BOSTON UNIVERSITY DANCE PROGRAM’S

REACH

Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship
Dance Program

Founded/operated by Dance Collective (1990 - 2005)

2017 Final Report
Contact Information

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Our Mission:

- To present dance as a practice that improves physical well-being, cultural and artistic expression, and life skills such as cooperation and community-building
- To empower and mentor our teen apprentices to develop essential skills for success in a structured, supportive, educational setting
- To provide a positive, quality art experience to thousands of urban youth using the universal language of movement
- To provide a community service by bringing our cost-effective, contemporary dance performances and workshops into Greater Boston neighborhoods

Left: Reach 2017 teen apprentice Ling Ling Johnson Garland is lifted in the air by professional instructor Brian Washburn in “Before I Walk Away,” a pas de deux choreographed by professional instructor Janelle Gilchrist.
Right: Reach staff interacts with a Boston youth group through a variety of movements and dances!

Organization
Boston University Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
Executive Director: Timothy Moore
Director of Dance: Micki Taylor-Pinney
REACH

Celebrating 27 Years of Making a Difference through Dance

Introduction to Organization and Programs

History of Reach

Reach was founded as The Summer Outreach Program and Intergenerational Company in 1990 by two of Dance Collective’s co-founders and Artistic Directors, Martha Armstrong Gray and Dawn Kramer. Micki Taylor-Pinney joined Martha and Dawn as a co-director in 1998. When Dance Collective disbanded in June of 2006, Micki, who is also Director of Dance at Boston University, encouraged the program’s move to the university. This year Reach trained 16 student apprentices and performed for over 1,400 individuals in areas with limited access to the arts. Today, Reach remains true to the mission and goals of its founders—to bring quality arts experiences to under-served areas. The program is sponsored in part by the Boston University Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

“I benefitted from this tour by getting to enjoy kids’ reactions. Seeing a kid smile or hug [one of the dancers] made me feel really good and made me realize why I dance.”

-Gabby Glaz, teen apprentice

“My technique diversity expanded exponentially every day I came to Reach.”

-Matthew Steele, teen apprentice
The Company

This summer, 16 teen apprentices from the Greater Boston Area served as emissaries of the arts. They experienced the rigors of being professional dancers working alongside four professional artists/educators and two college interns. Over the course of the summer, these apprentices were transformed from strangers into friends—from a group of young dancers into an active and vibrant dance company.

The Reach program was divided into three parts. The first three weeks included intensive daily classes and rehearsals to create a 45-minute show. Three of the pieces were from Dance Collective’s repertory, which the company adapted to fit the strengths of the apprentices. The remaining seven pieces were created by company members themselves, working collectively.

For the next two weeks, Reach went “on tour,” reaching over 1,000 children and adults at 23 local sites. The intergenerational company held 11 performances and 13 workshops for summer camps and community groups, including one performance for the public. In addition to performing, apprentices assisted instructors and served as role models to other neighborhood youth, sharing their knowledge and skills by teaching interactive workshops. Each day, the company returned to BU for instructional and recreational programs including master classes with guest artists, a meeting with the Dean of Students to discuss college preparation, and assessment and evaluation sessions.

For the week after the tour, staff members were contracted to teach an additional eight workshops for a total of 21 workshops in the community with one apprentice assisting.

This year’s teen apprentices, ranging in age from 13-17, were from Boston and Cambridge neighborhoods as well as area suburbs, and all have participated in dance programs in their communities. They are: I-Jah Armstrong, 17, of Cambridge; Caroline Ball, 14, of Lynn; Emma Beaumont-Smith, 16, of Cambridge; Lian Bruce, 15, of Newton; Jennifer Cinicola, 16, of Sudbury; Gabby Glaz, 14, of Needham; Sanji Harrison, 16, of Everett; Tyqueo James, 14, of Charlestown; Ling Ling Johnson Garland, 15, of Brookline; Sylvie Kimpton, 15, of Winchester; Miranda Lawson, 17, of Somerville; Matthew Steele, 16, of Brookline; Vinou Val, 17, of Hyde Park; Arianna Vamvas, 17, of Bedford; and Hailey Weiss, 16, of Boca Raton, Florida. In addition, Kayla Freeman, 14, of Concord joined the program as a high school intern.

Reach’s professional dancers were Janelle Gilchrist, of Watertown; Wendy O’Byrne, of Allston; Meghan Riling, of Charlestown; and Brian Washburn, of Boston. Washburn is a former Reach college intern and teen apprentice. These professionals were supported by college interns Brandon McCrory-Joseph, of Cambridge; and Isabel Thompson-Pomeroy, of Jamaica Plain. Both college interns are returning Reach teen apprentices.

“I learned new types of dances as well as how to work with others. I learned teamwork while performing on tour. The most memorable parts of Reach were the moments that we all sat together as a group and just talked and bonded into a family.”

-Ling Ling Johnson Garland, teen apprentice
It has been a pleasure to guide and witness the continuation of Dance Collective’s outreach program under the umbrella of Boston University.

Each year, on the second day of Reach, we start the process anew of creating a 45 minute performance. We begin with two full ensemble pieces as a way of bringing everyone together to work collaboratively and to learn about choreographic processes and devices. Martha Armstrong Gray is kind enough to let us rework her piece, “Body Language,” to create one of these ensemble pieces. The staff is asked to help me find a piece of music and one of our college interns, Izzy Thompson-Pomeroy, suggested Pharrell Williams’ “Freedom.” Part of the power of Reach is giving our teens the opportunity to identify and process the issues that weigh on their minds. This piece, with its enigmatic lyrics, was fitting. How do we define and imagine freedom? What does it look like as movement? Martha’s gestural phrases are the jumping off place to have the company work in smaller groups to create new material. I assemble these puzzle pieces to create this year’s version of “Body Language.”

After the two full-company pieces are complete, we break into smaller groups and company members are mentored as they create choreography. These pieces may be choreographed by one member or the dancers may work collaboratively. Emma Beaumont-Smith’s piece “Peter’s Shadow,” with its theme of nonconformity, explored a theme in a way that children could relate. The female contemporary piece, “Hey, Mami,” began with the underlying theme of how girls’ competitiveness can become destructive rather than a way of supporting everyone’s individuality. This year, we added an excerpt from Dawn Kramer’s “Conversation Piece” as a prelude to Judith Chaffee’s “Daily News.” Yes, both involve phones, though Dawn’s had our two college interns getting tangled in telephone cords, relics from the past.

“Reach delivers arts education to Boston’s neighborhoods and empowers our teens to become leaders in the community.”
Reach’s make-up reflects the melting pot of our community. It is our responsibility to forge an ensemble that works well together. There are differences in background, skill, and experience working collectively that have to be respected. Yet, the expectation is that everyone will be focused on finding common ground and supporting the efforts to get there. It is a journey that has its challenges, but is always exciting to nurture and watch. I can’t be objective, but I feel the quality of the choreography and performances continues to grow. I am grateful for the contributions of our mentors who come in to critique the work, staff, interns, and teens, past and present. And I am most appreciative to our sponsors and contributors for making it possible for us to create and share this work with kids in Greater Boston neighborhoods.

-Micki

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2018

• Work with our network of urban school and community leaders to identify qualified teen apprentices.

• Continue to improve and codify the teacher/apprentice training for the community workshops.

“Many kids would ask about classes they could begin taking after seeing our shows. It was really rewarding to know that they would pursue dance after meeting us.”

–Emma Beaumont-Smith, teen apprentice
**BU Director of Dance**

**Micki Taylor-Pinney** has directed the dance program at Boston University in the Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and served as faculty advisor to the student dance company, Dance Theatre Group, since 1985. She has been an advisor and mentor for the dance minor program in the College of Fine Arts since 1999 and administrator for Reach since 1998. She teaches courses in modern dance, dance history, composition, and aesthetics, as well as Ideokinesis and pedagogy as a guest lecturer in the School of Education. She was a performer with Dance Collective beginning in 1986 before she became an artistic director from 1998 to 2006, during which time she performed and choreographed for the company and directed its educational outreach programs. She has choreographed over 50 dances for BU’s Dance Theatre Group and over 30 dances for professional dancers and companies. She has served as a dance education consultant and taught residencies for schools and colleges in Vermont, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Micki is the director of Mass Movement, Inc. which provides educational outreach in schools and after-school programs through Young Audiences. She co-directed a teacher training grant in the Boston Public Schools and co-authored a manual for teachers. For 12 years, she was the dance director for creative arts summer programs in Dover and Brookline. Micki was president of the Boston Dance Alliance for two of the eight years she served on the board. She holds a BS from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and an MFA from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

**Professional Instructors**

**Janelle Gilchrist**, originally from Stoneham, MA, developed her dance skills at Harriet Hactor Ballet School, Boston Ballet School, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, Broadway Theater Project, Concord Academy and Dance Theater of Harlem. She earned a BFA in Dance at the Hartt School in Connecticut. Janelle’s training led to roles as a company and/or lead dancer at the Hartford Ballet, the New Jersey Ballet, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, and in the “Urban Nutcracker” of Boston where she made her debut as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Outside of ballet, Janelle showcased her versatility in other dance forms with Legends in Concert, Celebrity Cruises, Anna Myer, David Parker, and Island Moving Company. Janelle served as choreographer and casting director of two flash mob performances for Media Direct Productions in Boston and Las Vegas. While teaching dance at Moses Brown in Rhode Island, she choreographed for the musicals “Hello Dolly,” “The Music Man,” and “Cabaret.” Janelle was the director of in-school programming with BalletRox for Boston Public Schools. She also flew to Riga, Latvia with BalletRox to perform and teach the “Urban Nutcracker” to the Dzirnas Dance Troupe. Currently, Janelle is a company dancer and teacher at José Mateo Ballet Theatre. She also teaches ballet at Tony Williams Dance Center, Step by Step, and Angel Dance. In her off-season from José Mateo Ballet Theatre, Janelle leads her own troupe called Janelle Gilchrist Dance Troupe. Janelle choreographs original works for the troupe that have been performed throughout the Boston area.

**Wendy O’Byrne** began her training with the Robertson’s School of Classical Ballet (Seacoast Ballet Company) under the direction of Colleen and Larry Robertson. After ten years of exclusively studying ballet, Wendy’s interests shifted to musical theatre. She had the privilege of working for Seacoast Repertory Theatre, the Palace Theatre, Ogunquit Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, and several other regional theatre companies. In 2007, Wendy moved to Boston to continue her dance training where she became a member of MAVI Dance and Unyted Stylz. In 2010, Wendy founded...
Contemporarily Out of Order (COOco), a contemporary company aimed to create performance opportunities for children and adults under a professional setting. Wendy is currently the director of COOco and the dance captain for the hip hop company, Street Hype. Wendy is also the Assistant Director for Gate City Ballet and a faculty member at the Greater Boston School of Dance.

Meghan Riling grew up dancing in Connecticut and moved to Boston to study at Boston University, where she joined the Dance Theatre Group. Since graduation, she has worked with the Harvard-Radcliffe Modern Dance Company, the CRLS Modern Dance Company, and Luminarium Dance Company. She is currently a company member and media and marketing director of the contemporary-Haitian dance company Jean Appolon Expressions and choreographs and performs with Calamity Co Dance. Besides dance, she teaches math and computer science an is enrolled in a doctoral program in math education at BU.

Brian Washburn is a former Reach apprentice and college intern, and he has been dancing since the age of seven. He graduated from Northwest School of the Arts in 2011 where he studied ballet, modern, and jazz to broaden his dance repertoire. He now teaches dance throughout Boston at multiple studios, such as Tony Williams Dance Center and Urbanity Dance. He has also been an active member in dance companies such as Boston Urban Ballet, UrManity, and Jo-Me’ Dance. Brian continues to dance while pursuing a career in entrepreneurship.

Student Interns
Brandon McCrory-Joseph was a student member of the Modern Dance Company at Cambridge Ringe and Latin School in Cambridge, later returning as a guest choreographer. He also joined Reach as a teen apprentice in the summer of 2016. He is currently a dance and health science major at Rhode Island College, class of 2019. He performs with the Rhode Island College Dance Company.

Isabel Thompson-Pomeroy moved to Japan as a child, where she began taking ballet classes and competitive gymnastics. As a teenager, she quit dance and gymnastics to focus on sports. Isabel was reintroduced to dance at the Bates Youth Dance Festival, at which point she began studying hip-hop, jazz, and contemporary dance. During this time, Isabel also participated in Reach as a teen apprentice. In 2015, she started at Mount Holyoke College. As a dance major, she has had the opportunity to perform for Rose Flachs, Deb Goffe, Jen Webber, and many others. Isabel also coaches kids ages 18 months to 16 years at the Hampshire Gymnastics School.

“Getting to know new people from the greater Boston area is very rewarding. One memorable story was when we were doing ‘Gestures’ and you could see the kids dancing along with us.”
-Sanji Harrison, teen apprentice

“On tour, my performance did change, like the way I used my face during the dances. What made it change was the different audiences and finding the fun in my dance.”
-Tyqueo James, teen apprentice
Evaluation

A few words from our teen apprentices . . .

“At one of the workshops, there was a shy girl standing on the side. I talked to her for a bit and then asked her to join us and dance with me. By the end of the workshop, she couldn’t stop dancing and smiling. It felt amazing to be able to make that girl happy and realize how awesome dance is.”

–Hailey Weiss, teen apprentice

“I think when I performed for the kids and I didn’t really look like all the other dancers, it made the boys at camp feel comfortable trying out dancing.”

–I-Jah Armstrong, teen apprentice

“During the master classes, I became a more well-rounded dancer, not only because I tried but because I thought about other components of dance. For example, in the West African dance class when we had a drummer, I connected more with the music.”

–Kayla Freeman, teen apprentice

“Connecting with little children who did not really think that they were good at dance was new to me. As a leader, I learned to be more patient with people.”

–Vinou Val, teen apprentice

“I’ve been exposed to different dance styles that I never thought I would be capable of finding a passion for.”

–Arianna Vamvas, teen apprentice

“Many of the campers have only been introduced to only a few styles. It is beneficial that we are able to show them new styles and genres to increase awareness and spark interest.”

–Lian Bruce, high school intern

A few words from our staff . . .

“One young student who we performed for asked [teen apprentice] Caroline the question: ‘How did you get to be such a good dancer?’ It’s so sweet when children say things like that. This makes me realize that we are making a difference. Dance could change one of these students’ lives. I see it all the time!”

–Janelle Gilchrist, Professional Instructor

“This program exposes campers not just to the classical forms of dance or ‘urban’ forms of dance, but many different forms from people of many different backgrounds. It empowers and bridges gaps that might otherwise be out of reach.”

–Brian Washburn, Professional Instructor

“I think the performances and workshops were an opportunity for the campers to see dance as a process, and not only as a product. They were able to reach out and grasp how much work goes into making a performance-ready dance.”

–Isabel Thompson-Pomeroy, College Intern

“I love seeing the teen apprentices start to view themselves as leaders and role models to younger kids on tour. They really pay attention to teachers in their lives and clearly take the opportunity to use what they have learned from them to share their love and knowledge of dance with the campers very seriously.”

–Meghan Riling, Professional Instructor

“The Reach campers benefitted from being in a constant learning environment. I believe we created a supportive system so that every camper could find success, no matter the genre of dance. It was great reinforcement to have professional dancers and college interns mixed in with the campers because it gave the dancers something to aspire to.”

–Wendy O’Byrne, Professional Instructor
A few words from the groups we performed for . . .

“Our four and five year olds were utterly enchanted.”  —Mazemakers Summer Camp

“Our campers absolutely loved the engaging parts! They are still talking about the dances. The apprentices are so enthusiastic. They worked well with some of our highest need kids! We are greatly appreciative of their patience and determination.”  —Mystic Learning Center Summer Camp

“It was fun. The Reach teachers were extremely positive and patient with campers. The teen apprentices made [the performance and workshop] even more interesting.”  —Charlestown Community Center

“The teens really helped our campers and staff get involved, learn moves, get out of their comfort zone and have fun. Thank you for coming!”  —South Boston Summer Collaborative

“The opportunity to be creative through music and movement is a great experience that some may not have in their community.”  —Mattahunt Community Center (PUSH Program)

“The campers who participated were very engaged! We felt like the students were enjoying themselves with safety.”  —Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment Summer Camp

Reach Media Placements 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>7/18/17</td>
<td>BU Today</td>
<td>Close Up feature with photograph of teen apprentices and staff with event listing for Cambridge performance</td>
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<td>7/16/17</td>
<td>Arts Fuse</td>
<td>Cambridge performance included in Coming Attractions: July 16 through August 1 - What Will Light Your Fire</td>
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<td>7/14/17</td>
<td>Boston Globe</td>
<td>Cambridge performance included in The Ticket: Dance and event listing included on calendar</td>
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<td>7/13/17</td>
<td>Cambridge Chronicle</td>
<td>Cambridge performance included in 5 things to do this week in Cambridge</td>
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<td>7/10/17</td>
<td>Sudbury Town Crier</td>
<td>Article featuring Jennifer Cinicola, Teen Apprentice of Sudbury</td>
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<td>Newton TAB</td>
<td>Article featuring Lian Bruce, Teen Apprentice of Newton</td>
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<td>Winchester Star</td>
<td>Article featuring Sylvie Kimpton, Teen Apprentice of Winchester</td>
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<td>7/5/17</td>
<td>Bedford Minuteman</td>
<td>Article featuring Arianna Vamvas, Teen Apprentice of Bedford</td>
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# REACH TOUR SITES 2017

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th># of Campers</th>
<th># of Staff</th>
<th>Type of Visit</th>
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## PROJECTED REACH BUDGET 2017

### INCOME

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**TOTAL INCOME** $63,606

### EXPENSES

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<tr>
<td>Costumes/Shoes/Performance Supplies</td>
<td>$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-shirts</td>
<td>$445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch Supplies</td>
<td>$1,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge Permit-Outdoor Performance</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Documentation</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass State Raffle Tax</td>
<td>$133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incentive Gifts for Teens</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Tickets for teens (80)</td>
<td>$690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation Expense</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Rental: 3 vans for 10 days (in-kind)</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas, Parking and Subsidized MBTA Passes</td>
<td>$118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Administrative</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcard/Brochure Printing/Postage</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Fee</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Fee (in-kind)</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reach 2017 Scholarship Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$63,606</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balance** $0

---

“I witnessed children begin workshops plastered to the wall with a frown, but throughout the workshop they would participate more with happy smiles. Then they would start to dance without caring what other campers thought.”

-Jenn Cinicola, teen apprentice
Reach Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship is funded through donations and grants from:

**Businesses, Corporations and Foundations**

*Special thanks to...*

- Agnes Lindsay Trust
- Arlex Oil
- Associated Grant Makers’ Summer Fund
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
- Boston University Dance Program
- Boston University Dance Theatre Group
- Boston University Fitness and Recreation Center
- Hi-Tide Boat Lifts
- Mass Movement, Inc.

*Additional thanks to...*

- Agganis Arena
- Barnes and Noble
- Bertucci’s
- Boston Beer Company
- Boston Conservatory
- Eastern Standard
- The Hawthorne
- Hotel Commonwealth
- Island Creek Oyster Bar
- Karen Hilliard & Associates
- Whole Foods South End
- World Music/Crash Arts
- and Peter Smokowski, Office of the Vice President, Auxiliary Services

Reach apprentices and professional staff perform “The Daily News” at the outdoor public performance in Cambridge.
Individual Supporters and Volunteers

Adam Rosenberg
Albert and Barbara Wolcott
Alec Southall
Alex Blenis
Allison Swider
Amy and Lee Ellsworth
Andrew Dreyfus
Anita Morse
Ann Baker
Anna Schechinger
Anne A. Keel
April E. Stone
Art Kreiger
Barbara Levy
Barbara Green-Glaz
Bethany Allen
Bill and Margot Parsons
Brittany Kubicko
Carli DiMeo
Carter Eckert
Christina Marshall
Claire L. Enterline
Cynthia Butler Loud
Daisy Perez
David Witkus
David Weiner
Dawn Lane
Deborah Bouras
Denise Chamberland
Diana Mackenzie

Diane Pursley
Donna Sessa-Carter
Elizabeth L. Wheeler
Frank and Victoria Solomon
Haley Abrams
Haley Fritz
Harneen Chemow
Harold Adams and Thomas Delong
Holly A. Thompson
Ilyse Levine-Kanji
Jacqueline Cinicola
James and Carol Kinlan
Jaye Lind
Jerel Cathey and Martha Gray
Jerry L. Wheelock
Jerry Alexander and Jane Flanders
Jody Handler
John and Helen Lyons
John Clark
Joslyn Carter
Judith Chaffée and Pete Wishnok
Judith Stone and Donald Clements Jacobs
Karen Jacobs
Kathleen and Allen Joffe
Kristina Covarrubias
Laura Nunncker
Lindsey Gettinger
Lynn Horrigan
Lynn Modell
Markus Pinney
Marti Katz

Michele Hamley
Michelle Roderick
Mina Makarlov
Mindy Pollack-Fusi
Nancy W. Confrey
Narcissa Campion
Natalie Schiera
Noel and Ellen MacDonald
Peter Terris
Raymond Levy
Rebecca Chase
Remé Ann Gold
Reneé Caso
Renita Norris
Ronald W. Hood
Roula Fayad
Sarah Fuhro
Stephanie Shin
Sun Ho Kim
Susan Suh
Susan and David Mirsky
Sylvia Mihich and Tom Harden
Tamara Wolfson
Terry Miles
Theresa Laham
Thomas and Jo Duval
Tim J. Moore
Vera Wolowoduiik
Willma Davis

“Well! All I can say is WOW!!
That was such a delightful, well
crafted performance last night. I was
so glad that I attended... The whole
thing was just terrific.”

–Eliza, Cambridge performance attendee

Supporters listen to a presentation at the
April 2016 Reach Fundraiser.