BOSTON UNIVERSITY DANCE PROGRAM’S

REACH

Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship Dance Program

Founded/operated by Dance Collective (1990 - 2005)

2019 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* 2019 apprentices work with instructor Wendy O’Byrne to perfect a lift for a contemporary piece.
Right: *Reach* dancers pose in the Cambridge Outdoor Performance.

Organization

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

Celebrating 29 Years of Making a Difference through Dance

Introduction to Organization and Programs

History of Reach
Reach was founded as The Summer Outreach Program and Intergenerational Company in 1990 by two of Dance Collective’s co-founders and Artistic Directors, Martha Armstrong Gray and Dawn Kramer. Micki Taylor-Pinney joined Martha and Dawn as a co-director in 1998. When Dance Collective disbanded in June of 2006, Micki, who is also Director of Dance at Boston University, encouraged the program’s move to the university. This year Reach trained 16 student apprentices and performed for over 1,200 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 campers see us as role models and see that it’s not just about choreo, it’s how we come together, practice, and put our own personalities into dancing.”

Ayra Vranic, teen apprentice

“The campers saw that young people can join together and create awesome dances and learn choreography at a young age.”

-Brayan Reyes Castro, teen apprentice
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, 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 dance company.

The Reach program was divided into three parts. The first three weeks included intensive daily classes and rehearsals to create a 45-minute show. 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 professional and apprentice company members themselves, working collectively.

For the next two weeks, Reach went “on tour,” reaching about 1,000 children and adults at 17 local sites. The intergenerational company held 11 performances and 28 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.

During the week after the tour, staff members were contracted to teach an additional workshop for a total of 29 workshops in the community.

This year’s teen apprentices, ranging in age from 13-18, were from Boston neighborhoods as well as area suburbs, and all have participated in dance programs in their communities. They are: Kyre Ambrose, 13, of Dorchester; Chelsea Barnes, 14, of Chelsea; Bekk Carr, 18, of Medford; Frieda Dangerfield, 14, of Medford; Cynthia Fu, 16, of Brighton; Brooke Hugot, 14, of Cambridge; Sara Kawakami, 15, of Melrose; Brayan Reyes Castro, 16, of Dorchester; Karin Shimada, 13, of Woburn; Kailani Taylor Cribb, 14, of Cambridge; Anna Tils, 15, of Newton; Ben Versoy, 15, of Cambridge; and Ayra Vranic, 13, of Revere. In addition, Austin Sa, 15, of Charlestown, joined the program as a high school intern.

Reach’s professional dancers were Kseniya Melyukhina, of Brookline; Wendy O’Byrne, of Allston; Brian Washburn, of Boston; and Mcebisi Xotyeni, of Lawrence. Washburn 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.

“I learned that everybody has something different about themselves and we just have to let it out.”
-Kyre Ambrose, teen apprentice

“The workshops helped me learn that I can lead and that if I want to, I can lead my own class.”
-Brooke Hugot, teen apprentice
It has been a pleasure to guide and witness the continuation of Dance Collective’s outreach program under the umbrella of Boston University.

In our second week of rehearsal, we had a showing of the choreography-in-progress. What a thrill to have present our founders and Dance Collective artistic co-directors, Martha Armstrong Gray and Dawn Kramer, along with Judith Chaffee, a long-time artistic co-director of Dance Collective (DC) and choreographer of one of our repertory pieces. We were also joined by hip hop teacher and DJ, Henry Kasdon and Erica Schwartz, a long-time supporter of the Reach program.

Reach was founded on the goal of having teen apprentices experience what it is like to be in a professional company. Dance Collective’s model, a unique one in the world of dance, was one where the directors mentored the dancers, and each other. They danced in each other’s pieces and gave honest critiques of works-in-progress. As a DC dancer and then co-director, I appreciated the effort made to create a supportive environment where everyone felt valued giving and receiving feedback. It is not surprising that the DC co-directors have remained friends. And being who they are, they have remained friends and supporters of Reach, as well.

Our teen apprentices, college interns, and professional staff witnessed that camaraderie among the mentor panel and benefited from the feedback. The Reach company was also showered with praise and kudos – all well-deserved as we had an incredibly hard-working group this year.

The bond that the company formed was noted by one of the Reach alumni at the Central Square performance. She commented that the group seemed especially cohesive and looked like they truly enjoyed performing together. As I tell the company each year, Reach is not for divas. Performances and workshops take place in a range of spaces from the sweltering to the sufficiently cooled, from floors that ran the gamit from clean to sticky, for children who want autographs to those who want to be elsewhere, and for staff that are enthusiastic to those who aren’t much older than their campers. The evaluations from the camps spoke of the professionalism of our staff and how engaged our teens were with campers. While we wish there was more time to focus on pedagogy before we go “on tour” we were impressed with how eager and successful several of our teens were in leading sections of the

“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.

the second week at the sites. Reach becomes like a family and it is heartening to see how they encourage and support each other in their growth as dancers and educators.

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

Looking Ahead: Goals for 2020

- Arrange three master class/presentations in urban schools prior to the audition.
- Schedule auditions at Boston Arts Academy and one other school in addition to the open audition.
- Develop the Pedagogy Workshop during the rehearsal period and guidelines for when teens teach sections of workshops.

“Reach community is one of the best communities I’ve been in. Everyone is so kind and helpful. I learned a lot from others and the instructors.”

–Ben Versoy, teen apprentice
BU Director of Dance

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

Professional Instructors

Kseniya Melyukhina began her training at the Berizniki Ballet School in Russia when she was 4 years old. She continued studying classical ballet and Character Dance Techniques with Svetlana Pronina. Her repertoire included Kitri in Don Quixote, Masha (Clare) in Nutcracker, small swans in Swan Lake, leading roles in Coppelia, Corsair, Giselle and Carmen among others. In 2001 as a ballet school student Ms. Melyukhina won gold in a regional ballet competition “Perm Divertissement” and was awarded a special prize in an international competition, “Golden Bird.” Upon graduation from Berezniki Ballet School in 2004, Ms. Melyukhina joined Theatre Evgenij-Panfilov Ballet (Perm, Russia), a contemporary dance company where she studied modern dance with Sergej Rajnik, Alexej Rastorguev, Alexej Kolbin. In 2009, Ms. Melyukhina has graduated from the Perm State Technical University, majoring Geman and English linguistic. In the US, Ms. Melyukhina has performed with Festival Ballet Providence, North-Atlantic Dance Theater, Mavi Dance, Pioneer Valley Ballet, Lorrain Chapman The Company, and has created roles in choreography by Gerald Arpino, Gianni Di Marco, Lucy Warren Withman, Thomas Vaccanti, Cosmic Marculet, Janelle Gilckrist. Currently, Ms. Melyukhina is dancing with City Ballet Boston and is also a ballet teacher at New England Movement Arts Center and coaches classical ballet for North East Rhythmics, school of gymnastics and Dance.

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, 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 Appolone 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 senior at Boston Conservatory at Berklee and a graduate of the Walnut Hill School for the Performing Arts. Last summer, as a member of Juntos Abroad, she traveled to Guatemala and Mexico to perform and teach classes to local children. She has been a teaching assistant volunteer for Step by Step, a dance program for individuals with autism and Down Syndrome, and 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. This summer she had the opportunity to lead dance classes for children ages 3-12 through various programs at Boston University.

**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. Recently, Brandon was named an inaugural recipient of Lin Manuel Miranda’s Miranda Scholarship.

“Performing to me has always been about finding myself and feeling confident. But at Reach, it’s different than that. It’s about the company as a whole. We came together as one instead of feeling like 20 individuals.”

- Anna Tils, teen apprentice

“Another thing I learned throughout this Reach program is to cheer on to each other. I felt a special bond with the other Reach apprentices and instructors when everyone was there for everyone.”

- Karin Shimada, teen apprentice
A few words from our teen apprentices . . .

“When we danced it showed the campers that they can do it too.”
–Kailani Taylor Cribb, Teen Apprentice

“The workshops showed me that to be a leader, you have to stand out and help others.”
–Carter Barnes, Teen Apprentice

“As we did more performances, I began to show more color in my dancing and was able to become more confident in styles I wasn’t before.”
–Cynthia Fu, Teen Apprentice

“For most of the campers, dance was a new experience. I think by doing the workshops, some of them were able to find out they actually liked to dance and move their bodies. We need to reach out to as many camps as possible.”
–Sera Kawakami, Teen Apprentice

“Since I am a person that does not like to be in front of people, this program taught me to have more courage, braveness, and most importantly to have fun.”
–Karin Shimada, Teen Apprentice

A few words from our staff . . .

“I think a lot of the children/campers we interact with LOVE dance but don’t have easy access to formal training. I think seeing older dancers from all backgrounds, genders, ethnicities and social groups coming in to their camp is inspiring. I truly believe representation matters.”
–Wendy O’Byrne, Professional Instructor

“The program has created an awesome environment where all types of dances are equally represented and supported. This in my eyes helps to appreciate art in all its forms and helps to fight stigma that some styles of dance are only for specific groups of people.”
–Kseniya Melyukhina, Professional Instructor

‘Reach has a lot of diversity and the campers got 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 campers grow emotionally, physically, as dancers and as leaders. Also, seeing them incorporate the skills that we taught them into their everyday routines is rewarding.”
–Brandon McCrory-Joseph, College Intern

“This was truly my dream job! One of my favorite moments is when kids who are hesitant at first, start to participate. We inspire this change of mindset. That is extremely moving to me. The Reach program affirmed for me what kind of work I want to do with my dance training.”
–Hannah Cyr, College Intern
A few words from the groups we performed for . . .

“I was in tears because of the sheer joy it brought me and my campers. You could see it on their faces. We will remember these performances for a long time. Thank you for a day of great joy and celebration of many cultural expressions.”

– Thomas Menino Community Center

“The teen apprentices are so mature!! I would never guess that some of them are so young! I can’t say enough about how happy we are about this program coming out every year!”

– Ohrenberger Community Center

“The Reach professionals were wonderfully engaging, approachable, and energetic. Excellent job keeping the students involved. Demanding but kind, the perfect mix.”

– Theater in the Open Summer Arts Workshop

“The Reach dance group never lost the campers’ attention and focus, they remained entertained and amazed throughout the performances. Many campers danced and sang along; they had a blast participating.”

– Somerville YMCA

“The campers were so engaged and excited. They didn’t want Reach to go!”

– Youth Enrichment Services

“The teen apprentices were very helpful and demonstrative.”

– Roslindale Community Center

Reach Media Placements 2019

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<td>What Will Light Your Fire</td>
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<td>7/15</td>
<td>Dorchester Reporter</td>
<td>Article featuring Kyre Ambrose and Brayan Reyes Castro from Dorchester</td>
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Melrose Weekly News article featuring teen apprentice Sera Kawakami, 7/12/19
### REACH TOUR SITES 2019

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*Total Population Served in Camps: 905
Total Population Served: 1,296*
### REACH BUDGET 2019

#### INCOME

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**TOTAL INCOME** $72,937

#### EXPENSES

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<td>Cambridge Permit-Outdoor Performance</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video Documentation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mass State Raffle Tax</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>$9,697</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incentive Gifts for Teens</td>
<td>Movie Tickets for teens (80)</td>
<td>$690</td>
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<td>Sub-total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Expense</td>
<td>Van Rental: 3 vans for 10 days (in-kind)</td>
<td>$3,941</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gas, Parking and Subsidized MBTA Passes</td>
<td>$353</td>
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<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>$4,294</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Administrative</td>
<td>Postcard/Brochure Printing/Postage</td>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Administrative Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative Fee (in-kind)</td>
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<td>Sub-total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reach 2020 Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>$15,127</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>$15,127</td>
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**TOTAL EXPENSES** $72,937

**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
is funded through donations and grants from:

Businesses, Corporations and Foundations

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

Additional thanks to...
Agganis Arena
Barnes and Noble
Bertucci’s
Boston Ballet
Boston Beer Company / Samuel Adams
Celtic Sojourn
Christmas Revels
Eastern Standard
Global Arts Live
Harvey Nosowitz & D’Anne Bodman
The Hawthorne
Hotel Commonwealth
Island Creek Oyster Bar
Karen Hilliard & Associates
Luna Press
The McBride Family
Starbucks
and Peter Smokowski, Office of the Vice President, Auxiliary Services
Individual Supporters and Volunteers

Albert & Barbara Wolcott
Amy & Lee Ellsworth
Andy Taylor-Blenis
Angelica Breece-Sullivan
Ann Brown Allen
Ann Roe
April Stone
Barbara Green-Glaz
Bambi Good
Bethany Allen
Brittany Kubicko
Carli DiMeo
Carol & Jim Kinlan
Carter Eckert
Charles Howes
Cheryl Opperman
Claire Enterline
Claire-Solene Becka
Dawn Kramer & Stephen Buck
Deborah Bouras
Denise Chamberland
Diane Stansbury
Donna Sessa-Carter
Emily Aislin

Emily Vasilopoulos
Frank & Victoria Solomon
Grace Tuffy
Haley Abram
Hanna Stubblefield-Tave
Harneen Chernow
Harold Adams & Thomas Delong
Holly Thompson
J Michael Winward
Jacqueline Cinicola
Jennifer Kochanski
Jennifer Martin
Jerry Alexander & Jane Flanders
John Clark & Elizabeth Barringer
John & Marie-Louise Petrie
Josefina Lyons
Judith Chaffee & John Wishnok
Judy Cohen
Kara Wood
Karen Chinca
Katarina Boehm
Kathy Hassinger
Liz Roncka
Lucila & Jorge Fernandez
Lynn Modell
Margot & William Parsons
Markus Pinney
Martha Gray & Jerry Cathey
Meghan Riling
Mindy Pollack-Fusi
Nancy Confrey
Noel & Ellen MacDonald
Olivia Blaisdell
Reme Ann Gold
Renée Caso
Riaz Adamjee & Saeeda Taher Carrimjee
Ruth Benson Levin
Sean P. Maloney
Stanislav Kates
Stephanie Creary
Stefanie Gordan
Stephanie Shin
Sun Ho Kim
Susan & David Mirsky
Tom & Jo Duval
Tom Harden & Sylvia Mihich
Willma Davis

Reach alumni Izaiah and Tyqueo (standing, L to R) perform at the annual fundraiser in Cambridge.