



AILEY
Arts In Education &
Community Programs

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AILEYCAMP RENEWS TRANSFORMATIVE IN-PERSON ACTIVATION THIS SUMMER TO POSITIVELY IMPACT YOUTH IN NINE CITIES NATIONWIDE WITH THE THEME 'FAITH'

Nationally Acclaimed Free Program Helps Students to Reach for their Unlimited Potential

Celebrating 20 Years of Berkeley/Oakland AileyCamp in Partnership with Cal Performances

New York, NY – JULY 5, 2022 – For six weeks this summer, [AileyCamp](https://www.alvinailey.org) will provide middle school students in nine cities nationwide the opportunity to explore their creativity, be themselves and utilize dance as a transformative vehicle to positively impact their lives. Founded by Alvin Ailey and Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey in 1989, the innovative full-scholarship program focuses on developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical-thinking skills. After two summers of AileyCamp operating in a hybrid of in-person and virtual sessions, **AileyCamp 2022 renews a fully in-person activation this year with the guiding theme of “faith” at all nine camps in: Baltimore, MD; Berkeley, CA; Chicago, IL; Kansas City, KS and MO; Miami, FL; New York, NY; Newark, NJ and Seattle, WA.**

During the summer program, AileyCampers learn a myriad of dance techniques in daily classes such as **ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, and West African dance**. The acclaimed program has a strong emphasis on **Personal Development and Creative Communication classes**, teaching campers how to express themselves in a positive way and tackle challenging subjects that include decision-making, peer-pressure, conflict resolution, and self-awareness. In addition to creative and educational classes, their experience at AileyCamp includes curated theme-based lessons and begins with reciting daily affirmations such as **“I will pay attention with my mind, body, and spirit,”** and **“I will not use the word ‘can’t’ to define my possibilities,”** to guide AileyCampers on a path to becoming confident, productive, and motivated individuals. **Alvin Ailey once said, “to be who you are and become what you are capable of is the only goal worth living,”** and this year’s guiding curriculum theme “faith” will provide campers a safe space to unleash their creativity and celebrate themselves through dance and storytelling.

“Alvin Ailey had faith that dance could renew young lives through programs like AileyCamp, which awakens the body, mind and spirit on a path to personal success,” said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. “Both Alvin Ailey and I experienced a life-changing transformation when we stepped into the world of dance. Mr. Ailey’s legacy continues to inspire this year as AileyCamp reaches students in nine cities to help move the next generation on their journey into the future.”

All camps culminate in a special final performance for family, friends, and community leaders where the AileyCampers showcase their hard work in original productions of choreographed dances, poetry readings, and theatrical improvisations. As the Ailey Organization caps a decade of Artistic Director Robert Battle’s leadership, **all camps will perform an excerpt inspired by Battle’s [The Hunt](#)**, a thrilling work that explores the relationship between modern sports and the rites of the gladiators. The dance was motivated by Battle’s background as a young boy in Liberty City, Miami, who studied martial arts, and replicates the intensity and combative stances in the choreography. **To commemorate the metro area youth’s transformations and accomplished goals this summer, AileyCamp Newark final performance will be on Wednesday, August 10 at 7pm at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Children’s Aid/AileyCamp New York on Friday, August 12 at 7pm at HOSTOS Community College.**

“AileyCamp gives students across the country an opportunity to express themselves and to have a voice, it gives them a platform to show them that they matter,” says **Nasha Thomas, National Director of AileyCamp/Arts In Education Spokesperson & Master Teacher**. “We are thrilled to bring AileyCamp back in person in nine cities this summer. To witness the transformation in these young people from their first day to the final performance is a testament to Alvin Ailey’s legacy and mission of enriching the lives of youth through the power of dance.”

Although AileyCamp is not meant to be a training ground for professional dancers, some students are awarded scholarships to further study at The Ailey School or pursue training at other accredited dance schools and have later performed with professional dance companies. Currently, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater member [Solomon Dumas](#) is the first former AileyCamper to join the incomparable troupe. In addition, AileyCamp Newark alumni [Christopher Taylor](#) shares a similar path as Dumas – studying on scholarship at The Ailey School and is currently dancing with [Ailey II](#).

As the last program Alvin Ailey founded before his passing, his trailblazing legacy continues to reach thousands of young people in AileyCamps across the country every summer, providing direction and hope to children who are most in need of knowing that there can be a bright future. As a visionary choreographer who used his artistry to change American dance and culture, Alvin Ailey is the focus of Jamila Wignot's acclaimed *AILEY* documentary, now streaming on [Hulu](#) and [PBS Passport](#). The *AILEY* documentary has been recognized for its powerful work and nominated for several awards including the 2022 Image Award for Outstanding Breakthrough Creative (Motion Picture) as well as the 2022 Black Reel Awards for Outstanding Documentary.

PRESS: Click here for [photos](#) and [videos](#). For additional information, please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

AILEYCAMP 2022 SCHEDULE:

Baltimore, MD – Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University (July 5 – August 12)

Berkeley/Oakland, CA – Cal Performances (June 21 – July 29)

Chicago, IL – AileyCamp Chicago (July 5 – August 12)

Kansas City, MO – (June 6 – July 14)

Kansas City, KS – Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (June 6 – July 14)

Miami, FL – Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (June 27 – August 6)

New York, NY – Children's Aid (July 5 – August 12)

Newark, NJ – New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Newark Public Schools (July 5 – August 12)

Seattle, WA – Seattle Theatre Group (June 29 – August 11)

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AileyCamp Newark is administered in collaboration with Newark Public Schools and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Children's Aid/AileyCamp New York is administered in collaboration with Children's Aid.

About Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs

Since 1992, Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs has been committed to bringing dance into homes, classrooms, and communities across the country to positively impact people of all ages through the power of dance. In addition to AileyCamp, a full scholarship day camp for youth, in-person and [remote programs](#) include, lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; innovative curriculum based residencies inspired by [Revelations](#) and [Night Creature](#); and [AileyDance for Active Aging](#), a program that serves as an outlet for artistic expression and fosters a sense of joy. For further details on Ailey's Arts In Education activities, visit <http://www.alvinailey.org/AIE>.

About Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American “Cultural Ambassador to the World,” grew from a now-fabled March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Founded by Alvin Ailey, recent posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the nation’s highest civilian honor, and guided by Judith Jamison beginning in 1989, the Company is now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 25 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents – as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms - promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. In addition to being the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, where its performances have become a year-end tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami, The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the United States and the world during extensive yearly tours. The Ailey organization also includes Ailey II (1974), a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), one of the most extensive dance training programs in the world; Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, which brings dance into the classrooms, communities and lives of people of all ages; and The Ailey Extension (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey’s permanent home—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world —named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.

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