



AILEYCAMP INSPIRES YOUNG PEOPLE IN NINE CITIES THIS SUMMER WITH NATIONAL THEME OF TIME: TEACH, INSPIRE, MENTOR, ELEVATE

Middle-School Students Discover Their Unlimited Potential
Through Dance and Personal Development During Nationally Acclaimed Program



Photo Credits (L to R): AileyCamp New York. Photo by Nicole Tintle; Artistic Director Alicia Graf Mack and AileyCamp National Director Nasha Thomas with New York AileyCampers. Photo by Danica Paulos; AileyCamp Newark final performance, 2025. Photo by Danica Paulos.

NEW YORK, NY (June 24, 2026) – AileyCamp, the nationally acclaimed full-scholarship program, will use the power of dance to provide a life-changing experience that stretches the minds, bodies, and spirits of students in nine cities this summer. Founded in 1989 by Alvin Ailey and Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey to positively impact young lives, AileyCamp will serve 11–14-year-old middle schoolers in **New York, where Children’s Aid/AileyCamp marks 35 years**, and **Atlanta, GA; Baltimore, MD; Berkeley, CA; Kansas City, KS and MO; Miami, FL; Newark, NJ; and Seattle, WA.**

Spanning several weeks, the [AileyCamp curriculum](#) instills discipline and unlocks potential during daily classes in ballet, Horton-based modern dance, jazz, and West African dance, personal development, and creative communication, which helps develop positive expression, conflict resolution, and critical thinking skills. Daily affirmations, such as **“I will not use the word ‘can’t’ to define my possibilities,”** guide them on a journey to becoming confident, productive and motivated individuals.

“I am thrilled to engage with students across the country to offer the unique inspiration provided by AileyCamp,” says **National Director, Nasha Thomas**. “For over three decades, it has been remarkable to witness how many young lives are impacted each summer. I am honored, along with our dedicated faculty and alumni, to help the next generation step into their unlimited potential as we embody our national theme, TIME: *Teach, Inspire, Mentor, Elevate.*”

An important aspect of the program’s success is in providing positive adult and peer role models and giving campers an invaluable opportunity to explore their creativity, learn to master their bodies, and strengthen their respect for themselves and others within a supportive framework that gives them an important foundation for the future. Camp tuition, uniforms, dance attire, field trips, breakfast and lunch are provided to each student free of charge.

Each AileyCamp presents a special final performance for family, friends, and community leaders, where campers showcase their hard work in original productions of choreographed dances, poetry readings, and theatrical improvisations. AileyCampers will have the opportunity to perform an excerpt inspired by Ronald K. Brown’s masterwork, [Grace](#), a rapturous blend of modern and West African dance originally created for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. **To celebrate the metro area youth’s transformation and accomplishments, AileyCamp Newark’s final performance will be on Friday, August 7 at New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Children’s Aid/AileyCamp New York on Friday, August 13 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, which includes three AileyCamp alumni: [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 [Sebastian Garcia](#) (Washington Heights, NY). 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.

2026 AileyCamp Schedule:

Atlanta, GA: inaugural partnership with Utopian Academy for the Arts (June 1 – June 26)

Kansas City, MO & KS: Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (June 3 – July 8)

Berkeley/Oakland, CA: Cal Performances (June 15 – July 14)

Miami, FL: Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts (June 15 – July 25)

Seattle, WA: Seattle Theatre Group (June 22 – July 31)

Baltimore, MD: Eubie Blake Cultural Center (July 1 – August 7)

New York, NY: Children's Aid Society (July 6 – August 14)

Newark, NJ: New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Newark Public Schools (June 30 – August 7)

PRESS:

- Click here for [AileyCamp Overview film](#) as well as [photos](#) and [videos](#).
- For additional information, please visit pressroom.alvinailey.org.
- Upon request, media interviews and coverage opportunities may be arranged to highlight AileyCamp, including final performances.

Leadership support for Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs is provided by The Simin & Herb Allison Arts In Education Endowment Fund.

AileyCamp is supported by The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, The William Randolph Hearst Arts In Education Endowment Fund, The Littlejohn Family Foundation, Pincus Family Foundation, Southern Company, Tiger Baron Foundation, and other generous funders.

AileyCamp Atlanta is supported by Georgia Power, Georgia Power Foundation, The Home Depot Foundation, The Perry Foundation, and The Sartain Lanier Foundation.

AileyCamp Miami is supported by B. Carlin Foundation and The Kirk Foundation.

Leadership support for AileyCamp Newark is provided by The Prudential Foundation. Additional support is given by The Altschul Foundation, and AileyCamp Newark is administered in collaboration with Newark Board of Education and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

AileyCamp New York is supported by The Altschul Foundation, Keith Haring Foundation, The Reginald F. Lewis Foundation, The Pinkerton Foundation, and The Venable Foundation. Additional support for AileyCamp in New York is provided, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. AILEY programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

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 Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* and *Night Creature*, and Ronald K. Brown's Grace, and AileyDance for Active Aging, a program for older adults that serves as an outlet for artistic expression and fosters a sense of joy. For more, visit ailey.org/community.

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