

BOSTON UNIVERSITY DANCE PROGRAM'S

REACH

*Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship
Dance Program*

Founded/operated by Dance Collective (1990 - 2005)



2018

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 and 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* 2018 teen apprentice Izaiah Lawton flies over college interns Brandon McCrory-Joseph and Mary Craig in Central Square, Cambridge. Right: *Reach* dancers answer questions from their audience of young campers, watching intently.

Organization

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

REACH

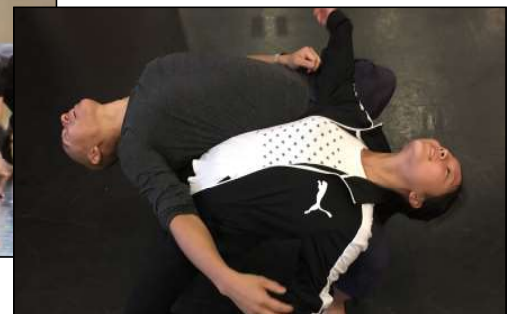
Celebrating 28 Years of Making a Difference through Dance Introduction to Organization and Programs

“The campers got to see that anyone, no matter what their background was, could be united through movement, and they got to experience the feeling of being part of the group.”

-Max Winig,
teen apprentice

“For me the most rewarding aspect of the Reach program was the new family I had.”

-Brooklyn O’Connor,
teen apprentice



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.

The Company

This summer, 14 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, three college interns, and two high school 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.



Introducing the 2018 *Reach* ensemble!

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 professional and apprentice 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 two weeks after the tour, staff members were contracted to teach an additional 12 workshops for a total of 25 workshops in the community.

This year's teen apprentices, ranging in age from 13-17, were from Boston neighborhoods as well as area suburbs, and all have participated in dance programs in their communities. They are: Talia Cimino, 16, of Brookline; Tyqueo James, 14, of Charlestown; Ai Ling "Ling-Ling" Johnson-Garland, 16, of Brookline; Jarvis Joseph, 15, of Mattapan; Miranda Lawson, 18, of Somerville; Izaiah Lawton, 18, of Mattapan; Lily Lewis, 13, of Roxbury; Brooklyn O'Connor, 13, of Pelham, New Hampshire; Alesha Ramcharran, 14, of Dorchester; Kelsie Rizzo, 15, of Boston; Matthew Steele, 17, of Brookline; Katherine Torres, 14, of Hyde Park; and Max Winig, 16, of Needham. In addition, Emily Goodrich and Sera Kawakami joined the program as high school interns.

Reach's professional dancers were Wendy O'Byrne, of Allston; Brian Washburn, of Boston; Elisabeth Wilson, of Amherst, NH; and Mcebisi Xotyeni, of Melrose. Washburn is a former Reach college intern and teen apprentice. These professionals were supported by college interns Mary Craig, of Waltham; Brandon McCrory-Joseph, of Cambridge; and Jasmine Wong-Wynot, of Brighton. All three college interns are returning Reach teen apprentices.

"Reach was so much fun. I felt myself being pulled out of my comfort zone many times. It gave me the opportunity to meet many new amazing and talented people. My favorite was the new doors and opportunities Reach opened for me."

-Katherine Torres, teen apprentice

Director of Dance

Comments from our



It has been a pleasure to guide and witness the continuation of Dance Collective's outreach program under the umbrella of Boston University.

This year, as with every year since 1990, our goal is to come together teens, interns, and professionals, to embrace our differences, and put together a performance that will engage, enthrall, and educate our audiences. The three week rehearsal period is rigorous and demands that everyone work collaboratively and individually. We know the two week tour to gyms and cafeterias in the middle of a heat wave isn't glamorous, but the Reach company delivered every day! I was impressed with their energy and commitment to our mission. With water bottles and ice packs in hand, they helped us achieve our goal of providing a quality arts experience for kids at camps and community centers.

The teens had stories to tell of connections made with campers that included being asked to sign autographs, to stay, and to return. One counselor wrote of one camper they'd not been able to reach who surprised them with his enthusiasm and participation at the Reach workshop. We know of the power of dance to transform and bring out the best in us.

With pieces to music spanning classical, hip hop, contemporary, Soca, and Afro-pop, the 45 minute performance reflected our diversity. With teens from suburban and urban neighborhoods with varied level of training, staff with experience teaching and performing a whole host of genres, the company is a reflection of how dance reaches across all demographics and cultures. The three Dance Collective repertory pieces set the standard and provide a guide for making new work. These pieces are a tribute to the vision and artistry of our founders, Martha Armstrong Gray and Dawn Kramer, and Judith Chaffee, one of the collective's artistic co-directors. I am grateful that they give us permission to adapt their work to our cast and times. Martha's "gesture dance" phrase was again the jumping off place for a new version using Michael Jackson's Black or White. It was staff member Brian Washburn's suggestion and a fitting tribute to our goal. The company created movement and gesture phrases in groups that included messages of helping, respecting, and accepting each other using an array of different dance styles. With acrobatics, falling and catching, and a "Soul Train" finale, it was a hit!

“Reach delivers arts education to Boston's neighborhoods and empowers our teens to become leaders in the community.”

We are grateful that the co-founders are still so involved in the program, from fundraising to mentoring the teens.

Reach wouldn't be possible without the support of many organizations and donors. These donations subsidize scholarships, the performances, and Motion Art workshops. Thank you, all, for your belief in Reach and the importance of having arts education in our communities.

-Micki



Our 2018 Reach teens & staff collaborate with Boston's youth through dance!



Looking Ahead: Goals for 2019

- Arrange to have three master class/presentations in urban schools rather than host an Open House.
- Schedule auditions at Boston Arts Academy and one other school in addition to the open audition.
- Revamp the Pedagogy Workshop we have with our company teens to enhance their preparation for the tour.



Above: Audience members strike a pose after joining the Reach dancers on stage at the end of the public performance in Cambridge to learn and then perform a final dance together.

“This program helped me to realize that not only do I dance for myself, but I dance to help others - to make others happy and inspire them.”

*—Izaiah Lawton,
teen apprentice*



STAFF

“I have gained so much knowledge about the anatomy behind dance this summer and will take many lessons with me throughout the rest of my career.”

-Miranda Lawson, teen apprentice

“I found the foundation classes the most rewarding and the most helpful to me.”

-Tyqueo James, 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.



The *Reach* professional staff and college interns. Front row L to R: Elisabeth Wilson, Mary Craig. Second row L to R: Wendy O'Byrne, Jasmine Wong-Wynot, Brandon McCrory-Joseph. Third row L to R: Brian Washburn, Mcebisi Xotyeni. Above: Micki Taylor-Pinney.

Professional Instructors

Wendy O'Byrne

began her training with the Robertson's School of Classical Ballet (Seacoast Ballet Company) under Colleen and Larry Robertson. After ten years studying ballet, Wendy's interests shifted to musical theatre. She worked for Seacoast Repertory Theatre, the Palace Theatre, Ogunquit Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre, and other regional theatre companies. In 2007, Wendy moved to Boston to continue 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 offering performance opportunities for children and adults in 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.

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 has taught dance throughout Boston at multiple studios, such as Tony Williams Dance Center and Urbanity Dance, and currently teaches at BU and for Mass Movement, Inc. 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.

Elisabeth Wilson

received her early dance training from Southern New Hampshire Dance Theater under Patricia Lavoie and Classical Ballet Academy in St. Paul, Minnesota under Andrew and Cheryl Rist. Her classical repertoire includes *The Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Le Corsaire*, *Pas de Quatre*, *La Bayadere*, *Giselle*, and *Swan Lake*. She has also performed other contemporary works including those choreographed by George Balanchine, Lisa de Ribere, Gerard Arpino, Jeremy Collins, Lynn Cote, Patricia



Left: *Reach* professional Brian Washburn holds fellow professional Wendy O'Byrne steady during the closing number at the Cambridge outdoor public performance.

Right: Micki Taylor-Pinney (right) takes a moment to stop and smile with teen apprentice Miranda Lawson before a day touring local camps.



Lavoie, Douglas Davis, Tauna Hunter, and more. She has early performing experience with the Regional Dance America dance festivals where she received several scholarships including the Barbara Weisberger Founders Award for Excellence in a Classical Ballet Performance. Elisabeth studied dance and history at Mercyhurst University, where she was a founding member of Mercyhurst Ballet Theatre under the direction of Tauna Hunter and Michael Gleason. Elisabeth now teaches at Gate City Ballet.

Mcebisi Xotyeni of Cape Town, South Africa began dancing with the outreach program Dance For All, where he was awarded a full scholarship and trained in ballet, African, contemporary, and hip hop. He later worked for the professional dance company iKapa Dance Theatre. He has also worked with leading companies in South Africa such as Cape Town City Ballet, Suede Productions, and Sibonelo Dance Project. He has performed for numerous festivals and has collaborated with international artists for performances and outreach projects. Xotyeni now performs with Jean Appolon Expressions and is the co-owner, along with wife Amy Xotyeni, of Izizwe Dance Studio, offering high quality training and performance opportunities preparing students for a future in the arts.

College Interns

Mary Craig is a student at Columbia University where she studies political science and is a recipient of the Laidlaw Research Scholarship. She began dancing at age ten, studying at Nicole's Studio of Dance. She continued her dance education throughout high school studying ballet and modern, heading a hip-hop dance group, and performing and choreographing with Concord Academy Dance Company under Richard Colton and Amy Spencer. During this time she also joined *Reach* as a teen apprentice. Today, she continues to take dance courses at neighboring Barnard College, participates in Onyx and Raw Elementz dance teams, and attends classes throughout New York City at studios like Broadway Dance Center, Alvin Ailey, and Steps on Broadway.



Reach interns Mary (left) and Brandon (right) with teen apprentice Izaiah (center) at the public show.

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.

Jasmine Wong-Wynot was born and raised in Boston and began her dance training under Teri Gordon at Mass Motion Dance. She studied ballet, contemporary, hip hop, jazz, lyrical, modern, and tap, also attending competitions, such as Spirit of Dance and Turn it up, once placing first overall in her category. She has performed for Move for the Movement, MayFair, Reach, BoSoma and more. After graduating from Boston Latin Academy in 2016, she began her dance teaching career at Mass Motion Dance. She currently studies Exercise and Health Science, minoring in dance, at the University of Massachusetts Boston. After graduating college, she hopes to be a physical therapist and teach dance.

Left: *Reach* interns Brandon McCrory-Joseph, Mary Craig, and Jasmine Wong-Wynot.

"What I found most rewarding from the Reach program is how everyone is like family, how they show love to each other, and how they help each other out when they don't understand something."

-Alesha Ramcharran, teen apprentice

"I was able to attend different types of dance classes and learn new techniques and styles. I was able to break out of my shell."

-Sera Kawakami, high school intern

Evaluation

A few words from our teen apprentices . . .

"I felt as though I made an impact on at least one camper per show. Knowing that you've inspired someone through something you love to do is a very rewarding feeling." –Talia Cimino, Teen Apprentice

"Creating a dance with my group wasn't easy, but it was a great time and we pulled it off to perform something we were proud of. This is a great program that allows teens to try things and express themselves freely." –Ling Ling Johnson-Garland, Teen Apprentice

"The workshops helped me learn how to be more of a leader and to understand how to be a leader." –Kelsie Rizzo, Teen Apprentice

"I was challenged and learned a lot of new things." –Jarvis Joseph, Teen Apprentice

"I learned that I like finding little ways to personally connect with kids to make them feel more confident in themselves and their movement." –Betsy Soloway-Aizley, Teen Apprentice

"Working with children is difficult because you need to immerse yourself into a whole new mindset. It requires you to work at a slower pace, all to reveal exactly how much fun it is to work with these kids." –Matt Steele, Teen Apprentice

A few words from our staff . . .

"The program painted a whole picture of what the teens can achieve with the tool of dance. They got to see their future selves. The growth of the apprentices melted my heart. Dance does more than just entertain. It changes lives." –Mcebisi Xotyeni, Professional Instructor

"No matter the year, I always find it extremely rewarding to see children's faces light up and how much they smile when we get to work with them after performing." –Brian Washburn, Professional Instructor

"I found all the daily classes from the Reach professionals, as well as the master classes, to be the most personally rewarding. Taking classes from different people with different styles really opens you up to all the artistic possibilities dance has to offer." –Elisabeth Wilson, Professional Instructor

"I think the incredibly encouraging and accepting environment we create at Reach is an amazing way for all the teens to build confidence in themselves as dancers and as artists." –Mary Craig, College Intern

"What I found most rewarding about this program was seeing the smiles and joy from the campers' faces as they watched our show and participated in the workshops." –Jasmine Wong-Wynot, College Intern

A few words from the groups we performed for . . .

“Our students were very captivated and engaged by the workshop. They were very eager to learn.” –Summer Spot

“The energy of the staff and teachers was very positive and they led our group very effectively. They were great with the kids. Everyone involved provided a positive and welcoming experience for all of our youth. We all had a great time. This was one of the best ones we’ve had.” –Mystic Learning Center Summer Camp

“We just love seeing the kids have an opportunity to dance and learn more. The kids absolutely loved it and every single one had a good time.” –Cambridge Adventure Day Camp

“I think the kids were fascinated by the age range in the performers, which caused them to pay attention more.” –Sister Mary Hart Summer Camp

“[The teen apprentices] brought positive energy and enthusiasm, which encouraged more participation from our members. They were great!” –Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester

“The staff really likes Reach. Y’all are on point!” –Boston Explorers

Reach Media Placements 2018

Date	Publication	Description
6/7	Boston Dance Alliance	Event listing for Cambridge performance on calendar
6/7	Dig Boston	Event listing for Cambridge performance on calendar
6/7	The Boston Calendar	Event listing for Cambridge performance on calendar
6/7	BU Today	Event listing for Cambridge performance on calendar
6/7	Dance Magazine	Event listing for Cambridge performance on calendar
6/8	Eventbrite	Event listing for Cambridge performance on calendar
6/8	Arts Boston	Event listing for Cambridge performance on calendar
6/8	Cambridge Arts Council	Event listing for Cambridge performance on calendar
6/13	Cambridge Scout	Event listing for Cambridge performance on calendar
7/12	Cambridge Chronicle	Cambridge performance included in Around Cambridge
7/15	Arts Fuse	Cambridge performance included in Coming Attractions: July 15 through 31 - What Will Light Your Fire
7/19	Dorchester Reporter	Article featuring Alesha Ramcharran, teen apprentice from Dorchester
	Dorchester Reporter	Article featuring Alesha Ramcharran, teen apprentice from Dorchester
	Boston Globe	Cambridge performance included in The Ticket: Dance and event listing included on calendar

Dot’s Ramcharran takes star turn as BU ‘dance apprentice’

Stop by Central Square on Wednesday, July 25, at 7 p.m. to catch Dorchester resident Alesha Ramcharran dancing the night away with a mix of teenage and professional dancers through Boston University’s Reach Summer Dance Program. The dancers will perform a variety of different dance styles, from hip hop to African contemporary dance, said Meghan Kiling, former teacher and current of ACE assistant at Reach. The dancers themselves will consist of around 14 “teen apprentices,” of which



Alesha Ramcharran, right, with her fellow dancers in Boston University’s Reach Summer Dance Program. is the group’s only public I feel more relaxed when performance, and they I dance more like me.

Dorchester Reporter article featuring teen apprentice Alesha Ramcharran, 7/19/18

REACH TOUR SITES 2018



Apprentices and staff perform for campers at the Cambridge Community Center.

Date	Camp Name	# of Campers	# of Staff	Type of Visit
7/23/2018	Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester	150	20	Performance/Workshop
7/24/2018	Somerville YMCA	50	12	Performance/Workshop
7/25/2018	Mystic Learning Center Summer Camp	32	8	Performance/Workshop
7/25/2018	Boston Explorers	11	3	Workshop
7/26/2018	Boys and Girls Club of South Boston	40	10	Performance/Workshop
7/27/2018	Ohrenberger Community Center (BCYF)	28	14	Performance/Workshop
7/27/2018	Cambridge Adventure Day Camp	24	2	Workshop
7/30/2018	Agassiz Baldwin Community Outback Summer Program & Cambridge Community Center (shared event)	132	17	Performance/Workshop
7/30/2018	Bethel Math and Science Scholars Summer Program	26	3	Workshop
7/31/2018	Alliance for Inclusion & Prevention (AIP) Summer Spot	43	6	Performance/Workshop
8/1/2018	Mazemakers at Fourth Presbyterian Church	100	35	Performance
8/1/2018	Children in the Park (Esplanade Association)	60	10	Workshop
8/2/2018	Sister Mary Hart Summer Camp	45	20	Performance/Workshop
8/2/2018	Mattahunt Community Center (BCYF)	20	13	Workshop
8/3/2018	Roslindale Community Center (BCYF)	59	30	Performance
8/6/2018	The City School	25	4	Workshop
8/7/2018	Menino Community Center (BCYF)	15	5	Workshop
8/8/2018	Boston Explorers	25	4	Workshop
8/9/2018	College Bound Dorchester	30	5	Workshop
8/9/2018	Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center Summer Camp	40	2	Workshop
8/10/2018	Camp Ponkapoag YMCA	120	5	Workshop
8/15 & 8/17/2018	Youth Enrichment Services	20	3	Workshop
	TOTAL Population Served in Camps	1,095	258	
7/19/2017	Free Outdoor Performance in Cambridge	160		Performance
	TOTAL Population Served	1,513		

BUDGET

REACH BUDGET 2018

INCOME

Tuition	14 Apprentices 7 paying full tuition, 7 paying partial		\$7,350
		sub-total	\$7,350
Fees for Service	Associated Grant Makers Self-Payment from Camps		\$4,271 \$724
		sub-total	\$4,995
Grants	Agnes Lindsay Trust Blue Cross Blue Shield Hi Tide		\$3,000 \$5,000 \$3,500
		sub-total	\$11,500
Individual Donors/Raffle		sub-total	\$18,230
Other Contributions	BU Dance Theatre Group 2017 Scholarship Fund BU PERD In-Kind Contributions		\$1,000 \$7,761 \$16,799
		sub-total	\$25,560
	TOTAL INCOME		\$67,635

EXPENSES

PAYROLL

Professional Salaries	\$23,424
Guest Artist Workshops	\$1,635
Community Workshops	\$1,025
Fringe Benefits	\$7,825
BU Climbing Wall Supervisors (no fringe)	\$50
	sub-total
	\$33,959

Program Expenses

Rehearsal Space Rental (in-kind)	\$7,358
Costumes/Shoes/Performance Supplies	\$49
T-shirts	\$406
Lunch Supplies	\$1,085
Cambridge Permit-Outdoor Performance	\$100
Video Documentation	\$250
Miscellaneous	\$210
Mass State Raffle Tax	\$171
	sub-total
	\$9,629

Incentive Gifts for Teens

Movie Tickets for teens (80)	\$690
	sub-total
	\$690

Transportation Expense

Van Rental: 3 vans for 10 days (in-kind)	\$3,941
Gas, Parking and Subsidized MBTA Passes	\$204
	sub-total
	\$4,145

General Administrative

Postcard/Brochure Printing/Postage	\$250
Office Supplies	\$174
Administrative Fee	\$2,000
Administrative Fee (in-kind)	\$5,500
	sub-total
	\$7,924

Reach 2019 Scholarship Fund

	sub-total
	\$11,288

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$67,635
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Balance \$0

“One memory that I have was that there was always a child from each site who said they wanted to be like me. I always said they can be better than me.”

-Izaiah Lawton,
teen apprentice



Reach Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship

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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

Cambridge Rotary Club

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Mass Movement, Inc.

MayHill Strategies

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Celtic Sojourn

Christmas Revels

Eastern Standard

The Hawthorne

Hotel Commonwealth

Island Creek Oyster Bar

Karen Hilliard & Associates

Luna Press

Starbucks

Whole Foods

**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

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 Tom Harden & Sylvia Mihich
 Tim J. Moore
 Vera Wolowoduik
 Victoria & Frank Solomon
 Willma Davis
 Zeina Fayad



“Congratulations on the performance! It was thrilling to see all those wonderful and very talented young dancers inspiring us with all their joy and generosity. Wow, I can’t say enough!”

—Judith, Cambridge, performance attendee



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