

# The Star-Ledger

## AileyCamp makes its debut in Newark to deliver life lessons and dance to City's youth

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AileyCamp has spent 20 years empowering the minds of our youth through valuable life lessons and dance.

Contemporary dance innovator, Alvin Ailey, believed that “dance is for everybody,” and was particularly passionate about providing underserved youth with the tools they needed to express themselves and develop a greater sense of self-esteem.

Driven by Ailey’s beliefs, the AileyCamp continues to broaden the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater’s legacy by holding summer camps for inner-city youth across the nation. This summer, The AileyCamp is scheduled to make their Newark debut July 5-August 12.

During this six-week program, held at Newark Arts High School, 100 students will have the opportunity to learn life-skills through a variety of classes focusing on personal development, creative communication, and of course, dance. The camp is open to middle school students ages 11-14 who are enrolled in Newark public schools. The camp is not necessarily grounds for grooming professional dancers, but rather uses the art of dance as a vehicle for developing the skills to excel in any area of interest.

The specific camp curriculum consists of:

- Daily technique classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz and top or West African
- Personal development classes: goal setting, nutrition, conflict/resolution, career development and self-image.
- Creative communications classes: with performance techniques, deepen the students’ awareness of their potential for self expression.

Since its inception in 1989, this brain-child of Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey has reached thousands of youth and set up residence in major cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, Kansas City, and Boston. The presence of this nationally-acclaimed program in Newark may come as result of the city’s initiative to promote the Fine Arts.

To learn more about the AileyCamp’s youth outreach efforts, see footage of the campers at work, know the prerequisites to be enrolled in the AileyCamp, or would like to make a donation to this accredited institution, visit the following websites:

<http://www.alvinailey.org/>

<http://www.alvinailey.org/about/company/ailey-arts-education-community-programs/aileycamp>