

BOSTON UNIVERSITY DANCE PROGRAM'S

REACH

Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship
Dance Program

Founded/operated by Dance Collective (1990 - 2005)



2010

Final Report



Organization

Boston University Department of Physical Education,
Recreation and Dance

Executive Director: Warin Dexter

Coordinator of Dance: Micki Taylor-Pinney

Reach Program Director: Christina Piscitelli

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



Above: Reach teen apprentices rehearsing

Left: The Reach company and campers end a visit with a huddle.

Cover: The 2010 Reach Dance Company members gather on Boston University's campus

Reach Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship Dance Program

is funded through grants from:



Agnes Lindsay Trust

Associated Grant Makers' Summer Fund

Boston University Dance Program

Boston University Dance Theatre Group

Boston Arts Academy Foundation

Draper Laboratory

Mass Movement, Inc.

The McBride Family

and many other generous individuals



After a community performance, children from the audience got the opportunity to dance with the Reach apprentices and professional staff.



Reach participants during a Motion Art Workshop at a neighborhood community center.

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REACH

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 Coordinator of Dance at Boston University, encouraged the program's move to the university. This year *Reach* trained 16 student apprentices and performed before over 2,300 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, 16 teen apprentices from the Greater Boston Area experienced the rigors of being professional dancers by working alongside three professional artist/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 to an active and vibrant dance company.



Teens serve as role models for children.

The Reach program was divided into three parts. The first two 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 seven pieces were created by company members themselves, working collectively.

For the next two weeks, Reach went "on tour." All told, over 2,100 children and adults at 25 local sites enjoyed the company's performances this summer. The intergenerational company held 11 performances and 27 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 fifth week, three staff members were contracted to teach an additional 14 workshops in the community. In addition, three Reach teens performed in Boston University's Dance Showcase this year. As we go to press, plans are underway to have teens participate in a program at the Institute of Contemporary Art in December.

This year's teen apprentices, ranging in age from 13-18, were from Boston and Cambridge neighborhoods as well as area suburbs, and all have participated in dance programs in their communities. They are: Brittany Allen, 14, XiaoZhu (Jen) Chen, 17, and On Yee Lo, 16, of Belmont; Darnell Brown, 17, Annalise Van Even, 17, and Jeana Zimmerman, 13, of Boston; Tyre Abrams, 15, of Brockton; Ashley Tonge, 17, and Sade Udoh-Warren, 16, of Brookline; Ariel Charles, 16, of Cambridge; Jaydah Robinson, 14, of Dorchester; Elizabeth Allen, 14, of Dover; Rianna Bazzinotti, 16, of Lowell; Hanna Stubblefield-Tave, 16, of Newton; and Ashton Lites, 18, of Norwood.

Reach's professional dancers were Sandra Shih Parks of Brighton, Melissa Alexis of Newton, and Christina Piscitelli, Reach Program Director, of Onset. These professionals were supported by college interns Wayne Ong, of New London, CT and Derrick Louizia, of Hyde Park.

"Reach for me is a safe place where you can try and be anything you want and always feel accepted."

- Brittany Allen, teen apprentice



Comments from

the Coordinator

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



Reach turned twenty-one! It took a village to get here, but I am grateful to all those that made it possible. The list includes the committed fundraising committees, generous donors, dedicated educators in the field, Associated Grantmaker's Summer Fund staff and contributors, tireless Boston University dance office assistant and raffle organizer, Trevor Maine, *Reach* staff and the teens themselves. It was an honor to have the Dance Collective co-founders, Martha Gray and Dawn Kramer, who created the model upon which *Reach* is based, as members of the fundraising committee. Fundraiser hostesses, Judy Cohen and Ginger Dagli, were key players who helped us reach our goal.

“While *Reach* can lay claim to performing for and teaching thousands of urban youth, it is our select group of Boston area teen apprentices that becomes ambassadors for dance as a means of teaching valuable life skills.”

It was rewarding to see this year's multi-cultural, intergenerational dance company returning to the Greater Boston neighborhoods with an amazing performance and engaging workshops. The teens from past years, *Reach* staff, and school teachers and guidance counselors help spread the word. We had our largest turnout for the *Reach* audition, and selected a talented and hardworking group to join our company. They came from urban and

“The children loved the performances and workshops!”

- BCYF Leahy Halloran Community Center

(Reach performance 7/16/10)

suburban schools, were trained in ballet and schooled in hip hop, and spoke six different languages. More teens returned from last year than any previous year; they provided continuity and assisted new members in the studio and on tour.

While *Reach* can lay claim to performing for and teaching thousands of urban youth, it is our select group of Boston area teen apprentices that becomes ambassadors for dance as a means of

teaching valuable life skills. This year, three of our former teen apprentices returned to teach master classes to this year's company. Our staff, past and present, are in touch with many former apprentices, some of whom are pursuing dance careers.

BU's Dean of Students, Dean Elmore, was kind enough to return to meet with the teens and offer his services as advisor and college application reader. We know that the lessons learned from Dean Elmore, the classes, and performances in the community will serve the *Reach* teens when they leave our program and enter their adulthood.

Reach is an investment in our neighborhoods; our program gives kids of all abilities an opportunity to get physical, to get creative, to think of innovative ways to express themselves, to work together, and to make the arts a part of their lives. We look forward to continuing our work in 2011.

- Micki



Micki Taylor-Pinney helps a budding dancer during the audience participation portion of Reach's performance.

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2011

Make wellness concepts a focal point of Reach:

With teen apprentices –

- Promote discussions about physical well-being and health-enhancing lifestyle choices.
- Draw attention to benefits of balanced, nutritious meals served at lunchtime.

In community -

- Develop choreography for community performances that illustrate importance of fitness.
- Present dance and movement activities as a way to make children healthy and happy.
- Encourage camp staff to use our One Way to Make a Dance guide and accompanying cd.



STAFF

REACH

Coordinator

Micki Taylor-Pinney has directed the dance program at Boston University and served as faculty advisor to the student dance company, Dance Theatre Group since 1985. She is 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. A performer with Dance Collective beginning in 1986, she became an artistic director from 1998 to 2006 during which time she performed and choreographed for the company and directed the 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. She is director of Mass Movement, Inc. providing 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 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 Summer Outreach Program's Director

Christina Piscitelli received her BFA in dance from Emerson College. She performed and taught for Dance Collective's educational programs from 1998 – 2006 and continues to teach residencies for Mass Movement, Inc. and Young Audiences of Massachusetts. She began as co-director of the Summer Outreach Program in 1999, before becoming director of the program in 2005. Chris was previously on the faculty of the Ipswich Middle School, where she taught drama and dance, and also taught for many years at the Topf Center for Dance Education in their programs for public schools. Other teaching credits include Emerson College Youththeatre, Lexington School of Ballet and the Ipswich Moving Company. For seven seasons she was choreographer for The Freelance Players and Freelance Troupe. She has performed with American Dance Heritage, MJT/Tslila Dance Company, and Choreo. Chris has been performing at King Richard's Faire since 1993 as a Gypsy Dancer, and works with production companies doing corporate events and comic improvisation.

Professional Instructors

Melissa Alexis has been performing and teaching modern, Afro-Haitian, Senegalese and West African dance since 1993 in Boston and New York. Her intensive training has taken her to Africa, Brazil, Puerto Rico and New York. A graduate of Amherst College with a degree in psychology and Spanish and minor in dance, she also has certifications in fitness and yoga. Her resume includes teaching at the Dance Complex, Tufts University, Smith and Amherst Colleges, Brimmer and May School, Impulse Dance Center in Natick, the 92nd St. Y in NYC and public schools in the Bronx. She has administrative experience with Boston Ballet's summer programs and the 92nd Street Y in their outreach programs. Her choreography has been presented at Tufts University, Smith College, Dance Complex and Green Street Studios where she was the recipient of their Emerging Choreographers' Grant in 2009.



The Reach Professional Staff and College Interns. From left to right, Christina Piscitelli, Derrick Louizia, Wayne Ong, Micki Taylor-Pinney, Melissa Alexis, Sandra Parks

Exploring level changes in the participation portion of the free outdoor performance in Central Square, Cambridge.



Professional Instructors (continued) ...

Sandra Shih Parks received her BFA in Dance Performance from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, and MFA in choreography and dance from Smith College, MA. Sandra is originally from Taiwan where she received her training in ballet, Chinese dance, jazz, hip hop and modern dance. Upon graduation from NYU, Sandra toured nationally and internationally with a Broadway production of the King And I. In addition, she has been the lead dancer and choreographer for more than 75 different concerts in Atlantic City, Boston, Las Vegas and New York City since 1996. She directed her own hip-hop company in New York City for over 5 years. After she moved to Boston, she danced with Bosoma Dance Company, Dance Collective, and Impulse Dance Company. Sandra started her teaching career in 2000 and has taught at Boston University, Smith College, Topf Center for Dance Education and many other performing arts schools in the New England area and New York City. She was invited to teach master classes in Taipei, Taiwan in the summers of 2004 and 2006. She was a faculty member at Belmont High School, Boston University, Colleges of Fenway, Mass Movement/Young Audiences and a visiting professor at Bridgewater State College. Sandra began her position as Assistant Professor of Dance at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta in September 2010.

Student Interns

Derrick Louizia was a teen apprentice for the *Reach* program two years ago. Derrick comes from a family that appreciates music and dance. Since he could walk, his mother has nurtured his interest in dance by introducing him to Haitian folk dance. He has been a performing member of his family's troupe, Arc en Ciel, for many years. He attended Boston Arts Academy where he performed in works by Glory Van Scott and Nathan Trice. He attended Dean College as a performing arts major. He teaches dance at Boston University and at area studios.

Wayne Ong is a double major in dance and biochemistry at Connecticut College. He was selected to dance Dan Wagoner's part in the reconstruction of Paul Taylor's *Aureole*, and has worked with and trained under David Dorfman, Lisa Race, Tania Isaac, Nick Leichter, and Rodger Belman. He is a science tutor for middle and high school students, and has served as a substitute teacher for middle school. He was a member of the Singapore Armed Forces Music and Drama Company in 2005 and 2006.

“Reach taught me the difference between being someone who dances and being a dancer.”

-Rhianna Bazzinotti, teen apprentice

Evaluation

Written evaluations submitted by company member and instructors

A few words from the teen apprentices . . .

“The most positive part of my experience was that my confidence really improved. I learned how to improvise and dance without worrying that I would fail.” - Hannah Stubblefield-Tave, teen apprentice

“I think the kids learned a lot about dance from us. They learned a little about who we are from our performance. When little kids came and hugged me or held my hand after a performance during a workshop, I was touched.” - Elizabeth Allen, teen apprentice

“The biggest part of my experience at Reach was learning new styles of dance and getting to inspire young kids to start dancing.” - Ariel Charles, teen apprentice

“For me the most important part was learning how to be professional, dependable, and versatile.” - Ashton Lites, teen apprentice

“The most important thing to me was connecting with all of the other people in the program and the kids we got to perform for and dance with at workshops.” - Brittney Andrews, teen apprentice

And from our professionals:

“It is important—very important—to teach these teens the entire discipline of the craft. It is not just about performing but also about taking care of costumes, props, being on time, always being in the moment, and having fun while doing all of it.” - Christina Piscitelli, *Reach* Program Director

“The model of the *Reach* program and the way it is managed are excellent. I have felt proud to be a part of the teens’ dance education this summer in such a professional environment.” - Melissa Alexis, *Reach* Professional Instructor

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

“The teen apprentices made the performance and workshop more meaningful to the campers. It shows that dance is for all ages and that performances can be done at all ages.” - Camp Shriver

“This year even more than the rest, the children seemed to really enjoy both the show and the workshops. The teen apprentices gave the kids someone to relate to.”
- Somerville YMCA

“The campers were very impressed with the dances and moves and figuring out the meaning of some. All the kids had a lot of fun during the workshop.”
-Murphy Community Center

“Reach transformed real life situations into dance.”
- East Boston YMCA

“The teens were well prepared and enthusiastic. They made the experience for my campus because of their proximity to their ages.”
-Camp Shriver

Reach Media Placements 2010

<i>Date</i>	<i>Publication</i>	<i>Description</i>
15-June-10	Boston.com Calendar	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
15-June-10	Craigslist.com	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
15-June-10	Trumba.com	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
15-June-10	BostonDanceAlliance.org	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
15-June-10	Boston Phoenix	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
15-June-10	Zvents.com	One paragraph article promoting the Cambridge performance
15-June-10	Auditionsfree.com	One paragraph article promoting the Cambridge performance
15-June-10	BU FitRec Newsletter	Short article about Reach and its performances
15-June-10	City of Boston	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
15-June-10	Artsboston.com	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar including a short article
8-July-10	Boston Globe	G Section- Critic's Pick for Dance
12-July-10	BU Fitrec Website	Listing and link on homepage



Campers participate in on-site movement workshops with Reach apprentices and professional staff. Here, a camper works on exploring space with Tyre Abrams.

REACH TOUR SITES 2010

Date	Camp Name	# of campers	# of staff	Type of visit
7/12/2010	Ohrenberger Community Center	52	8	Workshop
7/12/2010	PBHA Franklin I-O Summer Program	40	8	Workshop
7/13/2010	Camp Shriver	110	30	Performance/Workshop
7/14/2010	South Boston Summer Collaborative	200	30	Performance
7/14/2010	Jordan Boys & Girls Club	20	2	Workshop
7/15/2010	Mazemakers South Boston	110	15	Performance/Workshop
7/15/2010	Sociedad Latina	40	6	Workshop
7/16/2010	BCYF Leahy Halloran Community Center	150	40	Performance/Workshop
7/16/2010	College Bound Dorchester - Little House	40	4	Workshop
7/19/2010	Ponkapog Outdoor Center - YMCA	150	20	Performance/Workshop
7/19/2010	Keylatch Summer Program	20	4	Workshop
7/20/2010	East Boston YMCA	125	15	Performance
7/20/2010	Cambridge Adventure Day Camp	65	15	Workshop
7/21/2010	Mystic Learning Center	25	7	Performance/Workshop
7/21/2010	DAYBREAK Day Camp	30	17	Workshop
7/22/2010	Somerville YMCA	60	10	Performance/Workshop
7/23/2010	Camp Echo Bridge	70	10	Performance
7/26/2010	Crossroad For Kids - Camp Lapham	50	5	Workshop
7/26/2010	Vine Street Community Center	25	5	Workshop
7/27/2010	Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester	75	12	Workshop
7/29/2010	St. Katharine Drexel Summer Camp	25	5	Workshop
7/29/2010	St. Stephen's BSAFE	60	12	Workshop
7/29/2010	College Bound Dorchester - Dorchester Place	11	2	Workshop
7/30/2010	Camp Gannett	80	5	Workshop
<u>TOTAL Population Served in Camps</u>		<u>1,920</u>		
7/21/2010	Free Outdoor Performance in Cambridge	200		Performance
<u>TOTAL Population Served</u>		<u>2,120</u>		

REACH BUDGET 2010

INCOME

Tuition

7 full tuition and 9 full or partial scholarships	\$4900	
		sub-total \$4,900

Fees for Service

AGM Summer Fund for camps	\$5,770	
Self-Payment from Camps	\$190	
		sub-total \$5,960

Grants

Agnes Lindsay Trust	\$2,000	
Draper Laboratory	\$1,200	
		sub-total \$3,200

Individual Donors/Raffle

	sub-total \$12,375
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Other Contributions

BU PERD In-Kind Contributions	\$9,000	
2010 Scholarship Fund	\$2800	
Boston Arts Academy Foundation	\$700	
BU Dance Theatre Group	\$961	
		sub-total \$13,461

TOTAL INCOME	\$39,896
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EXPENSES

Payroll

Professional Salaries	\$11,695	
College Intern Salary	\$2,800	
Guest Artist workshops	\$932	
Fringe Benefits (29% of salaries)	\$4,474	
		sub-total \$19,901

Program Expense

Rehearsal Space Rental (in-kind)	\$2,200	
Costumes / Shoes / Performance Supplies	\$234	
T-shirts	\$320	
Lunch Supplies	\$770	
Cambridge Permit - outdoor Performance	\$100	
Miscellaneous	\$155	
		sub-total \$3,779

Incentive Gifts for Teens

Movie Tickets for teens(60)	\$390	
		sub-total \$390

Transportation Expense

Van Rental: 3 vans for 10 days (in-kind)	\$1,500	
Gas & Parking	\$201	
Defensive Driving Course	\$160	
		sub-total \$1,861

General Administrative

Postcard/Brochure Printing/Postage	\$220	
Office Supplies	\$695	
Administrative Fee	\$1,500	
Administrative Fee (in-kind)	\$5,300	
		sub-total \$7,715

Reach 2011 Scholarship Fund

	sub-total \$6,250
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Total Expenses	\$39,896
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