd
- Mercedes Benz (*Encore!*) – Fort Worth, TX | February 27th
- OneTen (*Encore!*) – Dallas, TX | February 28th
- Lawton Fort Still Chamber of Commerce (DBDT) – Lawton, OK | February 29th

ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

Founded in 1976 by **Ann Williams**, and currently under the direction of **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 seventh-largest contemporary modern dance company, and ranked 36th among the nation's leading ballet companies. Located in the thriving downtown Dallas Arts District, DBDT has performed worldwide for over 4.6 million arts patrons and 2.8 million students in 45 states and 16 countries on five continents. The performances include two Olympics (1996 & 2012), the nation's most prestigious venues (**Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, The Joyce Theater, 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 also been viewed virtually in 43 countries. 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 about **Dallas Black Dance Theatre**, visit [DBDT.com](https://www.dbdttexas.com).

