

From: "Griff Braun, AGMA"

Date: October 21, 2024 at 7:15:23 AM CDT

To:

Subject: Crisis at Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Community Letter Urging City Council Action

Reply-To: gbraun@musicalartists.org

AGMA

AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

Dear Honorable Members of the Dallas City Council,

We, the undersigned, write to you as partners in a shared commitment to justice, equity, and accountability in our community. The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA), the terminated dancers of Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT), the Young Active Labor Leaders (YALL), the Dallas and Texas AFL-CIO, the members of various community and advocacy organizations, and labor unions, want to extend our gratitude for the expedited work that you and the Dallas City Attorney's office have undertaken to gather information regarding the ongoing issues at Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT).

We understand that the complexities of labor issues can sometimes seem overwhelming. However, with the extensive information being compiled by the City Attorney's office, we hope that the City Council will take meaningful action on behalf of the dancers who have been impacted. We urge you not to wait for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to issue its decisions, which we are confident will affirm these workers' rights and our position, but which will likely take months or even years to be issued—far too long to help these artists. Instead, we encourage you to be the first to make a decisive move and help these dancers in real time.

DBDT has branded their new season as "Larger Than Life," and it appears they believe this title extends to their standing in the community—that they are untouchable and impervious to accountability. But as leaders who represent the voice of the people of Dallas, you have the unique power to show that no entity, regardless of its prestige or history, is beyond reproach when it comes to fair labor practices and the treatment of its workers.

By taking action now, the City Council can set a powerful example that echoes throughout our city and beyond. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate that Dallas is a place where the arts can flourish, but not at the expense of workers' rights and dignity. Together, we can show that our community values not only the cultural contributions of institutions like DBDT but also the well-being and fair treatment of the working artists who bring these cultural experiences to life.

We know the people of Dallas are concerned about the negative impact on the city and are watching these developments closely. Taking a stand now would undoubtedly resonate with a public that desires to see their leaders uphold fairness and accountability.

We are here to stand beside you as allies and resources in this effort. Our organizations are ready to provide any additional information, support, or guidance you might need as you consider the next steps. Together, we can send a clear message that Dallas values the arts and artists, and is committed to ensuring justice, fairness, and accountability for all!

In Solidarity,

Ned Hanlon

President, American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA)

Gene Lantz

President, AFL-CIO Dallas / President, Texas Alliance for Retired Americans

Lou Luckhardt

Financial Secretary Treasurer, AFL-CIO Dallas

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State Vice Chair, Texas Young Active Labor Leaders (YALL)

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Co-Chair, DFW YALL

Chair, Tech Workers Coalition, North Texas Chapter

Precinct Chair 4069, Dallas Democrats

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President, American Federation of Musicians, Local 72-147

Aaron Pino

Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Musicians, Local 72-147

Hector Garcia

Member, SAG-AFTRA

Kim Titus

Member and Former Councilor, Actors' Equity Association

J Dontray Davis

Member, Actors' Equity Association

Garland Crafton

President, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 126

Gregg Pearlman

Business Representative, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 127

Bonnie Mathias

Secretary, Dallas AFL-CIO / Vice President, Texas AFL-CIO District 7

Rosie Curts

Executive Board, Dallas AFL-CIO / Executive Board, Dallas County Young Democrats

Chris Leal

President, Dallas County Young Democrats

Tsion Amare

Executive Board, Dallas County Young Democrats

Joey Cade

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Michael Ortega

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Dominiq Luckie

Unlawfully Terminated Dancer, Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Nile Ruff

Unlawfully Terminated Dancer, Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Terrell Rogers, Jr.

Unlawfully Terminated Dancer, Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Micah Sherard

Unlawfully Terminated Dancer, Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Elijah W. Lancaster

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Sean J. Smith

Unlawfully Terminated Dancer, Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Derick McKoy, Jr.

Unlawfully Terminated Dancer, Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Gillian Clifford

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Brianne Sellers

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