

BOSTON UNIVERSITY DANCE PROGRAM'S

REACH

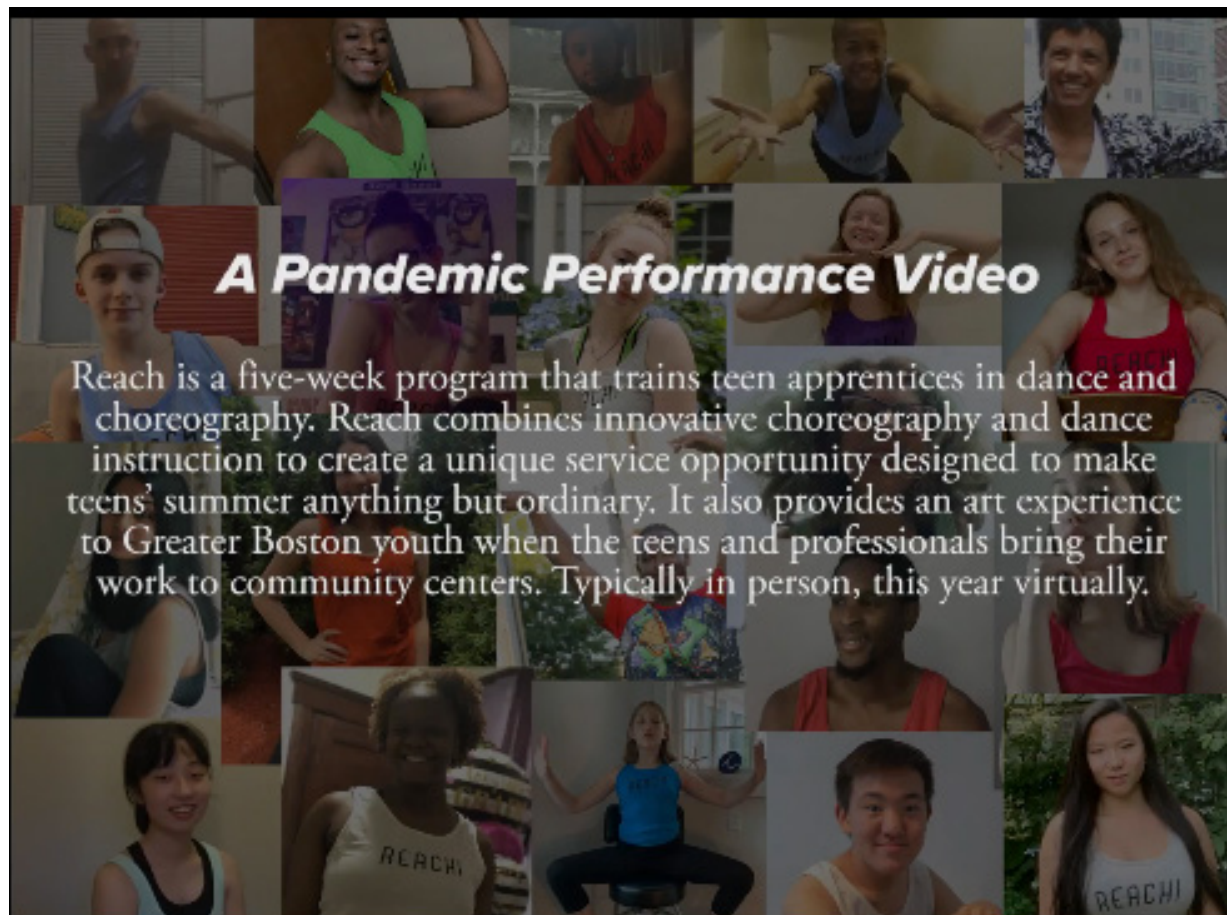
*Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship
Dance Program*

Founded/operated by Dance Collective (1990 - 2005)



2020

Final Report



Contact Information

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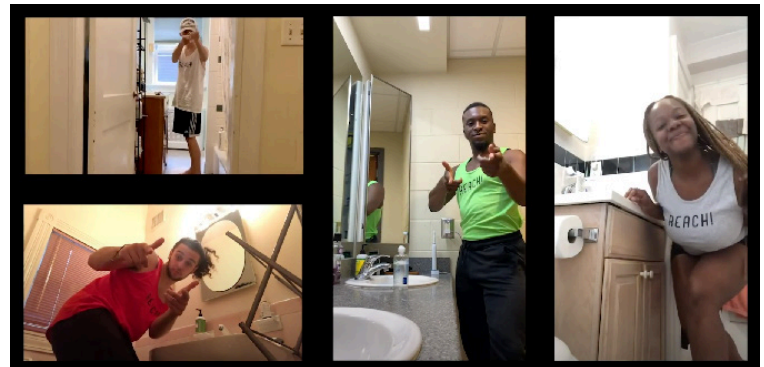
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Reach.Summer/

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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



Organization

Boston University Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

Executive Director: Timothy Moore

Director of Dance: Micki Taylor-Pinney

Above: Teen Apprentices Nandini Lal and Willa Field with High School Intern Simon Chernow

Right: Reach dancers Henry Melkonian and Jordin Eke, along with interns Simon Chernow and Brandon McCrory-Joseph in performance of "Body Language," originally choreographed by Martha Armstrong Gray.

REACH

Celebrating 30 Years of Making a Difference through Dance Introduction to Organization and Programs

“What I find most rewarding about Reach is being a part of this family of dancers who all have different backgrounds but share their passion for dance and learning.”

Nandini Lal,
teen apprentice

“REACH helped me learn that as a dancer we need to adapt quickly to the problems and hardships that we come across and it helped me better myself as a dancer and gave me more discipline.”

-Kyre Ambrose,
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 13 student apprentices and virtually performed for campers 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.



From the top: Yarimar Mercado, Ben Versoy, Frieda Dangerfield, Karin Shimada, Kyre Ambrose

The Company

This summer, 13 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, two college interns, and one high school intern. 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 virtual dance company.

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

Typically, for the next two weeks, Reach goes "on tour," reaching about 1,000 children and adults at 17 local sites. Instead of 11 performances and nearly 30 workshops for summer camps and community groups, we prepared a video that was shared on YouTube and Vimeo. On Zoom, our teen apprentices assisted instructors and served as role models for six Motion Art Workshops. Virtual master classes with guest artists, a cookie bake off, anatomy lessons, and assessment and evaluation sessions, and a video performance preview were part of our last two weeks.

This year's teen apprentices, ranging in age from 11-18, were from Boston neighborhoods as well as area suburbs, where all have participated in dance programs in their communities. They are: Kyre Ambrose, 15, of Dorchester; Frieda Dangerfield, 15, of Medford; Jordin Eke, 17, of Cambridge; Leila Ekendiz, 13, of Framingham; Luna Ekendiz, 11, of Framingham; Rhiannon Esposito, 13, of Newton; Willa Field, 15, of Watertown; Nandini Lal, 15, of Acton; Henry Melkonian, 15, of Roslindale; Yarimar Mercado, 17, of Roslindale; Karin Shimada, 15, of Woburn; Anna Tils, 16, of Newton; Ben Versoy, 17, of Cambridge. In addition, Simon Chernow, 17, of Boston, returned to the program as a high school intern.

Reach's professional dancers were Wendy O'Byrne, of Allston; Christopher Phillips, of Jamaica Plain; Brian Washburn, of Boston; and Mcebisi Xotyeni, of Lawrence. Brian is a former Reach college intern and teen apprentice. These professionals were supported by college interns Hannah Cyr, of Boston and Brandon McCrory-Joseph, of Cambridge. Brandon also started with Reach as a teen apprentice.



Introducing the 2020 Reach teens!

"Since Reach was online this summer, I was able to think in a different way as an artist."

-Ben Versoy,
teen apprentice

"It has been rewarding to be able to connect with everyone in the program even though we can't physically be with each other."

-Frieda
Dangerfield,
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.

The Reach 2020 program was like no other. Or at least, we can hope that is the case and we will not need to repeat the virtual version of Reach again. And yet, our five week, all-remote Reach dance program was surprisingly wonderful! It is amazing what this group accomplished and created!! While we were sad the Reach company couldn't physically be together at BU and perform live for kids in Greater Boston camps and in community centers, we still achieved our goals.

The Reach company, teens, interns, and professionals, came together on Zoom and produced a video performance that engaged and enthralled our virtual audiences. The three week rehearsal period was rigorous and demanded that everyone work deliberately in their own homes. The staff saw it as a challenge to find ways to keep everyone focused for 4.5 hours a day and bonding as a group. Where lunch time would usually be sitting together answering the question-of-the-day, we realized everyone needed a break from the screen. We encouraged people to grab some fresh air, or at least, enjoy a change of scenery.

The process of creating choreography had its own set of challenges. Meeting in breakout rooms was followed by each company member having to videotape themselves performing the choreography. While a focus on precision and cohesiveness was often the case in the studio, this summer we saw an emphasis on personalizing the movement and working on performance qualities for the camera. Our choreographers were responsible for editing the video clips and finalizing their pieces. These were new choreographic demands and everyone rose to the occasion! The pieces were distinct, innovative and creative in their use of background settings, video editing devices, and costumes.

Being the 30th anniversary, founders Martha Armstrong Gray and Dawn Kramer recorded an introduction to the video. With additional editing assistance from Stephen Buck and Olivia Blaisdell, who also assembled the whole performance, we had a 39 minute video to show for our efforts.

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

There were two Dance Collective repertory pieces, two half group dances and six small group pieces that spanned genres including Afro-fusion, ballet, contemporary, hip hop, and modern. After posting on YouTube and Vimeo, we shared the links with families, friends, Reach supporters, and all the sites we typically visit. We arranged six Zoom “live” workshops with camps which the teen apprentices thought went amazingly well.

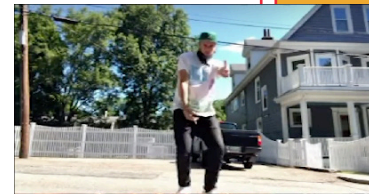
We also owe special thanks to our fundraiser committee members Ann Brown Allen, Bethany Allen, Bryant & Tina McBride, Dawn Kramer, Harvey Nosowitz, Judith Chaffee, Judy Cohen, Jerry Cathey & Martha Gray, and Markus Pinney. While COVID-19 made it impossible to hold the beloved annual fundraising event or raffle, the committee networked and 40 individuals contributed to Reach 2020. We appreciate their shared belief that Reach delivers arts education to Greater Boston neighborhoods and empowers our teens to become leaders in their community.

Here’s hoping that our 31st outreach program will be held in person. But if not, as one of our host committee members noted, “necessity is the mother of invention.” It was an honor to see the fabulous video dances created by the Reach 2020 company.

-Micki

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2021

- Arrange three master class/presentations in urban schools.
- Create a virtual Open House.
- Update the Pedagogy Workshop Guide to enhance the teen’s preparation for the tour, and give them more active roles on tour.



“It was an honor to be part of this journey and experience. I loved every single day that I was in Reach and I’m truly grateful that I was a part of Reach.”

–Yarimar Mercado, teen apprentice



Nandani Lal (left) and Hannah Cyr (right) join Ben Versoy in his piece “Dream.”

STAFF

“Reach this year taught me how to find patience and problem solve in quick and efficient ways. Being completely virtual was challenging and I feel like it made me a better teacher.”

- Wendy O’Byrne, Professional Instructor

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 interns. Top row L to R: Micki Taylor-Pinney, Hannah Cyr, and Christopher Phillips. Second row L to R: Mcebisi Xotyeni, Wendy O’Byrne, and Brian Washburn. Bottom row L to R: Brandon McCrory-Joseph and Simon Chernow.

Professional Instructors

Christopher Phillips has been teaching classical ballet for over 15 years. He teaches the Vaganova syllabus having completed two teacher courses, first in the US and the second in Russia. He is certified to teach all levels in the Vaganova system, pointe work, and partnering. The first program was with John White in Narberth, PA. and the second with Ballet Heritage in Saint Petersburg, RU. He holds a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts from State University of New York: Purchase College. Christopher has danced for City Ballet of Boston in works by Gianni Di Marco and Gerald Arpino, and in The Urban Nutcracker. He is also a freelance artist throughout New England.

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 when she became a member of MAVI Dance and Unyted Stylz. Wendy was also the former Assistant Director to former hip hop company, StreetHYpE. 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 for COOco’s adult and youth company. Wendy is currently a faculty member at the Greater Boston School of Dance and Mass Motion Dance. In addition to her studio commitments, Wendy is proud to be an instructor at Boston University’s Summer REACH Program.

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



Left: Reach professional Christopher Phillips poses in his home ballet studio.

Right: Reach professional Brian Washburn introducing a dance in the Reach Virtual Performance Video.



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, working with Contemporarily Out of Order, while pursuing a career in entrepreneurship.

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

Hannah Cyr is a recent graduate of The Boston Conservatory at Berklee and a graduate of the Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts. She has traveled to Guatemala and Mexico to perform and teach classes to local children with JUNTOS Collective. She has been a teaching assistant volunteer for Step by Step, a dance program for individuals with autism and Down Syndrome, and a lead teacher for Movement Matters, a dance program for seniors with limited ability. From 2016-2018, she was a residential counselor at a Performing Arts Summer Camp where her responsibilities included assisting as teacher and choreographer for productions. Hannah completed a teaching internship with The Eliot School as well choreographed a piece for Cambridge Rindge and Latin's Modern Dance Company during her senior year. She has had the opportunity to lead dance classes for children ages 3-12 through various programs at Boston University.



Reach professional Wendy O'Byrne in "The Letter," a dance she choreographed

Brandon McCrory-Joseph was a student member of the Modern Dance Company at Cambridge Rindge 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 2021. He performs with the Rhode Island College Dance Company. Recently, Brandon was named an inaugural recipient of Lin Manuel Miranda's Miranda Scholarship.



Left: Reach interns Hannah Cyr (left) and Brandon McCrory-Joseph (right)
Below: Reach professional Mcebisi Xotyeni



"For the past two summers, REACH has solidified my love for mentoring other students. I love to inspire them to find what they want to do."

-Hannah Cyr,
College Intern

"I think the campers benefited from having Reach teach workshops since many children that we see in the workshops do not have any training in dance, and Reach teens are closer in age to the children, making the children less nervous."

-Karin Shimada,
teen apprentice

Evaluation

A few words from our teen apprentices . . .

"What I find most rewarding about the REACH program is the family atmosphere and the amazing bonds that I have created over my two years of being a part of this program."
-Kyre Ambrose, Teen Apprentice

"I've improved on being more comfortable and confident when dancing for a video. I have never really needed to film and send in videos of myself before this."
-Anna Tils, Teen Apprentice

"Throughout the five weeks, I felt a sense of belonging and appreciation for the Reach family that amazed me because it arose even through Zoom."
-Nandini Lal, Teen Apprentice

"I have really broadened my knowledge and talent as a dancer. Being the choreographer for my small group dance was really eye-opening. I learned to use my imagination in a whole new way."
-Rhiannon Esposito, Teen Apprentice

"I found that learning different styles and stepping out of my comfort zone was very rewarding. This helped me become a better dancer and made me more versatile."
-Henry Melkonian, Teen Apprentice

A few words from our staff . . .

"I've had a really fun time learning choreography and taking class in the comfort of my own home. I've become a more adventurous dancer having to adjust to this platform."
-Wendy O'Byrne, Professional Instructor

"Creating choreography with others and collaborating with people who come from a much different dance background than you is very inspiring and fun!"
-Simon Chernow, High School Intern

"Reach has a lot of diversity and the campers get a feeling of inclusion. The campers liked having the teens because they are close in age. A lot of the campers got a boost of confidence from dance."
-Mcebisi Xotyeni, Professional Instructor

"What I found rewarding was seeing the teens grow emotionally, physically, as dancers and as leaders."
-Brandon McCrory-Joseph, College Intern

A few words from our Motion Art Workshops...

"Our campers had a lot of fun in the workshop, especially the younger campers! They really enjoyed learning the dances together." -- Roxbury Youth Initiative

"Thank you again for visiting our campers last week. Our students and staff also really enjoyed the experience!" -- Mission Hill Summer Program (PBHA)

"Thank you so much for bringing BU Reach to RYI! Our campers and staff really enjoyed the workshops. Overall, it was a great experience for all of us!" -- Roxbury Youth Initiative

"We all had such a blast with your wonderful crew today, thank you both so much for making it happen and here's hoping we'll be hosting you in person next year!" -- Edward F. Speck, Theater in the Open

"All of our staff members were super impressed by these workshops! Our campers had a lot of fun in the workshop, especially the younger campers! "

-- Camryn Turner and Jenn O'Brien, Roxbury Youth Initiative

Reach Media Placements 2020

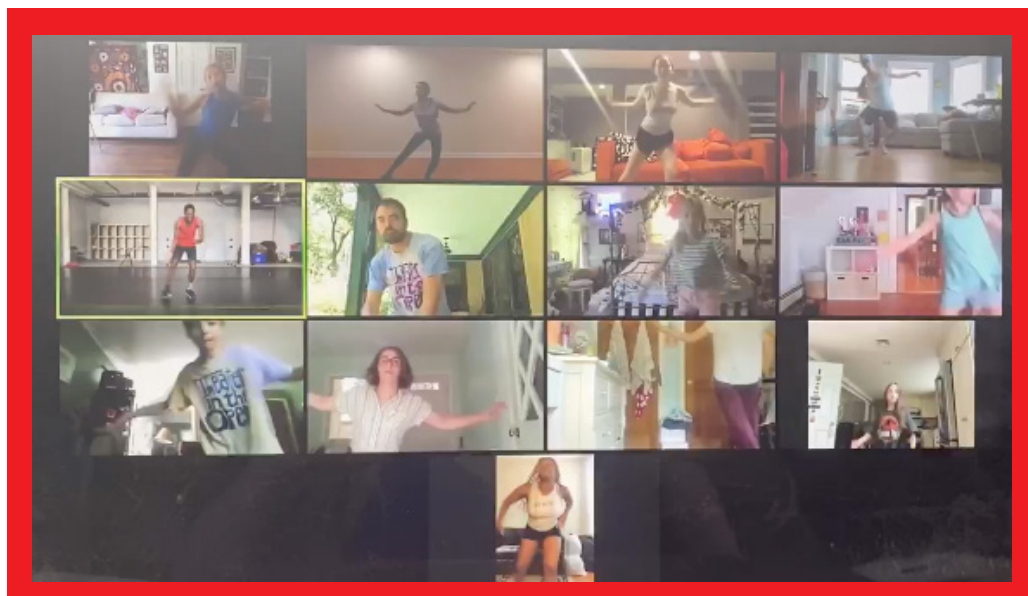
Date	Publication	Description
6/12	BU Today	2020 Reach Dance Performance Announcement
7/13	Newton Wicked Local	Article featuring Anna Tils and Rhiannon Esposito, teen apprentices from Newton
7/16	Dorchester Reporter	Article featuring Kyre Ambrose, teen apprentice from Dorchester
7/17	Roslindale Wicked Local	Article featuring Henry Melkonian and Yarimar Mercado, teen apprentices from Roslindale
8/10	BU Today	2020 Reach Dance Performance



Teen Apprentice Rhiannon Esposito in "In the Shadows," choreographed by Rhiannon Esposito with contributions from Mbisi Xotenyi and Brandon McCrory-Joseph



Teen Apprentice Anna Tils in "The Letter," choreographed by Wendy O'Byrne



Apprentices and staff perform a Motion Art Workshop with Theater in the Open in Newburyport

REACH WORKSHOP SITES 2020

Date	Camp Name	Type of Visit
7/21/2020	Mission Hill Summer Program (PBHA)	Performance/Workshop
7/23/2020	Theater in the Open	Performance/Workshop
7/24/2020	Roxbury Youth Initiative (PBHA)	Performance/Workshop



Reach company with newspapers and phones for their performance of "Daily News," with original choreography by Judith Chaffee; arranged by Micki Taylor-Pinney

REACH BUDGET 2020

INCOME

Tuition	14 Apprentices		
	9 paying full tuition, 4 paying partial, 1 work exchange	\$9,165	
	sub-total		\$9,165
Fees for Service	Associated Grant Makers	\$0	
	Self-Payment from Camps		
	sub-total		\$0
Grants	Agnes Lindsay Trust	\$2,500	
	Blue Cross Blue Shield	\$5,000	
	Hi Tide	\$2,000	
	sub-total		\$9,500
Individual Donors/Raffle	actual	\$10,246	
	sub-total		\$10,246
Other Contributions	BU Dance Theatre Group	\$150	
	2020 Scholarship Fund	\$11,288	
	BU PERD In-Kind Contributions	\$5,500	
	sub-total		\$16,938
TOTAL INCOME			\$45,849

EXPENSES

PAYROLL			
	Professional Salaries	\$24,854	
	Guest Artist Workshops	\$525	
	Community Workshops	\$0	
	Fringe Benefits	\$5,105	
	sub-total		\$30,484
Program Expenses	Rehearsal Space Rental (in-kind)	\$0	
	Costumes/Shoes/Performance Supplies	\$0	
	T-shirts	\$412	
	Lunch Supplies	\$0	
	Cambridge Permit-Outdoor Performance	\$0	
	Video Documentation & Editing	\$1,255	
	Miscellaneous	\$0	
	Mass State Raffle Tax	\$0	
	sub-total		\$1,667
Incentive Gifts for Teens	Amazon gift cards for teens (80)	\$540	
	sub-total		\$540
Transportation Expense	Van Rental: 3 vans for 10 days (in-kind)	\$0	
	Gas, Parking and Subsidized MBTA Passes	\$0	
	sub-total		\$0
General Administrative	Postcard/Brochure Printing/Postage	\$250	
	Office Supplies	\$0	
	Administrative Fee (in-kind)	\$5,500	
	sub-total		\$5,750
Reach 2021 Scholarship Fund			
	sub-total		\$7,408
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$45,849

Reach Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship

is funded through donations and grants from:

Businesses, Corporations and Foundations

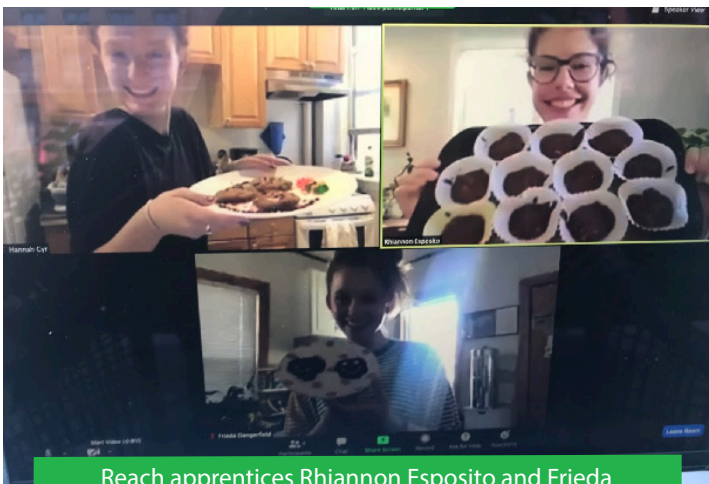
Special thanks to...

Agnes Lindsay Trust
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...

Peter Smokowski, Office of the Vice President,
Auxillary Services

While we did not hold the fundraiser or raffle this year, we are grateful to the organizations who offered goods and services:



Reach apprentices Rhiannon Esposito and Frieda Dangerfield, along with Reach intern Hannah Cyr show off their baked creations on Cookie Baking Day

Agganis Arena
Barnes and Noble
Bertucci's
Boston Beer Company
Celtic Sojourn
Christmas Revels
Eastern Standard
Global Arts Live
The Hawthorne
Hotel Commonwealth
Island Creek Oyster Bar
Karen Hilliard & Associates
The McBride Family
Starbucks

Individual Supporters and Volunteers

Adam Rosenberg
Albert & Barbara Wolcott
Alexandra Shute
Amy and Lee Ellsworth
Ann Brown Allen
Bethany Allen
Brenda Hugot
Bryant & Tina McBride
Carter Eckert
Claire Enterline
Claire-Solene Becka
Cynthia Butler Loud
Dawn Kramer & Stephen Buck
Francis Craig
Hannah L Gosselin

Hannah Stubblefield-Tave
Harold Adams & Thomas DeLong
Harvey Nosowitz
Holly Thompson
Jacqueline Cinicola
Janet McKenney
Jerry Alexander & Jane Flanders
John Clark
John & Marie-Louise Petrie
Judith Chaffee & Pete Wishnok
Kara Wood
Liz Roncka
Lynne Doblin
Margot & Bill Parsons
Markus Pinney
Martha Gray & Jerry Cathey

Megan E. Williams
Mina Makarious
Mindy Pollack-Fusi
Nancy Confrey
Noel & Ellen MacDonald
Reme Ann Gold
Renée Caso
Rudhra P. Raveendran
Sam Rubin and Jennifer Smith
Stephanie Creary
Sun Ho Kim
Susan & David Mirsky
Tom Harden & Sylvia Mihich
Tom & Jo Duval
Vicki & Frank Solomon



Congratulations Bake-off winner, Karin Shimada,
and Runner-up, Luna Ekendiz!!



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