



**AILEY**  
Arts In Education &  
Community Programs

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## **AILEYCAMP LAUNCHES HYBRID PROGRAM TO CONNECT AND INSPIRE YOUTH IN NINE CITIES NATIONWIDE WITH ‘UNIQUE’ THEME**

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

**Celebrating 30 Years of AileyCamp New York and 10 Years in Newark with a  
Special Joint Finale Presentation at New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Friday, August 13, 2021  
in Collaboration with Children’s Aid, Newark Public Schools and NJPAC**

**New York, NY – July 13, 2021** – This summer, [AileyCamp](#) continues to provide youth in nine cities nationwide the opportunity to be themselves and explore their creativity during its free five-week program. Founded by Alvin Ailey and Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey in 1989, this innovative full-scholarship day camp for middle school students uses dance as a vehicle for developing self-esteem, self-discipline, creative expression, and critical-thinking skills. After the successful launch of [Virtual AileyCamp last summer](#), **AileyCamp 2021 will be held over five weeks virtually and in person this summer, with the guiding theme of “unique” in Baltimore, MD; Berkeley/Oakland CA; Chicago, IL; Kansas City, KS; Kansas City, MO; Miami, FL; New York, NY; Newark, NJ and Seattle, WA.**

The nationally acclaimed summer program continues to inspire young people through dance by providing daily classes in techniques such as **ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, and West African dance. Personal development and creative communication classes** will teach campers how to express themselves in a positive way and tackle challenging subjects that include decision-making, peer-pressure, conflict resolution, and self-awareness. Each day features specially 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, “the most unique thing in the world is you,”** and this year’s guiding curriculum theme “unique” will be celebrated through dance, creativity and storytelling in a safe space allowing campers to use the arts as a vehicle for self-expression.

“Alvin Ailey knew the arts had the power to inform and transform, so he used dance to enrich and positively impact young lives with programs like AileyCamp,” says **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. “My passion for dance was ignited in middle school at my first Ailey performance, which was a life-changing revelation. And Mr. Ailey’s legacy continues to inspire through AileyCamp, transforming and encouraging the next generation on their journey into the future.”

This year marks two special anniversaries, 10 years of AileyCamp in Newark and 30 Years in New York. **An exceptional joint finale performance will be held at New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Friday, August 13 at 7pm to celebrate and commemorate helping youth in the local metro area transform their lives and accomplish goals in this unique summer program.** All AileyCamps culminate with a final performance for family, friends, and community leaders where campers showcase their hard work in an original production of specially choreographed dances, poetry readings and theatrical improvisations. All campers will perform an excerpt inspired by *Opus McShann*, the final ballet choreographed by founder Alvin Ailey before his passing in 1989. The final performances highlight the creative and technical skills of the campers, while also celebrating their growth in a dynamic display of the self-confidence, performance skills and pride developed during camp.

“AileyCamp gives students 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**. “This summer we are conducting AileyCamps both in person and virtually, teaching students to believe in themselves and helping them choreograph their path to success. It’s truly inspiring to witness how transformative this program is for young people and how positively the arts impact these students.”

As the last program Alvin Ailey founded before his passing, his trailblazing legacy continues to reach thousands of youth 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. Visionary founder Alvin Ailey's life story is portrayed in [AILEY](#), Jamila Wignot's powerful documentary. Heralded as a must-see at the Sundance Film Festival and a recent Tribeca Film Festival critics pick, the dynamic film will have an exclusive two-week engagement starting July 23 in New York City and expanding to movie theaters across the country on August 6.

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

Take a virtual tour and get an inside look of the impact of AileyCamp by watching [CBS News Miami](#) and [NBC Nightly News](#) segments and reading [New York Times](#) feature on Solomon Dumas, the first former AileyCamper to become a member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

### **AILEYCAMP 2021 SCHEDULE:**

#### **IN-PERSON**

**Baltimore, MD** – Towson University (July 6 – July 30)

**Chicago, IL** – AileyCamp Chicago (July 6 – July 30)

**Kansas City, KS & MO** – Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (June 21 – July 16)

**Miami, FL** – Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (June 28 – August 7)

#### **VIRTUAL**

**Berkeley, CA** – Berkeley/Oakland (June 28 – July 23)

**New York, NY** – Children's Aid (July 6 – August 6)

**Newark, NJ** – New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Newark Public Schools (July 12 – August 13)

**Seattle, WA** – Seattle Theatre Group (July 7 – August 4)

**Leadership support for Ailey's Arts In Education and Community Programs is provided through the Simin & Herb Allison Arts In Education Endowment Fund.**

**Prudential is proud to be the lead funder of AileyCamp Newark.**

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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](http://www.alvinailey.org).

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