Reach History

The summer outreach dance program began over 30 years ago, when Dance Collective co-founders, Martha Armstrong Gray and Dawn Kramer came up with the idea: bring contemporary dance to children at community centers and camps by creating an intergenerational, multi-ethnic company. At Micki Taylor-Pinney’s urging, Boston University, in collaboration with Mass Movement, “adopted” the program when Dance Collective disbanded.

The goals of Reach are twofold:

1) to encourage inner city teens to learn about the artistry and discipline associated with the dance field while acquiring skills for future success; and

2) to provide thousands of urban youth with a quality art experience.

The Impact

Reach impacts our teen apprentices, by teaching life skills such as collaboration, communication and discipline;

Our neighborhood children, by teaching the joy and power of using imagination, creativity and culture;

Our community, by showing how dance is a vehicle for self-expression, physical well-being and community building;

Our donors, by boosting your civic spirit and by sponsoring an affirming activity.

Reach – bringing suburban and urban teens together to study and make dances; bringing their stories through movement to the kids in the Greater Boston neighborhoods.

By the Numbers

7 - Number of teens who received full or partial scholarships, on average

11 - Number of performances in a typical summer

28 - Number of camps and community centers we visit in a typical summer

31 - Number of rehearsal hours preparing for the 2020 tour

35,000+ Number of campers and staff and general public served in 30 years!

30,000 - Amount we need to raise in individual donations and grants for 2021

Your gift will help us reach our goal and keep this program alive!
Your Gift

While BU provides thousands of dollars in in-kind services for facilities, administrative support, vans and more, Reach is required to raise revenue through grants, fees-for-service and contributions.

Here’s how your gift can help:

$100: workshop
$250: performance
$493: half scholarship
$985: full scholarship
$2,300: college intern
$4,000: professional staff

100% of your donation benefits the Reach program and is fully tax deductible.

For more information visit: https://www.bu.edu/fitrec/dance/reach/

"Reach is something seldom offered to teens and something they should experience."

- Christian Allen, teen apprentice

"Reach is a powerful program that goes to inner-city kids and opens their eyes to a whole new world of dance. . . 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

A collaboration between the BU Dance Program and Mass Movement, Inc.