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AILEYCAMP INSPIRES YOUTH IN 10 CITIES NATIONWIDE WITH “RESILIENCE”

Six-Week Summer Program Motivates Middle-School Students through Dance and Pays Tribute to Life and Legacy of Judith Jamison

(New York, NY) – **June 26, 2025** – The nationally acclaimed [AileyCamp](#) summer program continues to provide youth a safe space to explore their creativity and express themselves through dance. Founded in 1989 by Alvin Ailey and the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, AileyCamp is a testament to Mr. Ailey’s vision of using dance to enrich the lives of young people. Across the nation, AileyCamp helps students ages 11–14 realize their unlimited potential in 10 cities: **Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Berkeley, CA; Chicago, IL; Kansas City, KS and MO; Miami, FL; New York, NY; Newark, NJ; and Seattle, WA.**

In addition to the 2025 national theme of RESILIENCE, this year’s AileyCamp also honors the late Judith Jamison’s commitment and service to AILEY and her dedication to uplifting America’s youth. In this six-week program, offered at almost no cost to participants, students embark on a journey of self-discovery and community building, developing self-esteem, creative expression, and critical thinking skills in classes like Creative Communications and Personal Development, while engaging in a variety of dance techniques daily, including ballet, Horton-based modern, jazz, and West African dance. In addition to stretching their minds, bodies, and spirits, campers learn how to express themselves in a positive way and tackle challenging subjects that include decision-making, peer pressure, conflict resolution, and self-awareness ([watch the AileyCamp highlights video](#)).

"I'm excited to see another group of campers discover their creativity, gain self-confidence and explore their own voice at AileyCamp, **guided by dedicated instructors,**" said [Nasha Thomas](#), **AileyCamp National Director.** **"While learning new things, making friends, and having fun, our focus on RESILIENCE will help prepare these young people to overcome the inevitable obstacles on the journey to adulthood.** It is also very meaningful to celebrate the legacy of the late Judith Jamison who inspired us to be our best selves and embrace Mr. Ailey's belief that dance is for everyone."

Students will engage in a daily practice of AileyCamp’s theme-based affirmations. The campers will practice 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,”** modeling examples of personal development.

The culmination of the six-week summer program is a special performance for family and friends, during which students from all camps will have the opportunity to perform an excerpt of [the Emmy Award-winning Hymn](#), choreographed by Judith Jamison. *Hymn* was created in 1993 as tribute to the late **Alvin Ailey** using explosive ensemble dances and quiet solos to dramatize Mr. Ailey’s humanity and the dancers’ unique qualities. AileyCamp honors Alvin Ailey and Judith Jamison’s creative partnership and shared devotion to the mission of this organization. **To commemorate the metro area youth’s transformations and accomplished goals this summer, AileyCamp Newark’s final performance will be on Friday, August 8 at 7pm at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Children’s Aid/AileyCamp New York on Monday, August 11 at 7pm at HOSTOS Community College.**

The AileyCamp experience extends beyond the summer sessions with reunions and special activities, including witnessing a performance by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, featuring three AileyCamp alumni, who were introduced to dance through the program: [Solomon Dumas](#) (Chicago), the first former AileyCamper to join the troupe; [Christopher Taylor](#) (Newark), who also studied on scholarship at The Ailey School and danced with Ailey II prior to joining the company; and [De'Anthony Vaughan](#) (Kansas City, MO), also an Ailey School scholarship student. Although AileyCamp is not meant to be a training ground for professional dancers, some students receive scholarships for further study at The Ailey School or pursue training at other accredited dance schools and have later performed with professional dance companies.

2025 AileyCamp Schedule:

Atlanta, GA: Purpose Built Schools Atlanta (June 4 – July 11)

Kansas City, MO & KS: Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (June 2 – July 11)

Berkeley/Oakland, CA: Cal Performances (June 16 – July 25)

Miami, FL: Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts (June 16 – July 26)

Chicago, IL: AileyCamp Chicago (June 23 – July 31)

Seattle, WA: Seattle Theatre Group (June 25 – August 1)

Baltimore, MD: Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University (June 30 – August 8)

New York, NY: Children's Aid Society (July 1 – August 11)

Newark, NJ: New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Newark Public Schools (July 1 – August 8)

PRESS: Upon request, media interviews and coverage opportunities may be arranged to highlight AileyCamp during its six-week program including final performances. Click here for [photos](#) and [videos](#). For additional information, please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.

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AileyCamp Newark is administered in collaboration with Newark Board of Education and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

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 summer 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 more, visit <https://ailey.org/community>.