

BOSTON UNIVERSITY DANCE PROGRAM'S

# REACH

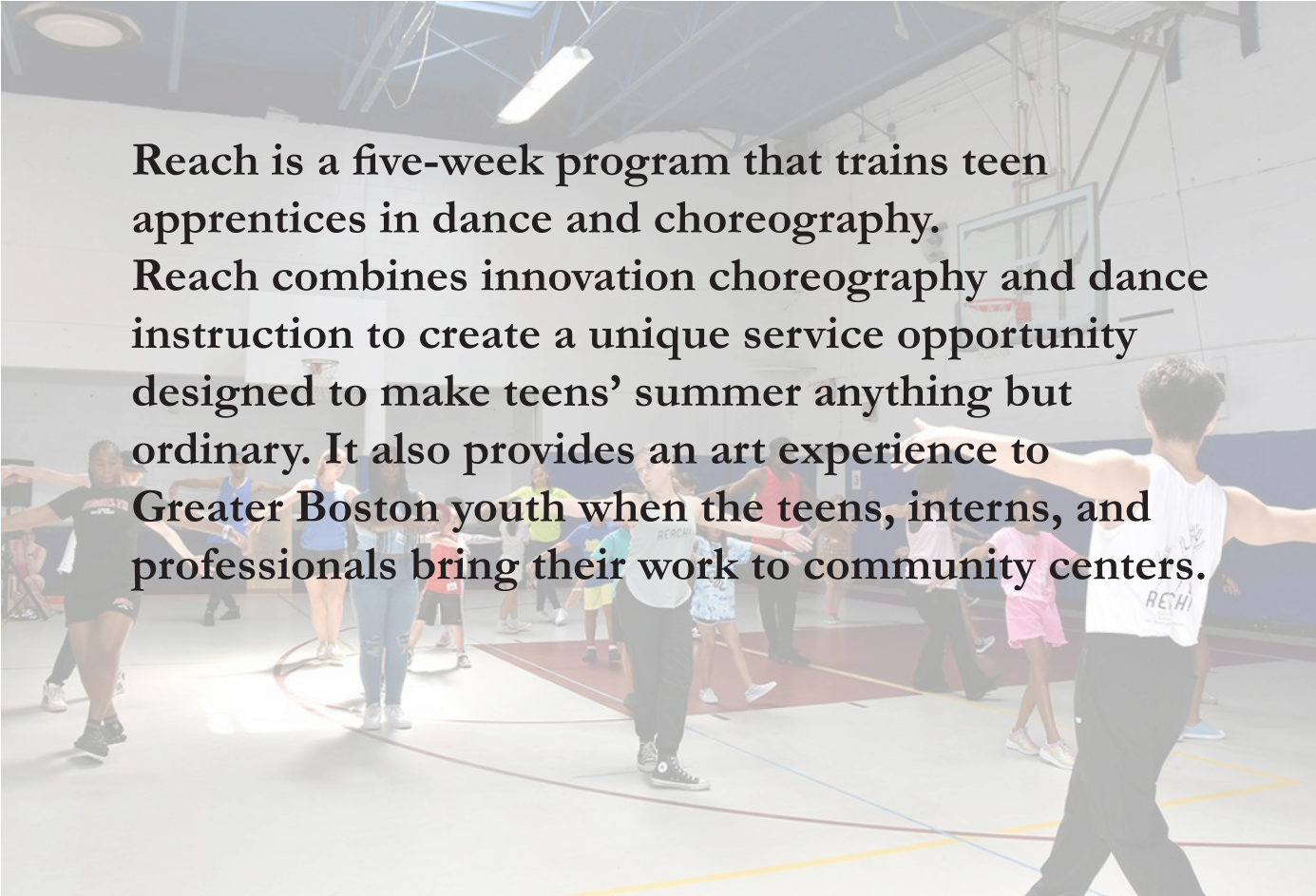
*Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship  
Dance Program*

Founded/operated by Dance Collective (1990 - 2005)



# 2023

*Final Report*

A group of teenagers are in a gymnasium, practicing dance moves. They are wearing casual clothing, and some are wearing shirts with the word "REACH" on them. The gymnasium has a basketball hoop and backboard in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Reach is a five-week program that trains teen apprentices in dance and choreography. Reach combines innovation choreography and dance instruction to create a unique service opportunity designed to make teens' summer anything but ordinary. It also provides an art experience to Greater Boston youth when the teens, interns, and professionals bring their work to community centers.**

## Contact Information

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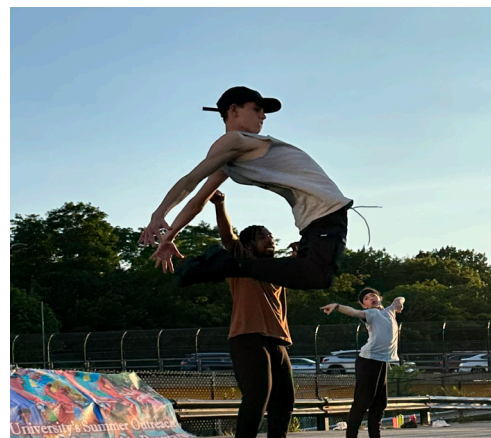
## Our Mission:

- 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



Above: Teen Apprentice, Margaret, College Intern, Matthew, and Professional, Hannah, performing at Newburyport.

Right: Teen Apprentice, Luke, at an outdoor performance.



## Organization

Boston University Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

Executive Director: Caitriona Taylor

Coordinator of Dance: Micki Taylor-Pinney



# REACH

## Celebrating 34 Years of Making a Difference through Dance Introduction to Organization and Programs

*"I learned that  
I love working  
with younger  
children and  
being able to  
inspire them  
and give them  
a spark of  
joy through  
a passion of  
mine."*

- Symona,  
Teen Apprentice

*"I was happy  
to be someone  
who made [the  
campers] feel  
comfortable  
participating in  
the workshop."*

- Hannah,  
Professional Staff



### 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 directs the dance program at BU, encouraged the program's move to the university. *Reach* trains 10 teen apprentices and performs for over 1,000 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 by the Boston University Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.



*Reach* in rehearsal, class, performance, and bonding.



# The Company

This year, we had eight teen apprentices, three college interns, three staff interns, and four professionals. They made an incredible company, bonding over their passion for dance and the challenges of creating a performance and preparing for Motion Art Workshops in three weeks. We split the program into a three day Pedagogy Intensive the week of July 4, two and a half weeks of rehearsal, and seven days of touring to camps and community centers. Our public performance was the last Wednesday of the program, in a Boston University parking lot. The weather was perfect, we had prepared to move into the BU Dance Theater if it did not cooperate.

This year, in addition to inviting the Reach staff, apprentices, interns and alumni, we also invited Mass Movement teaching artists to join us. We had 18 participating in a week of classes, interactive sessions with guest teachers, and brainstorming sessions. With a focus on lesson planning, developing your teaching personae, injury prevention, and providing feedback, we all learned so much! We are grateful to Yo-EL Cassell, Judith Chaffee, Carli DiMeo, and Andy Taylor-Blenis for sharing their knowledge and experience.

The rehearsal period was rigorous and demanded that everyone work collaboratively and individually, performing a dress rehearsal for Camp Terrier followed by 7 morning performances. The tour was one and a half weeks with our public performance on the last Wednesday of the program. We know the tour to gyms and cafeterias in the middle of summer isn't glamorous, but the Reach company delivered every day! I was impressed with their energy and commitment to our mission. They achieved our goal of providing a quality arts experience for kids at camps and community centers, performing 8 mornings and leading 17 workshops at 8 sites. We took the extra precaution of purchasing and distributing rapid tests for everyone during the tour period.

This year's teen apprentices, ranging in age from 14 – 18, were Lukas Alty, 14, of Sandwich, Symona Baiatian, 15, of Bedford; Ava Sofia Dukhon, 17, of Scituate; Luna Harp, 16, of Cambridge; Norah Ice, 15, of Salem; Suriya Keshava, 15, of Needham, Margaret Rowe, 18, of Cambridge; Foster Woodbury, 14, of Arlington.

Reach's professional instructors were Wendy O'Byrne, of Allston, Hannah Cyr, Izaiah Lawton, and Ramiro Vaughan, of Boston. Izaiah is a former Reach teen apprentice and college intern and Ramiro is a former teen apprentice. Our ballet guest teachers were Janelle Gilchrist and Olga Marchenko. These professionals were supported by staff interns Alan Kuang, of Charlestown, Erin Mahoney, of Middleton, MA, and Elizabeth (Liz) Roman, of Cambridge, and by our college interns AJ Jean Philippe, of , Yiny Vega, of Waltham, and Matthew Xu of Dallas. Yiny is a former teen apprentice and Alan, Erin, and Liz are former college interns.



**The Reach ensemble performing the “Daily News” in front of creator Judith Chaffee.**

*“I think what we do is super important, and the people who we do it with stick with us forever.”*

-Alan,  
Staff Intern

*“I found the most rewarding quality of Reach was the ability to express myself through movement in a judgment free space.”*

- Norah,  
Teen Apprentice

# Director of Reach



Comment 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.*

After 33 years as a Summer Dance Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship Program, the Reach 2023 program marks the end of the intergenerational company and tour that trained teens and brought our quality art experience, performances and Motion Art workshops, to Greater Boston community centers and camps. The Reach program is revamping its mission with a focus on training dance educators. Founded by Dance Collective artistic co-directors, Martha Armstrong Gray and Dawn Kramer, it has been my pleasure to direct this summer outreach program under the umbrella of the BU Dance Program since 2006. While it is with sadness that the decision has been made that the company won't endure, I am excited that Reach's mission to "provide a positive, quality art experience to thousands of urban youth using the universal language of movement" will continue through our dance training program.

The Reach Pedagogy Intensive, initiated in 2022, will now be our focus as a one-week only program, open to pre-professional and experienced teachers, alike, transforming their personal knowledge into teaching strategies suited to the settings in which they teach. Our attention will be on those dance educators who deliver that art experience to schools and studios, in urban and suburban settings, preparing them to effectively engage with culturally and linguistically diverse populations. In our Pedagogy Intensives in 2022 and 2023, we found the exchange of ideas from our teens, college interns, staff, alumni, and workshop leaders led to insightful, diverse, and informative conversations. The evaluations from participants were extremely positive and an indication we should continue and expand on the program.

This change has several catalysts. The first is the discontinuation of Philanthropy MA's Summer Fund which was integral to scheduling and subsidizing our tour; we made it work but it has required more effort on our part to schedule the tour. The second being the decrease in the number of Boston teen applicants who could commit to a five week program; again, we made it work by hiring more staff and college interns whose experience and mentoring of the apprentices brought an increased level of sophistication and maturity to the work. As part of our commitment to urban youth in 2024, scholarships and paid pre-professional fellowships are available for those working in urban settings and those starting their careers as teachers. The third is my anticipated retirement from my full-time position in 2025. The goal is to make this a successful and sustainable model moving forward.

“ 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 Reach professionals are helping me in the transition and several will be on staff in 2024; Reach alumni will be encouraged to participate as contributors, panel discussion members, and/or registrants. Our Reach Pedagogy Intensive instructors will include current and emeritus dance, theater, and occupational therapy faculty from Boston University, Boston-based educators, and guest teachers in multiple dance styles.

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*



**Professional, Izaiah, leading a Motion Art Workshop on tour**

## Looking Ahead: Goals for 2024

- To restructure the intensive as a week-long series of all-level seminar and experiential movement workshops for pre-professional and experienced dance educators that focus on the (re-)examination of how we become more responsive teachers
- To include personalized breakout groups based on experience, genre, and/or learning environments to explore teaching and assessing strategies suited to the urban and suburban settings in which our participants teach
- To offer optional afternoon master classes in diverse dance styles
- To build a network and resource guide to support the Reach community in their dance education outreach

*"It was so amazing to watch [eager campers] encourage their shy friends to dance. I loved being able to create a space where they could do that."*

*—Luna,  
Teen Apprentice*



**Teen Apprentice, Luke, assisting in a Motion Art workshop during tour.**

# STAFF

*"I learned so much from my fellow Reach company members. My appreciation and curiosity for new styles grew seeing them teach with such passion"*

-Erin,  
Staff Intern

*"I used the tools I observed the other dancers used to connect with the kids and I felt so proud of myself after."*

-Luna,  
Teen Apprentice

## Directors of Reach

**Micki Taylor-Pinney, Director,** 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.



**Reach Professional Staff: Fom left to right: Ramiro, Izaiah, Wendy, and Hannah.**

**Wendy O'Byrne, Assistant Director** 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 Contempararily Out of Order (COOco), a contemporary company aimed to create performance opportunities for children and adults under a professional setting. Wendy is the Director for COOco, the co-Director at Rise Dance Studio and an instructor at the Greater Boston School of Dance. In addition to her studio commitments, Wendy is proud to be a new member of the Sambanismo Academy where she is furthering her studies in House dance. She is looking forward to an amazing summer at Reach!

## Professional Staff

**Hannah Cyr** is a 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. Through the Boston University Dance Program, she has had the opportunity to teach beginning Modern Dance and in the youth dance program, children ages 3-12. Hannah currently





Snapshots from performance  
On left: Foster  
On right: Margaret



teaches people of all ages and abilities around Massachusetts at different studios, elementary schools, preschools, and Montessori schools. This includes Boston Public Schools with Mass Movement, Inc. She teaches ballet, jazz, tap, modern, creative movement and is also a certified Jazzercise instructor!

**Izaiah Lawton** was a Reach teen apprentice in 2018. Izaiah found his passion for dance when he was in the 1st grade while taking dance and musical theater as extra curriculums. He is always open to learn new styles of dance while still perfecting his craft in his roots of Step and Hip-Hop. Izaiah has performed on stages such as the Paramount Theater, Northeastern Step Fest, and has participated in competitions such as Beantown Bounce and Bring Da Hype Dance Competition. He also performed with Wendy O'Byrne's company, Contemporarily Out of Order. He is teaching Hip Hop for children and teens for BU's Dance Program, Urbanity, and in Boston Public Schools for Mass Movement, Inc. He also dances with the company Be Hear. World and HypeFem, an LGBTQ dance team. He is pursuing a degree in education with a focus on history.

**Ramiro Vaughan** aka Purpose was a Reach teen apprentice in 2011 and 2012 and has stayed connected to BU, returning as a guest teacher. This was his first year as a Reach professional teacher, choreographer and mentor. He trained at Boston Ballet and Chu-Ling Academy. In his professional career, he has been featured in Tony Williams "Urban Nutcracker, Lorraine Chapman the Dance Company, North Atlantic Dance Theatre, Mystique Illusions Dance Theatre, Castle of Our Skins, and Jazz Inc. He has performed at Earth Dance, Outside of the Box with Tony Tucker, Dixon Place (NYC), and at the Alvin Ailey City Group Center (NYC) to name a few. Ramiro has been awarded first place in MIT 2 vs 2 Styles Battle, 1 vs 1 All Styles Battle at Deborah Mason's School of Dance, and awarded "Battle of the Night" at the East Session Krump Event. He has been training younger generations in Hip-Hop for over a decade at Tony Williams Dance Center, Green St. Studio, Dance Complex, BU's Children's Program, for Mass Movement, Inc. and in the Boston Public Schools. He is on staff at Wilmington Dance Academy and senior faculty member at Urbanity.

## Ballet Masters

**Janelle Gilchrist** joined the faculty at Boston Conservatory in 2021 as an assistant professor of dance. Janelle has trained extensively throughout her life in ballet, modern dance, and other styles including at the Hartt School, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance. Janelle has performed as a company dancer with the Hartford Ballet, New Jersey Ballet, José Mateo Ballet Theatre, City Ballet Boston, and Tony Williams's Urban Nutcracker. She has taught at Tony Williams Dance Center, Step by Step, was principal of the José Mateo Ballet School in Dorchester, and was a professional staff member for Reach program for many years. She is the founder and director of a contemporary ballet company called Janelle Gilchrist Dance Troupe.

**Olga Marchenko** is a part-time instructor of Ballet at BU. Originally from Russia, she began her dancing education at the age of nine. After graduating from Saratov Ballet Academy with a BA in Choreographic Art, she joined her hometown ballet theater. Three years later, Olga moved to Moscow to join the Moscow City Ballet of Smirnov-Golovanov with which she toured the world for four years, performing as a corps-de-ballet and soloist dancer. She received a BA in History from Friends University in Wichita, KS and a MS in International Affairs from Northeastern University. Olga has been involved with staging and choreographing recitals during the past 12 years at different studios and in public school setting throughout the greater Boston area.

*"I will cherish the friends I have made forever, and the opportunity to experience so many new styles will stick with me as they helped me tremendously in growing as a dancer"*

- Margaret,  
Teen Apprentice

*"I found the diversity of classes to be most rewarding. The program provided me with a chance to learn from so many different unique instructors and professionals."*

- Matthew,  
College Intern



*“[The workshops are] a wonderful reminder that not everyone has access to the arts and that these performances are super valuable to certain communities.”*

-Wendy,  
Assistant Director

*“There is something so beautiful about watching people experience dance, or a new kind of dance, for the first time. Everyone has a body that they can explore with. If nothing else, we inspired body confidence and body positivity.”*

-Hannah,  
Professional Staff

## Staff Interns

**Alan Kuang** is a senior at Boston University pursuing a BFA in acting and a dance minor. Breaking and doing Hip-Hop for over 9 years, Alan is a crew member of the legendary Floorlords Crew. Throughout his dance career, he has pursued a diverse range of styles from contemporary and jazz to storytelling movement. Alan has performed, choreographed, competed, and taught professionally at John Hancock Hall, The Competitive Breaking League, various local schools, including Boston University, Northeastern University, and Boston Latin School, Chelsea’s Apollinaire Theatre, and his favorite, REACH 2022. Alan hopes to become a successful actor, rapper, and dancer. He thanks his mom and grandma for their unconditional love in pushing him towards and supporting his dreams.

**Erin Mahoney** is a senior at Boston University, studying Biology and minoring in Dance. Growing up in Massachusetts, she began dancing at four years old and conducted most of her training at Helene Joy School of Dance in Middleton, MA. Erin has performed, choreographed, and competed around North Shore Massachusetts. She has taught dance to children and young adults of all ages with ranging skill levels through workshops, classes, and clubs. Erin has studied ballet, jazz, modern, musical theater, and tap, but she aims to continuously broaden and diversify her education of genres through classes and workshops. She is currently a member of Boston University’s Dance Theatre Group where she has choreographed and performed among her peers for their annual semester shows. .

**Elizabeth Roman** is working toward her degree in Dance Performance and Choreography at Spelman College in Georgia. As a member of the Spelman Dance Theatre, she has performed and taught classes for the group and volunteered within Atlanta Public Schools teaching dance to middle schoolers. Along with teaching in Atlanta, she enjoys working with her elementary schoolers at a local after school in Arlington, MA. Growing up in Cambridge, MA, she was a member of the Modern Dance Company at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School for three years, performing, choreographing, and teaching class as dance captain of the company. Liz also performed and participated in hip hop competitions and showcases in the Cambridge area. As the co- chair of the Cambridge Youth Council from 2018 - 2020, she worked as an advocate and leader to address issues that impact students. Liz intends to continue her work within the education system and eventually direct her own dance studio..

## College Interns

**AJ Jean Philippe** is a student at Bridgewater University majoring in Dance. He has been dancing for over seven years where most of his experience has been carried in his bedroom and living room. However, during his senior year in 2019, he was fortunate enough to get to choreograph a piece for his high school’s Dance Theater Show. He began taking choreography workshops in 2018 and began teaching his own workshops in 2023. AJ hopes to teach all around the country and eventually the world. In the future, he also plans to own his own dance studio. continue and expand her dance and teaching opportunities at BU, and hopes to do so post-grad.

**Yiny Vega** is a first year at Middlesex Community College to study and become a veterinarian assistant. This summer she began at Reach as a teen apprentice and this is her first year as a college intern. Yiny is a Teaching Assistant for Urbanity Dance in Boston under Ramiro Vaughan. This summer, she will also begin teaching classes at Urbanity to start her teaching career.

**Matthew Xu** is a rising junior at Boston University pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy and a minor in Dance. He began his movement journey in high school where he performed with his school’s color guard, and from there, has been furthering his education in dance with the instructors at Boston University over the past 2 years. He was not trained specifically in any one form or style of dance, and instead just loves to explore movement as a medium. Matthew is currently performing with BU’s Dance Theatre Group, and has also choreographed his first piece this previous semester. He has also danced for various other projects at BU, and has been featured in the student Zine Untangled, as well as in a project for the 2023 CFA Visual Arts thesis show “Edifice”. In the near future, Matthew wishes to further his dance and movement education, and is interested in experimenting more with choreography and design.



# Evaluation

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

*I learned being supportive of the group is so much more important than excelling as an individual...this program and performing is not about me, an individual, but us and the audience.”*

- Foster

*“They were able to develop a new perspective on the worlds of arts such as dance. Through the performance and workshops, the kids could see the incredible results that can be achieved through hard work, joy and passion.”*

- Symona

*“I found the community of people very comforting. At the beginning, I was hesitant to try new styles of dance however I was able to feel support and safety from others which allowed me to fully indulge in every style of dance”*

- Norah

*“Campers who haven’t been exposed to this art have a chance to get into dance and find a new passion. Funders of this program are giving new opportunities not only to interns and apprentices but to the campers we perform for.”*

- Luke

## A few words from our staff and interns . . .

*“I think that for a lot of campers, it’s their first time being exposed to a live theater/ dance event. I think the atmosphere Reach creates is inviting and a safe way to access art...it’s wonderful that the campers have different ages, ethnicities, body shapes and skill sets to identify pieces of themselves with...Our Reach crew really do make them feel special and seen.”*

- Wendy

*“Within the Reach company, I’m given the opportunity to dance with people I wouldn’t have crossed paths with outside of this program.”*

- Hannah

*“What’s always most rewarding for me is making one-on-one connections with the kids and seeing them open up...in the short time we have at each camp.”*

- Liz

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

*“They were incredibly engaging and energetic!”*

- Mass Audubon West Roxbury

*“Enthusiastic, creative, and engaging. They made sure all campers were included and having fun.”*

- The Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester

*“The performance inspired the kids and staff members on wanting to join and dance.”*

- Somerville YMCA

*“The teen apprentices made the performances very engaging and were a big part of what made the workshop successful.”*

- Mass Audubon West Roxbury

*“The campers were engaged and watched intently...Staff were also amazed by the different types of dance and how well Reach Staff kept the campers’ attention.”*

- The Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester

*“Campers were very engaged...even kids who usually refuse to play were playing!”*

- Cambridge Adventure Day Camp

*“[The workshops] shared that we can be at different levels and work well together.”*

- Mass Audubon Mattapan





# REACH TOUR SITES 2023

Date	Camp Name	# of Campers	# of Staff	Type of Visit
7/27/2023	Newburyport, Theatre in the Open	95	22	1 performance, 2 workshops
7/28/2023	Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester	119	46	1 performance, 4 workshops
7/31/2023	Mass Audubon, Mattapan	80	16	1 performance, 3 workshops
7/31/2023	JOYweavcers	33	10	1 workshop
8/1/2023	Mass Audubon, West Roxbury	55	15	1 performance, 3 workshops
8/2/2023	Cambridge Camping	143	20	1 performance, 2 workshops
8/3/2023	Daybreak	31	14	1 performance, 2 workshops
8/4/2023	Somerville YMCA	50	6	1 performance
TOTAL Population Served in Camps		606	149	
Outdoor performance		150		Performance
TOTAL Population Served		905		

Boston University's Dance Program presents:

## REACH 2024

Summer Outreach Dance Education Program

### Pedagogy Intensive

5-day, July 8—12 only  
9am—2pm; 2-3:30pm optional\*

Open to pre-professional and experienced dance educators; (re)examine how to transform your knowledge into responsive teaching strategies.

#### Goals:

- analyze teaching models & lesson planning
- integrate cultural and historical relevance
- explore adaptive dance approaches
- develop authentic teaching and assessing strategies for bilingual classrooms
- incorporate injury prevention
- Scholarships & paid pre-professional fellowships are available; priority for those working in urban settings & those starting their teaching careers



A week-long series of workshops that (re-)examines how we become more responsive teachers to achieve "authentic engagement and rigor among culturally and linguistically diverse students." - Zaretta Hammond, author of *Culturally Responsive Teaching & the Brain*

- All-level seminar and experiential movement classes
- Breakout groups based on experience, genre, and/or learning environments.
- \*Optional afternoon master classes.



To apply or learn more visit <http://www.bu.edu/fitrec/dance/reach/> or call us at (617) 353-1597.

# Reach Summer Outreach/Teen Apprenticeship

is funded through donations and grants from:

## Businesses, Corporations and Foundations

*Special thanks to...*

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Boston University Dance Program

Boston University Fitness and Recreation Center

Kates Foundation, Inc.

Mass Movement, Inc.

Tracy Family Foundation

Vinson-Owens Parents Association



**We appreciate you!!!**



## Individual Supporters and Volunteers

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