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KCFAA MISSION
Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) makes dance accessible to all people by presenting the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II, teaching young people critical life skills through dance, and modeling interracial and multi-cultural community partnerships.

KCFAA VISION
A diverse community united by dance to inspire and change lives.

PHOTO: ERIC C. HONG

Making dances is an act of progress; it is an act of growth, an act of music, an act of teaching, an act of celebration, an act of joy. " - Alvin Ailey
MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2020 Board of Directors
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Resilient. That is one word that defines Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and our approach in 2020. We were resilient. Our determination to power through the obstacles of the global pandemic made 2020 both a challenging and fulfilling year.

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey has a 3-part mission as a Presenter, Educator, and Unifier. Despite the pandemic, we were able to fulfill all aspects of our mission during 2020. In January and February, we were excited to present performances of the Aliley Trio, Setting the Stage, and a dance tribute to Gordon Parks at the Nelson Art Gallery to live audiences. But, when the COVID pandemic reached the United States in March 2020, we initially thought that we would have to cancel upcoming events. However, we quickly strategized and worked together to successfully convert our in-person Gala planned for May 2nd to a virtual event.

The technology skills we acquired planning the Gala gave us the confidence to create a virtual curriculum for AileyCamp in June, allowing us to become the first AileyCamp in the nation to do so and to continue our 31-year camp history. In the fall of 2020, we offered daily virtual In-School Workshops and after-school Studio dance classes for students in grades K-12 via Zoom. We also created a virtual First Fridays program, offering free hip-hop classes with talented instructors each month on various social media platforms.

In addition to our arts education programs, we hosted a series of events that promoted diversity, inclusion, and racial equity. In response to the George Floyd murder in May of 2020, we initiated a new community discussion series called Courageous Conversations which facilitates candid discussions on systemic racism. We also awarded our 2020 Race, Place & Diversity Award to two American icons and racial equity champions - Senator Cory Booker and Ms. Judith Jamison - and provided a virtual stage for them to share their wisdom and inspiring life stories to audiences of as many as 200 people. In recognition of our work in the diversity realm in 2020, Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey was honored to be selected as one of 3 finalists for the 2021 Equity in Action Award presented by Non-Profit Connect.

Finding new and innovative ways to bring our programs to the community proved difficult, but KCFAA was resilient and met the challenge. We were able to reach over 12,000 people in 2020! We are grateful for our amazing staff, committed board members, and supportive community that helped KCFAA to continue to advance our mission and fulfill Alvin Ailey’s legacy of making dance accessible to all.
While facing profound challenges brought on by the pandemic, KCFAA’s programs reached many adults and youth across the Kansas City Metropolitan Area (70% children and youth).

12,347 TOTAL REACHED

WHO WE SERVE

2020 VIRTUAL AILEYCAMP STATISTICS

50% are from families at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of five.

95% of AileyCamp youth were eligible for free and reduced lunch.

IDENTIFY AS

FEMALE 97%

AFRICAN AMERICAN 87%

2020 REVENUE
$954 K

2020 EXPENSES
$820 K

FINANCIALS & STATISTICS

WHO WE SERVE IDENTIFY AS

AFRICAN AMERICAN
FEMALE

IDENTIFY AS

PROGRAMS & PERFORMANCES
ADMINISTRATION
DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING
As the official second home, KCFAA solely presents Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater or Ailey II in Kansas City and furthers Alvin Ailey’s vision of making dance accessible to all people.

2020 PRESENTATIONS

AILEY TRIO
Ailey Trio 2020 is an engaging 60-minute interactive presentation with three dancers from the internationally acclaimed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT). In 2020, it was performed in person at ten schools and at a public performance at the Gem Theater.

SETTING THE STAGE
Setting the Stage is a multi-media journey through African American dance history that combines live performance by talented local and national artists with a narrated slide presentation. In 2020, it was performed in person at 7 schools and a public performance at the Gem Theater during Black History Month.

GORDON PARKS EXHIBIT
AileyCamp The Group & Professional dancers performed “A Renaissance Dance,” an original KCFAA production, before a sold-out crowd (500+) at the Nelson Atkins Museum in February 2020 for the opening night of the museum’s “Gordon Parks X Muhammad Ali” photo exhibit.

2020 VIRTUAL GALA
This year’s annual benefit gala was hosted in a “virtual ballroom” and was one of the first virtual performing arts galas in Kansas City. We presented a full-length dance performance by Ailey II and presented our Janet K. Miller award to Bert Berkley.

“Just want to send a note of thanks for a delightful event. What a great job everyone did to make this virtual performance a success. Just wonderful!”
Linda – Virtual Gala Participant

“Performance by AileyCamp The Group.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Ailey II
KCFAA
Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey
Ailey Performing Arts Center
EDUCATOR

KCFAA develops and delivers youth programming that uses the art of dance as a vehicle to improve knowledge, increase self-esteem, enhance critical thinking skills, and encourage positive role models and smart life choices. KCFAA reaches more than 20,000 young people through our year round programs.

2020 ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**Studio Classes**
KCFAA offers weekly after school ballet, jazz and modern dance classes for grades K - 12. In 2020, Studio classes were held virtually via Zoom.

**In-School Workshops**
We offered virtual dance workshops to schools during the 2020-2021 school year, including Allen Village, a key KCFAA in-school partner.

**Take 5 with Ty**
was a series of videos offered on our website to help youth and families stay healthy and keep moving while sheltering in place.

**First Fridays**
a free monthly Hip Hop class, was offered both in-person and virtually in 2020.

2020 Aileycamper Savanna Williams
Photo: KCUR
AileyCamp is KCFAA’s award-winning, signature summer program. In 2020, KCFAA implemented AileyCamp Reimagined, becoming the first AileyCamp in the country to offer a virtual AileyCamp program. KCFAA partnered with corporate foundations to provide students with tablets, hotspots, and quality connectivity.

The AileyCamp Reimagined Final Performance was recorded and made available to parents in July 2020 on the KCFAA website.
Courageous Conversations is a new initiative, launched in July 2020, that provides a platform for discussion on issues of race. Five sessions were held and the topics covered included Racism in Kansas City and Why Don’t People Vote?

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey celebrates and affirms Black lives and Black communities and works to dismantle racism. Multiculturalism and intersectionality guide our efforts to combat and defeat systemic oppression."
Race, Place & Diversity Award
In 2020, KCFAA recognized two exceptional champions of diversity and national icons – Senator Cory Booker and Ailey’s Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison, and awarded them with our annual Race, Place & Diversity Award during two successful virtual events. We provided a virtual stage for them to share their wisdom and inspiring life stories to audiences over 200 people. The two events were moderated by KCMO Communications Director Chris Hernandez and Dancer/Director Debbie Allen.

“I am so grateful that, at a time when arts funding is often under attack, there are philanthropists and others out there who value it and understand their dollar will multiply, in terms of its impact in communities when you fund and support the arts.”

- Senator Cory Booker 2020 Race, Place & Diversity Award Recipient
Thank you to all of our supporters!
The COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 a year like no other.
Thank you to everyone who stepped up in any way to help Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey fulfill our mission to make dance accessible to all.
We could not provide the important arts education programs for underserved youth without your help!