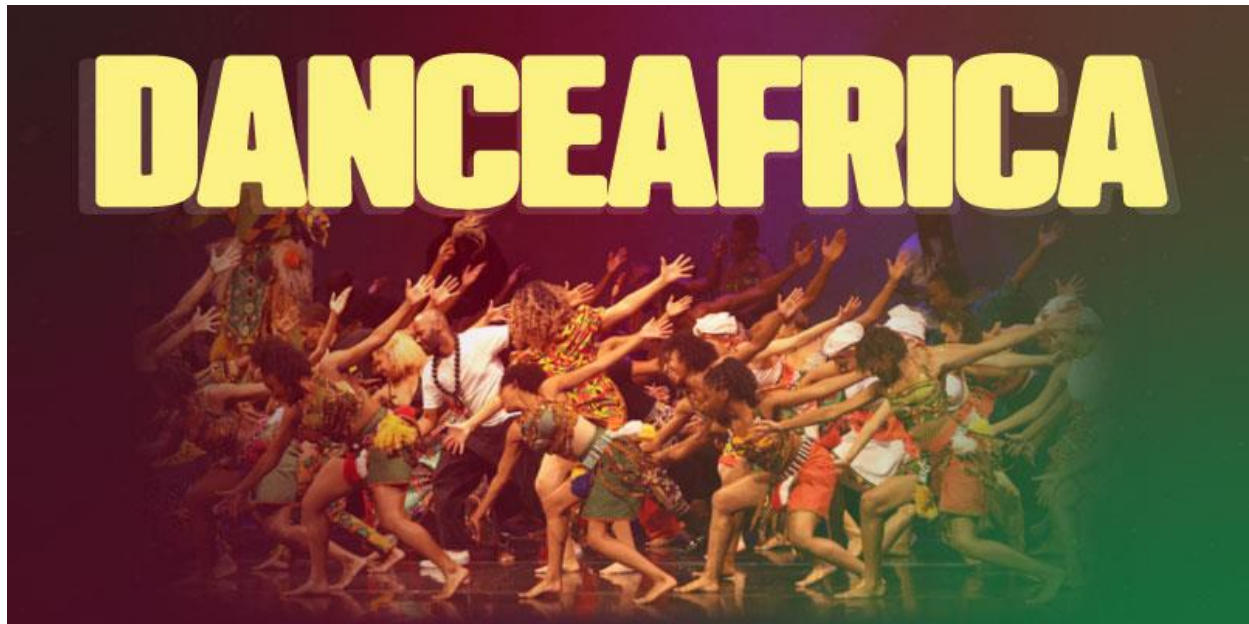


**DALLAS BLACK**  
**DANCE THEATRE**  
*RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE'S 19TH ANNUAL DANCEAFRICA FESTIVAL & MARKETPLACE  
CELEBRATES "VOICES OF THE DRUM: ECHO OF UNITY"**

**OCTOBER 11-12, 2024 AT MOODY PERFORMANCE HALL**

**FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS AYODELE DRUM & DANCE FROM CHICAGO, IL**

**FESTIVAL INCLUDES FREE WEST AFRICAN DANCE CLASS AT DBDT STUDIOS  
AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY MARKETPLACE AT KLYDE WARREN PARK**

Dallas, Texas – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre's (DBDT)** annual **DanceAfrica** festival is back for its **19th year**. Themed **"Voices of the Drum: Echoes of Unity"**, this year's celebration aims to encapsulate the powerful connection between music, dance and community. Drumming and rhythm are universal languages that bring people together, and DanceAfrica promises to bring people together through live music, singing and dance to celebrate cultural heritage and community spirit.

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This celebration will feature a full week of events across the Arts District, with performances from all five of DBDT's dance companies – **Dallas Black Dance Theatre, DBDT: *Encore!*** and **Dallas Black Dance Academy's Junior Performing Ensemble, Senior Performing Ensemble** and **Allegro** – plus special guests performers, **Ayodele Drum & Dance** and **Voices of Empowerment** choir, **directed by the Grammy Award-winning Pamela Dawson.**

Performances begin with a **free West African Community Dance Class** on Wednesday, October 9 led by special guest company **Ayodele Drum & Dance** from **Chicago, IL.** The class will be available in-person and virtually.

The main event takes place October 11-12 at Moody Performance Hall, when all our performers take the stage for a **multigenerational celebration** that highlights African heritage and the shared foundation of rhythm and drums that unites us all. Following the performance, patrons can look forward to our annual **Bantaba** where our dancers, audience and drummers join for a communal dance experience.

In addition to the evening performances, on Saturday, October 12, 2024 from 10AM – 2PM a **free family-friendly outdoor festival and marketplace** will take place in **Klyde Warren Park.** The festival will feature a variety of vendors, food trucks and performances throughout the day from an array of performance group. For our youngest guests, the festival will also feature a **children's activity center.**

The tradition of DanceAfrica was created in 1977 by famed dancer and choreographer, **Baba Chuck Davis,** at the **Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM).** Founded with the goal of bringing awareness to African culture, the festival is now America's largest celebration of African dance and culture with multiple organizations hosting regional DanceAfrica events across the nation.

**Ayodele Drum & Dance** is a Chicago-based West African drum and dance company led by Executive Artistic Director **T. Ayo Alston.** Ayodele, a Yoruba word meaning "Joy in the home", is a diverse sister-circle of performing artists committed to studying and performing drum and dance as a wellness modality. The company uses both mediums to educate and motivate young women and children through performances and community engagement. This event will mark their first live performance in Dallas!

**T. Ayo Alston** is the founder, executive director, composer, and choreographer of **Ayodele Drum & Dance.** She teaches and practices a signature theatrical style of West African drum and dance culture that captures the strength and power of women and community.

**Pamela Dawson,** the Director of Choirs for DeSoto High School, became the first African-American female **Grammy Music Educator of the Year** in 2023. Since then, she has gone on to form her own independent choir, **Voices of Empowerment.**

In-person tickets are \$48 and virtual tickets are \$25. Discounts for groups of six or more available.

Virtual season subscriptions are available for \$169. Stream eight performances from DBDT's 2024-2025 season from wherever you are!

Details at [dbdt.com](http://dbdt.com) or call **(214) 468-8602.**

# DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE

RELENTLESS EXCELLENCE

## EVENT DETAILS

### **Dance Africa Festival & Marketplace | October 11-12, 2024**

Moody Performance Hall

In-Person • Streaming

Our annual tradition continues this season with our **19th DanceAfrica Festival & Marketplace!**

Get ready to intrigue your mind and energize your soul with a full week of events across the Arts District. Our special guest performers, Chicago's own **Ayodele Drum & Dance** and **Voices of Empowerment** choir, **directed by the Grammy-Award winning Pamela Dawson**, will join us on the stage for a powerful cultural celebration paying homage to the African diaspora.

Following the performances at Moody Performance Hall, tap into the universal language of rhythm when our dancers, audience and drummers join for our unforgettable communal **Bantaba dance experience**.

### **FREE Festival & Marketplace**

October 12 | 10AM-2PM Klyde Warren Park

### **FREE West African Community Dance Class | In-Person & Virtual**

*Taught by Ayodele Drum & Dance*

October 9 | 6PM-7:30PM DBDT Studios

### **2024 – 2025 LEGACY SPONSORS**

Harold Simmons Foundation

### **2024 – 2025 CATALYST SPONSORS**

Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation and Lyda Hill Philanthropies

### **2024 – 2025 SEASON SPONSORS**

City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, *Texas Metro News*, American Airlines, Oversee My IT, The Shubert Foundation, TACA, Texas Commission on the Arts and National Endowment for the Arts

### **2024 – 2025 SEASON SUPPORTERS**

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

## **ABOUT DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE**

Founded in 1976 by **Ann Williams**, **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 **5 million arts patrons and 3 million students in 37 states and 16 countries** on five continents. The performances include two Olympics (1996 & 2012), the nation's most prestigious venues

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(**Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Broadway, Jacob's Pillow and Joyce Theatre**), 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 [www.dbdt.com](http://www.dbdt.com).