

AILEY ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs In Partnership with 92NY Dance Education Lab Launches Finding Grace Residency Program

**New Dance Curriculum for Students from Grades K - 12 Utilizes
Renowned Choreographer Ronald K. Brown's Masterwork *Grace***

Free Online Educators Resource Available January 26

Along With Residencies in New York City Public Schools Led by Ailey Teaching Artists



Photo Credits (L to R): Ailey Arts In Education faculty with participants of the Finding Grace residency in Miami. Photo by Eduardo Segovia;

Dr. Rachel McCaulsky, Angelica Edwards, Deborah Damast, Cheryl Rowley-Gaskins, Ronald K. Brown, and Arcell Caubag filming video resources for Finding Grace curriculum. Photo courtesy of AILEY; Students participating in the Finding Grace residency in Miami. Photo by Eduardo Segovia.

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New York, NY (January 15, 2026) – [Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs](#) (AAIE), in collaboration with [92NY Dance Education Laboratory](#) (DEL) and renowned choreographer Ronald K. Brown, announce the launch of the [Finding Grace](#) curriculum, a new dance residency program utilizing Brown's masterwork, [Grace](#), as an inspirational framework.

The **Finding Grace** curriculum, designed for elementary, middle and high school levels, allows students to explore and study Ronald K. Brown's choreographic style, and engage with *Grace* as both a work of art and a way of being. This residency uses Brown's *Grace* as a springboard for students to explore creating movement, develop cultural literacy, and foster Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

[Ronald K. Brown](#) is a visionary choreographer, teacher and founder/Artistic Director of **Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE, a dance company**, whose work invites us to reflect on resilience, community, and connection—values deeply needed in today's classrooms. "How do you as a dancer get in touch with using your body and your spirit to communicate?" Brown asks. "Using dance as a mode of communication... that's the lesson." The goals of the curriculum are to explore Brown's particular dance style and engage with the concept of grace as a powerful lens for teaching, learning, and living. Students will explore ideas of transformation, healing, resistance, grace, and compassion. As [Arcell Cabuag](#), Associate Artistic Director of EVIDENCE notes, "It's about how we share and tell stories so that it gets passed on for another 25 years."

Building upon Ailey Arts In Education's popular residencies inspired by Alvin Ailey's classic works *Revelations* and *Night Creature*, the Finding Grace curriculum draws on masterworks performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as a framework for a comprehensive study that engages young minds. Commissioned in 1999 by late Artistic Director Judith Jamison, Brown's spellbinding *Grace* is a fervent tour-de-force depicting individuals on a journey to the promised land. The spiritually charged ballet is a rapturous blend of modern dance and West African idioms. Brown's varied music choices, including Duke Ellington's "Come Sunday," Peven Everett's hit "Gabriel," and the irresistible pulse of Fela Kuti's Afropop beats, closely reflect the heart of the work.

“This piece centers the idea of grace—how we can use grace in our lives, how we can embed it into our teaching practice, and how grace becomes an essential element of how we connect our artistry to our teaching and to our lives,” says **Deborah Damast, DEL curriculum writer.**

The Finding Grace curriculum introduces students to Ronald K. Brown’s style through embedded instructional videos and interviews created specifically for this curriculum, including warm-up sequences and three excerpts from *Grace*. Each “Experience” (lesson) can be rearranged, repeated, modified, or expanded based on the educator’s preferences or the age and specific needs of the students. The curriculum includes accommodations and modifications for students with disabilities and multilingual learners. The document is a framework, a source of inspiration, and a structure that invites personalization. With meaningful choreographic inquiry, reflection, and discussion embedded in the curriculum, students are supported in seeing themselves in the work and the world.

“The curriculum invites educators to delve into the topics of forgiveness, resilience, and the value of community in a flexible format that uniquely adapts to diverse student populations,” adds [Dr. Rachel McCaulsky](#), Director of Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs. “Alvin Ailey believed that ‘dance is for everybody’ and this new program extends our mission of using dance to inspire and enlighten in new ways.”

The Finding Grace curriculum is an Ailey Arts In Education residency taught by Ailey teaching artists and customized to the interests of each school and their students, as well as being available for free on the [AILEY website](#) as a resource for educators and linked on the DEL and New York City Public Schools Arts Office websites. This new educational offering is aligned with the New York City Department of Education’s *Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in Dance: PreK-12*, the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS), and the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Framework. For more information, visit ailey.org/community/finding-grace.

Press: Upon request, media interviews and coverage opportunities may be arranged to spotlight the [Finding Grace residency](#), now implemented in three schools across New York City. For more press information and materials, visit: pressroom.alvinailey.org.

**This curriculum project is made possible by the generous support of
Jody and John Arnhold | Arnhold Foundation.**

About Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs

Fulfilling Alvin Ailey’s enduring belief that dance is for everyone, AILEY is deeply committed to bringing dance into classrooms and communities both locally and nationally through Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs (AAIE). Led by Dr. Rachel McCaulsky, AAIE’s innovative programming includes AileyDance Kids for students Pre-K through 12, AileyDance Kids SOAR for special needs students, and National Residencies which offer students the opportunity to take dance classes prior to attending a performance by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater or Ailey II when the companies tour to their city. AileyCamp is a nationally recognized summer program for youth ages 11–14 that combines dance training with personal development workshops, all designed to nurture self-discipline, creativity, and self-esteem. Currently operating in 10 cities nationwide, AileyCamp is led by AileyCamp National Director Nasha Thomas. Additionally, AileyDance for Active Aging, spearheaded by AAIE Associate Director, Heidi Miller, offers multiple-week residencies to older adults in community centers and residences. The program is a thoughtfully designed progression of physical conditioning. The classes introduce basic dance concepts, teach dance phrases in a variety of styles, and offer participants the opportunity to engage in creative explorations. AileyDance for Active Aging welcomes older adults of all abilities, including those with wheelchairs, canes, or walkers, and those living with memory loss accompanied by their care partners.

About 92NY DEL

Founded in 1995, 92NY Dance Education Laboratory (DEL) offers a variety of professional learning programs for dance educators and the dance community at large nationally and globally. 92NY DEL provides customized workshops, consultancies, and curriculum development for cultural institutions, community organizations, schools, and professional dance companies.

DEL inspires dance educators to engage in creative, transformational, and ongoing professional learning centered in the artistry of teaching and focused on humanistic principles of equity and justice. DEL provides an inclusive, nurturing, and dynamic laboratory where dancers and educators from diverse communities gather to experience embodied exploration and discovery, collaborative dance-making, culturally responsive practices, and collective self-reflection. DEL...art at the heart of teaching™