

BOSTON UNIVERSITY DANCE PROGRAM'S

# REACH

*Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship  
Dance Program*

Founded/operated by Dance Collective (1990 - 2005)



# 2011

*Final Report*



# Organization

Boston University Department of Physical Education,  
Recreation and Dance

Executive Director: Warin Dexter

Director 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



Left: The Reach company members work together as they warm-up for a performance.

Right: Teen apprentices help campers get their bodies moving during a Motion Art workshop.

Cover: The 2011 Reach Dance Company gathers in Boston University's FitRec Center.

# Reach Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship Dance Program

is funded through donations and grants from:



**Agnes Lindsay Trust**  
**Associated Grant Makers' Summer Fund**  
**Boston University Dance Program**  
**Boston University Dance Theatre Group**  
**Draper Laboratory**  
**Mass Movement, Inc.**  
**The McBride Family**  
**Stop & Shop Supermarket Group**  
*and many other generous individuals!*



Children participate in an on-site workshop with Reach apprentices and professional staff.



Campers stretch and warm-up their muscles during a movement workshop.

# Table of Contents

Introduction to Organization and Programs . . .	6
Comments from the Coordinator . . . . .	8
Staff . . . . .	10
Evaluation . . . . .	12
Media Placements . . . . .	13
Tour Sites . . . . .	14
Budget . . . . .	15



## Contact Information

Micki Taylor-Pinney  
Department of Physical Education,  
Recreation and Dance  
[www.bu.edu/fitrec/dance](http://www.bu.edu/fitrec/dance)  
Phone: (617) 353-1597  
Fax: (617) 353-5147  
E-mail: [mtaypin@bu.edu](mailto:mtaypin@bu.edu)

# 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 Director of Dance at Boston University, encouraged the program's move to the university. This year *Reach* trained 15 student apprentices and performed before over 1,500 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.



Top to Bottom: *Reach* 2007 Cambridge performance, *Reach* 2008 teen apprentices, *Reach* 2009 "Daily News" performance, *Reach* 2010 Belmont teens, *Reach* 2011 hip-hop master class.



## The Company

This summer, 15 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 artist/educators and one college intern. 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.

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 1,500 children and adults at 26 local sites enjoyed the company's performances this summer. The intergenerational company held 11 performances and 24 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, two staff members were contracted to teach an additional nine workshops in the community. In addition, two *Reach* teens were given the opportunity to perform in Boston University's Dance Showcase this year.

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: Annalise Van Even, 15, of Boston; Stephanie Hung, 18, Elijah Kofke, 17, and Folasade Udoh-Warren, 17, of Brookline; Adrianna Hughes, 16, of Cambridge; Vanessa Philemond, 15, and Kailah Riggins, 16, of Dorchester; Eleora Pasternack, 15, of Framingham; Francois Noel, 15, of Malden; Andre Gibson, 16, of Medford; Hanna Stubblefield-Tave, 17, of Newton; Alexandra Graf, 13, of Quincy; Ramiro Vaughan, 17, of Revere; Ashley Woods, 13, of Weymouth; and Jame Fuerte, 15, of Fort Collins, CO.

*Reach*'s professional dancers were Frantz Louizia of Hyde Park (a former student apprentice and college intern), Lorraine Chapman of Winchester, Christina Piscitelli, *Reach* Program Director, of Onset, and Melissa Alexis, *Reach* Assistant Program Director, of Tuckahoe, NY. These professionals were supported by college intern Jerusha Aman of Poughkeepsie, NY.

*"The most important part of my experience with Reach was learning how to grow into my performance. I figured out how to really have fun and enjoy myself on stage."*

-Hanna Stubblefield-Tave, teen apprentice



# 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.**



We did it! Last October, we set our fundraising goals and began our outreach to guidance counselors, dance teachers and studios, hoping it would all come together. We are fortunate that since 1990, the summer outreach program has continued to exist and flourish. This summer, our company of five male and ten female apprentices, two college interns, and four professionals created a vibrant, multi-ethnic, multi-generational dance company.

**"We believe Reach inspires our audiences to get moving and experience dance as an engaging way to share our stories."**

The teen apprentices formed a tight-knit ensemble that impressed the faculty with their camaraderie and hard work. Every day, a few teens would stay after the official Reach day ended to work on material and share new steps. Our 45 minute performance included: nine inventive and diverse pieces including two ensemble dances from the Dance Collective repertory, which the company updated and expanded with new material; an ethnic Haitian dance and Afro-Fusion piece, choreographed by faculty; a thoughtful modern trio by our college intern for three of our girls and an impassioned KRUMP piece for our boys. We tied the pieces together with introductions about training as dancers, making choreography, and expressing ourselves through art. The performance concluded with a participation section where campers were invited to learn a short dance.

Before the tour, we focused on what we wanted to convey to our young urban audience, and how to encourage their physical engagement and imaginations. All in all, we performed 11

times, taught 33 workshops and visited 1,573 children. We had an extra week of workshops with two teen apprentices assisting our faculty after the Reach program was officially complete.

Teens and faculty have expressed a desire to lengthen the program. This next year, we will extend the program to five weeks through a generous grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. We'll have a more intensive training period at the beginning of the program and longer rehearsals to develop the teens' choreographic voices. This year, we were able to offer half our apprenticeships. We provided all of them with nutritional lunches and counseling, in part, due to funding from the Stop and Shop Foundation.

It is a patchwork of funding that makes Reach possible with over 50 donors supporting the program. The McBride family and Ginger and Nirav Dagli deserve special thanks as does our fundraising party host, Judy Cohen. We are grateful for the continuous support from foundations and corporations as well as the Associated Grantmakers' Summer Fund that underwrites our visits to the sites. In our 6th year at BU, the university's in-kind contributions of space, vans and administrative support are noteworthy and essential to our success. Yes, it takes a village to bring arts programming into Boston's neighborhoods. We believe Reach inspires our audiences to get moving and experience dance as an engaging way to share our stories.

- Micki



Micki Taylor-Pinney steps in to provide feedback during a rehearsal.



## Looking Ahead: Goals for 2012

- Extend program to five weeks
- Expand focus on nutrition and physical well-being at sites
- Increase school/community outreach to identify teen apprentice candidates
- Create video to accompany post-performance lesson plan on One Way to Make a Dance



# 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 Reach Professional Staff and College Intern. From left to right: Jerusha Aman, Melissa Alexis, Lorraine Chapman, Christina Piscitelli, Frantz Louizia, Micki Taylor-Pinney.

## Director

**Christina Piscitelli** received her BFA in dance from Emerson College and an Associates in Music from Dean Junior 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. This year Christina received a grant from the Wareham Cultural Council to teach dance to 7-13 year old children. Chris 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 Youtheatre, 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 for two seasons performed in the show "The Village Gossips", a self written show. Christina also works with production companies doing corporate events and comic improvisation.

## Assistant Director

**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. She is currently a Master of Fine Arts candidate in Dance at Sarah Lawrence College.



Left: Reach professional Melissa provides feedback to teens before an on-tour performance. Center: Reach professionals Christina and Lorraine demonstrate movement during rehearsal. Right: Reach professional Frantz gives teen apprentices insight into Afro-Haitian movement.

## Professional Instructors

**Lorraine Chapman** is the artistic director of LCTC ([lorrainechapman.org](http://lorrainechapman.org)), a modern dance company that premiered in 2002 and was produced five times in its first six years by World Music/CRASHarts. LCTC has also been presented by the Festival of Arts & Ideas, Soaking WET, the Stonington Opera House, Jacob's Pillow Dance Inside/Out, the Yes, Virginia – Dance Festival, the Flynn Center Performing Arts, the Boston Center for the Arts, ArtBeat, and the Massachusetts Dance Festival. Lorraine Chapman, one of Dance Magazine's 25 To Watch 2008, danced with Eliot Feld Ballets/NY, Ballet British Columbia, Amy Spencer, Richard Colton, Diane Arvanites, Jose Mateo, and Marcus Schulkind. Trained at The Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and L'Ecole Superieure De Danse Du Quebec, her work has been presented by On The Boards in Seattle, by The Yard on Martha's Vineyard, and by the Alberta Ballet in Canada. Lorraine's work has been generously supported by LEF, the MCC, NEFA, and Summer Stages Dance.

**Frantz Louizia** has been part of the *Reach* faculty for the past several years. He has been in his mother's Haitian folk dance troupe, Arc-En-Ciel, since he was a child and now co-directs the company. Frantz attended the Boston Arts Academy and earned a BA in performing arts with a minor in dance at Dean College. He teaches in the public schools as an artist/educator for Mass Movement, Inc. and also teaches at Franklin School for the Performing Arts and Dance New England.

## Student Intern

**Jerusha Aman** is a senior at Boston University studying public relations with a minor in dance. She began her dance training at JG Dance Arts Center in Hyde Park, NY where she studied ballet, tap, jazz and Broadway. Upon graduating high school, she went on to study ballet and modern at Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, NY, while continuing to serve as the choreographer for her local high school musicals. Since moving to Boston, Jerusha has performed and choreographed with BU's Dance Theatre Group, through which she has attended the American College Dance Festival (ACDFA) for two consecutive years. Most recently, she was the Assistant Choreographer for Speakeasy Stage Company's production of "The Drowsy Chaperone."

Special thank you to **James Clark**, who served as our tech support for *Reach* this summer! During rehearsals and on tour, James helped make the show run as smoothly as possible. We loved having him as part of our *Reach* family - thanks James!



*"The professionals really taught me to give 100% of my focus and energy, and to really make an effort to push my limit and become the best dancer that I can be."*

-Stephanie Hung, teen apprentice



# Evaluation

## A few words from the teen apprentices . . .

*“Reach is a powerful program that goes to inner-city kids and opens their eyes to a whole new world of dance [...] they deserve to be given opportunities like Reach every day, and that’s why Reach is so special – because it cares about reaching out to every kid and making sure they grow up more culturally aware of the world.”*  
- Folasade Udoh-Warren, teen apprentice

*“The most important part of my experience with Reach was learning how to be a better person, dancer, and performer. Being at Reach taught me discipline, how to be open minded, self-control, team work and having fun.”*  
- Ramiro Vaughan, teen apprentice

*“I loved waking up in the morning and knowing I have something to do today, [...] something I enjoy. Everyone seemed to have different strengths but we put them together and made a great show. I will remember this experience forever.”* - Ally Graf, teen apprentice

*“The most important part of my experience with Reach was growing out of my shell as a dancer and as a person. I have learned that it is alright to be myself.”* - Ashley Woods, teen apprentice

*“The most important part to me was getting to work together with everybody as an ensemble. It was a wonderful thing to start out barely knowing anybody, and over the time that we spent, we all grew together as dancers.”*  
- Francois Noel, teen apprentice

## And from our professionals . . .

*“The most positive part of the experience is seeing the teenagers grow both technically and as performers over the four weeks. Having been an educator for over 20 years, I have seen the importance of keeping the arts alive in our communities. Art is a very important part of a youngster’s growth, expression, and individuality.”*  
- Christina Piscitelli, Reach Program Director

*“Teaching, training and performing with the Reach apprentices is by far the most gratifying part of being on staff. I especially enjoyed watching the growth of returning dancers, who really elevated the experience of their peers.”* - Melissa Alexis, Reach Assistant Program Director

*“The Reach students I had the privilege of working with this summer were incredibly open-minded, curious, hard-working, dedicated, honest, respectful, and appreciative of what all the professionals had to offer them. I especially enjoyed watching them grow as performers during the two-week tour, how they grew into their roles and into their self-confidence.”* - Lorraine Chapman, Reach Professional Instructor

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

*“The fluidity of the movement, the various elements of the physics of dance, and the balance between each music selection to their respective dance pieces all made for an extremely compelling, radiant, and cohesive experience by the Reach Summer Outreach Dance Program.”*

- East Boston YMCA

*The presence of the Summer Outreach teen apprentices “provided a youthful presence that our teens could relate to. They also helped model participatory behavior.”*

- WriteBoston Summer Journalism Institute

*“It was great for our kids to see different ways of expressing themselves in a positive way [dance].”*

- Jordan Boys and Girls Club

*“Everyone was enthusiastic, energetic, and supportive!”*

- Cowemoki Enrichment Program

## Reach Media Placements 2011

Date	Publication	Description
10-June-11	Boston.com Calendar	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
10-June-11	Patriot Ledger	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
10-June-11	BostonDanceAlliance.org	One paragraph article promoting the Cambridge performance
13-June-11	City of Boston	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
13-June-11	ArtsBoston.com	Featured dance event on website’s homepage One paragraph article promoting the Cambridge performance
14-June-11	Medford Transcript	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar Short article about Andre Gibson’s involvement with <i>Reach</i>
14-June-11	Zvents.com	One paragraph article promoting the Cambridge performance
14-June-11	Americantowns.com	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar Short article about the <i>Reach</i> program and outdoor performance
20-June-11	Boston Central	Event listing for Cambridge performance in calendar
20-June-11	Cambridge Arts Council	One paragraph article promoting the Cambridge performance
6-July-11	Boston Globe	G Section - Critic’s Pick for Dance
12-July-11	Malden Observer	Short article about Francois Noel’s involvement with <i>Reach</i>
12-July-11	HarvardSquare.com	One paragraph article promoting the Cambridge performance
13-July-11	BU FitRec Website	Listing and link on homepage
16-July-11	The Providence Journal	Event listing for rain date performance in Cambridge
16-July-11	LowellSun.com	Event listing for rain date performance in Cambridge
20-July-11	Weymouth News	One-page article about Ashley Woods’ involvement with <i>Reach</i>
29-July-11	Cambridge Chronicle	Article about Anna Hughes’ experience performing with <i>Reach</i> Six photos of teen apprentices dancing in streets of Cambridge

# REACH TOUR SITES 2011



Reach participants explore movement during a workshop at a local summer camp.

Date	Camp Name	# of campers	# of staff	Type of visit
7/11/2011	Camp Fire USA, ZooCamp	36	9	Performance/Workshop
7/11/2011	DayBreak Day Camp	34	15	Workshop
7/12/2011	Camp Cedar Hill	32	5	Performance/Workshop
7/12/2011	Cowemoki Summer Enrichment Program	25	3	Workshop
7/13/2011	Mystic Learning Center	37	12	Performance/Workshop
7/13/2011	WriteBoston Summer Journalism Institute	32	3	Workshop
7/14/2011	BCYF Leahy Halloran Community Center	75	14	Performance/Workshop
7/14/2011	College Bound Dorchester - Dorchester Place	50	4	Workshop
7/15/2011	East Boston YMCA	166	21	Performance/Workshop
7/15/2011	Cambridge Adventure Day Camp	25	4	Workshop
7/18/2011	Mazemakers South Boston	115	20	Performance
7/18/2011	Roslindale Summer Day Program	30	5	Workshop
7/18/2011	Dorchester Boys & Girls Club	25	4	Workshop
7/19/2011	Somerville YMCA	60	7	Performance/Workshop
7/19/2011	Summer Day Camp (Madison Park)	35	13	Workshop
7/20/2011	Jordan Boys & Girls Club	50	4	Performance
7/20/2011	Elizabeth Peabody House	75	10	Workshop
7/21/2011	Ponkapoag Outdoor Center	24	2	Performance/Workshop
7/22/2011	Swimsport Camp - Boston University	25	8	Performance
7/25/2011	Outdoor Adventure/Yes Goal	10	2	Workshop
7/25/2011	Tenacity	25	5	Workshop
7/25/2011	Sunrise Summer Camp	25	12	Workshop
7/25/2011	Huntington Avenue YMCA	25	5	Workshop
7/27/2011	St. Katharine Drexel Summer Camp	25	5	Workshop
7/27/2011	Bird Street Summer Day Getaway	50	10	Workshop
7/27/2011	Tenacity	25	5	Workshop
8/5/2011	College Bound Dorchester - Little House	25	5	Workshop
TOTAL Population Served in Camps		1,373		
7/20/2011	Free Outdoor Performance in Cambridge	200		Performance
TOTAL Population Served		1,573		

# REACH BUDGET 2011

## INCOME

### Tuition

8 apprentices on partial or full scholarships	\$5,900	
		sub-total
		\$5,900

### Fees for Service

Associated Grant Makers	\$4,965	
Self-Payment from Camps	\$270	
		sub-total
		\$5,235

### Grants

Agnes Lindsay Trust	\$2,000	
Draper Laboratory	\$1,200	
Stop & Shop Supermarket Group	\$250	
		sub-total
		\$3,450

### Individual Donors/Raffle

sub-total \$12,645

### Other Contributions

BU Dance Theatre Group	\$998	
2011 Scholarship Fund	\$6,250	
BU PERD In-Kind Contributions	\$9,200	
		sub-total
		\$16,448

**TOTAL INCOME \$43,678**

## EXPENSES

### Payroll

Professional Salaries	\$14,575	
Guest Artist workshops	\$1,185	
Fringe Benefits (29% of salaries)	\$4,570	
BU College Intern Salary (no fringe)	\$1,800	
BU Climbing Wall Supervisors (no fringe)	\$30	
		sub-total
		\$22,160

### Program Expense

Rehearsal Space Rental (in-kind)	\$2,200	
Costumes / Shoes / Performance Supplies	\$317	
T-shirts	\$324	
Lunch Supplies	\$714	
Cambridge Permit - Outdoor Performance	\$100	
Miscellaneous	\$65	
		sub-total
		\$3,720

### Incentive Gifts for Teens

Movie Tickets for teens (60)	\$398	
		sub-total
		\$398

### Transportation Expense

Van Rental: 3 vans for 10 days (in-kind)	\$1,500	
Gas & Parking	\$236	
		sub-total
		\$1,736

### General Administrative

Postcard/Brochure Printing/Postage	\$286	
Office Supplies	\$500	
Administrative Fee	\$1,500	
Administrative Fee (in-kind)	\$5,500	
		sub-total
		\$7,786

### Reach 2012 Scholarship Fund

sub-total \$7,878

**Total Expenses \$43,678**



Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance  
915 Commonwealth Avenue Boston, MA 02215  
tel 617 353 2748 | fax 617 353 5147  
fitrec@bu.edu | www.bu.edu/fitrec

