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KCFAA CEO Press Release



Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey Appoints Carla Williams-Evans as New CEO

Kansas City, MO — June 5, 2024 — The Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Carla Williams-Evans as its new Chief Executive Officer. Carla brings a wealth of experience in non-profit administration, community engagement, and strategic leadership to this prestigious role. Her arrival coincides with the commencement of AileyCamp that also kicks off on June 5th, and the 40th Anniversary of KCFAA that will be celebrated throughout the year ahead.

As a leading arts organization in Kansas City, KCFAA serves the community in a three-part capacity: as an educator, presenter, and unifier. KCFAA offers a wide range of educational programs that touch over 50,000 lives per year through school-based programs, AileyCamp, and classroom offerings. KCFAA fosters dialogue about race, place, and diversity with an annual event each Fall. The organization is the exclusive presenter of New York's Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II in Kansas City, serving as their second home.

Founder Allan Gray said “the Board of the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey is excited to welcome Carla Williams-Evans as KCFAA moves into the future.” Board President Kelly Murphy shared that “with Carla’s extensive background in non-profit management, she is poised to lead KCFAA into a new era of growth and impact.” She has previously held leadership or Board positions at renowned institutions such as Connections to Success, Dress for Success KC, Central Exchange, The Links, Jack and Jill, Awesome Ambitions, Envision Grow Lead and Band of Angels. Carla’s deep commitment to community engagement aligns perfectly with KCFAA’s mission, and her passion for promoting diversity and inclusion through the arts will undoubtedly enhance the organization’s reach and influence.

Carla expressed her excitement about joining KCFAA: “I am honored to lead this remarkable organization and build upon its legacy. Together, we will continue to celebrate the transformative power of dance and create meaningful connections within our community.”

KCFAA would also like to thank and recognize interim CEO Calvin Ricks, who recently served during the search for a permanent replacement. Under Calvin’s leadership, KCFAA grew its presence through a successful Gala, and increased patron, staff and board engagement. Ricks will return to his role on the KCFAA Board, further demonstrating his deep commitment to the vision and mission of KCFAA.

KCFAA’s Board of Directors and staff extend a warm welcome to Carla Williams-Evans and look forward to her dynamic leadership. The KCFAA staff, board and advisory board remain committed to its mission of using dance to inspire, educate, and unite the Kansas City community.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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About Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey: Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting diversity, artistic excellence, and community engagement through dance. As the exclusive presenter of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II in Kansas City, KCFAA plays a vital role in the city’s cultural landscape. Through its educational programs and performances, KCFAA continues to inspire and uplift audiences of all ages and backgrounds.