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KANSAS CITY FRIENDS
OF ALVIN AILEY

ANNUAL REPORT



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KCFAA MISSION

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) makes dance accessible to all people by presenting the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II, teaching young people critical life skills through dance, and modeling interracial and multi-cultural community partnerships.

KCFAA VISION

A diverse community united by dance to inspire and change lives.

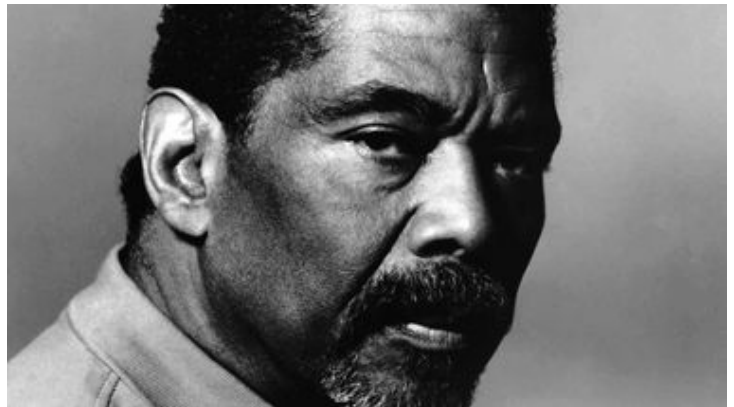


PHOTO: ERIC C. HONG

“

Making dances is an act of progress; it is an act of growth, an act of music, an act of teaching, an act of celebration, an act of joy. " - Alvin Ailey

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



2020 Board of Directors

Debbie Brooks
President

Pat Konopka
1st Vice President

Lisa Klein, PhD
2nd Vice President

Gene Agee
Treasurer

Jesse Barnes
Secretary

Allan S. Gray, II
Chairman Emeritus

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Bunni Copaken
Karen Curls, PhD
Donna Davis, PhD
Tammy Edwards
Chris DeVolder
Leslie A. Fleuranges
Carolyne Gakuria
Jane Gard
Lindsey Heinz
Gina Hull
Sharon Hoffman
Nate Hogan
Siobhan McLaughlin-Lesley
Kelly Murphy
Julianne Story
Jerry Williams

Resilient. That is one word that defines Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and our approach in 2020. We were resilient. Our determination to power through the obstacles of the global pandemic made 2020 both a challenging and fulfilling year.

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey has a 3-part mission as a Presenter, Educator, and Unifier. Despite the pandemic, we were able to fulfill all aspects of our mission during 2020. In January and February, we were excited to present performances of the Ailey Trio, Setting the Stage, and a dance tribute to Gordon Parks at the Nelson Art Gallery to live audiences. But, when the COVID pandemic reached the United States in March 2020, we initially thought that we would have to cancel upcoming events. However, we quickly strategized and worked together to successfully convert our in-person **Gala** planned for May 2nd to a virtual event.

The technology skills we acquired planning the Gala gave us the confidence to create a virtual curriculum for AileyCamp in June, allowing us to become the first **AileyCamp** in the nation to do so and to continue our 31-year camp history. In the fall of 2020, we offered daily virtual **In-School Workshops** and after-school **Studio** dance classes for students in grades K-12 via Zoom. We also created a virtual **First Fridays** program, offering free hip-hop classes with talented instructors each month on various social media platforms.

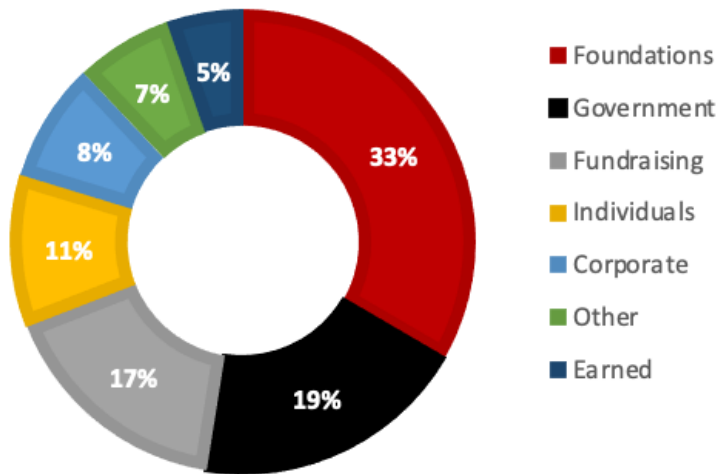
In addition to our arts education programs, we hosted a series of events that promoted diversity, inclusion, and racial equity. In response to the George Floyd murder in May of 2020, we initiated a new community discussion series called **Courageous Conversations** which facilitates candid discussions on systemic racism. We also awarded our **2020 Race, Place & Diversity Award** to two American icons and racial equity champions - **Senator Cory Booker and Ms. Judith Jamison**— and provided a virtual stage for them to share their wisdom and inspiring life stories to audiences of as many as 200 people. In recognition of our work in the diversity realm in 2020, Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey was honored to be selected as one of 3 finalists for the **2021 Equity in Action Award** presented by Non-Profit Connect.

Finding new and innovative ways to bring our programs to the community proved difficult, but KCFAA was **resilient** and met the challenge. We were able to reach over 12,000 people in 2020! We are grateful for our amazing staff, committed board members, and supportive community that helped KCFAA to continue to advance our mission and fulfill Alvin Ailey's legacy of making dance accessible to all.

MELANIE MILLER

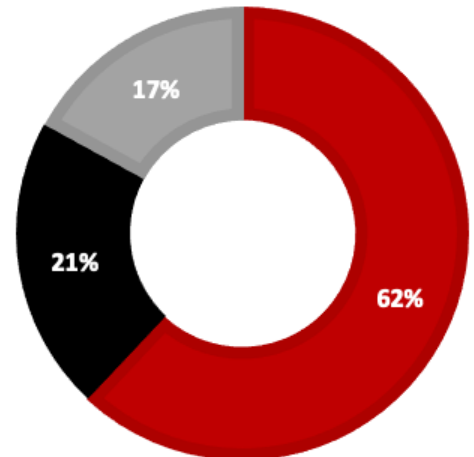
Chief Executive Officer

2020 REVENUE \$954 K



FINANCIALS & STATISTICS

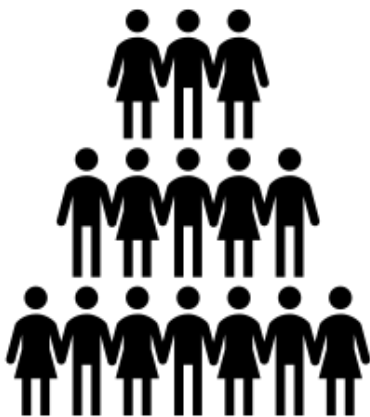
2020 EXPENSES \$820 K



- Programs & Performances
- Administration
- Development & Marketing

WHO WE SERVE

While facing profound challenges brought on by the pandemic, KCFAA's programs reached many adults and youth across the Kansas City Metropolitan Area (70% children and youth).



12,347
TOTAL REACHED

2020 VIRTUAL AILEYCAMP STATISTICS

50% are from families at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of five.

95% of AileyCamp youth were eligible for free and reduced lunch.

IDENTIFY AS **97%**
FEMALE

IDENTIFY AS **87%**
AFRICAN AMERICAN

PRESENTER



As the official second home, KCFAA solely presents Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater or Ailey II in Kansas City and furthers Alvin Ailey’s vision of making dance accessible to all people.

2020 PRESENTATIONS

AILEY TRIO

Ailey Trio 2020 is an engaging 60-minute interactive presentation with three dancers from the internationally acclaimed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT). In 2020, it was performed in person at ten schools and at a public performance at the Gem Theater.

SETTING THE STAGE

Setting the Stage is a multi-media journey through African American dance history that combines live performance by talented local and national artists with a narrated slide presentation. In 2020, it was performed in person at 7 schools and a public performance at the Gem Theater during Black History Month.

GORDON PARKS EXHIBIT

AileyCamp The Group & Professional dancers performed “A Renaissance Dance,” an original KCFAA production, before a sold-out crowd (500+) at the Nelson Atkins Museum in February 2020 for the opening night of the museum’s “Gordon Parks X Muhammad Ali” photo exhibit.

2020 VIRTUAL GALA

This year’s annual benefit gala was hosted in a “virtual ballroom” and was one of the first virtual performing arts galas in Kansas City. We presented a full-length dance performance by Ailey II and presented our Janet K. Miller award to Bert Berkley.



“Just want to send a note of thanks for a delightful event. What a great job everyone did to make this virtual performance a success. Just wonderful!”
Linda – Virtual Gala Participant

Photo top of page

Performance by AileyCamp The Group.

Photo right page Ailey Trio Performance. Photo: Mike Strong.

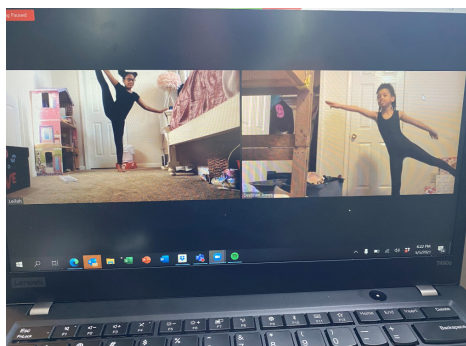




EDUCATOR

KCFAA develops and delivers youth programming that uses the art of dance as a vehicle to improve knowledge, increase self-esteem, enhance critical thinking skills, and encourage positive role models and smart life choices. KCFAA reaches more than 20,000 young people through our year round programs.

2020 ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Studio Classes

KCFAA offers weekly after school ballet, jazz and modern dance classes for grades K - 12. In 2020, Studio classes were held virtually via Zoom.



In-School Workshops

We offered virtual dance workshops to schools during the 2020-2021 school year, including Allen Village, a key KCFAA in-school partner.



2020 Aileycamper Savanna Williams
Photo: KCUR



Take 5 with Ty

was a series of videos offered on our website to help youth and families stay healthy and keep moving while sheltering in place.



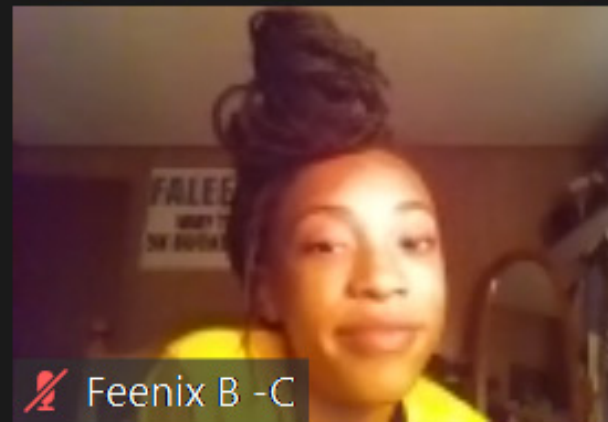
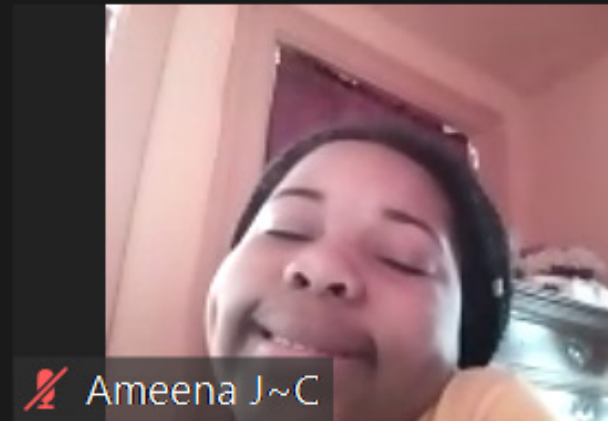
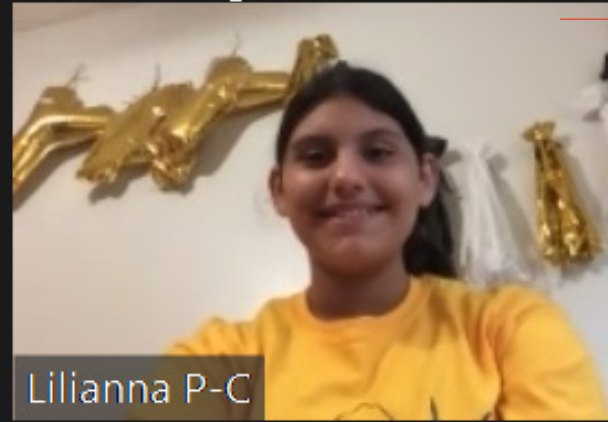
First Fridays,

a free monthly Hip Hop class, was offered both in-person and virtually in 2020.

EDUCATING
IN A VIRTUAL
WORLD

AILEYCAMP REIMAGINED

Virtual AileyCamp 2020



AileyCamp is KCFAA's award-winning, signature summer program. In 2020, KCFAA implemented AileyCamp Reimagined, becoming the first AileyCamp in the

country to offer a virtual AileyCamp program. KCFAA partnered with corporate foundations to provide students with tablets, hotspots, and quality connectivity.

The AileyCamp Reimagined Final Performance was recorded and made available to parents in July 2020 on the KCFAA website.



Chat



Share Screen



Record



Breakout Rooms



Reactions

UNIFIER

KCFAA encourages diversity of people and ideas through its organizational structure, uniting people across racial, ethnic and social barriers to promote awareness, respect, friendship, and ultimately, community-wide social change.

In response to the murder of George Floyd, KCFAA began to develop new programming aimed at unifying and educating the community on issues of race and racial justice. We also created a KCFAA Solidarity Statement.

“ Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey celebrates and affirms Black lives and Black communities and works to dismantle racism. Multiculturalism and intersectionality guide our efforts to combat and defeat systemic oppression.”



Courageous Conversations is a new initiative, launched in July 2020, that provides a platform for discussion on issues of race. Five sessions were held and the topics covered included Racism in Kansas City and Why Don't People Vote?

zoom
Register in advance

**COURAGEOUS
KCFAA
CONVERSATIONS**

5:30 PM
December 7th, 2020

G. S. GRIFFIN
Alvin Brooks

**RACISM
IN KANSAS CITY**
A SHORT HISTORY

Sponsored by:
h+k

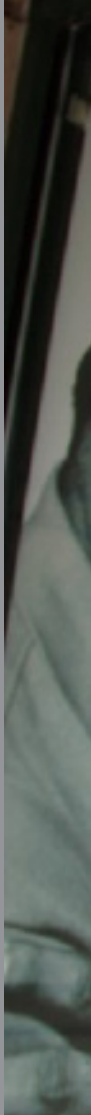
Author G.S. Griffin

**COURAGEOUS
KCFAA
CONVERSATIONS**

zoom
REGISTER IN ADVANCE

**TONIGHT!
WHY DON'T
PEOPLE VOTE?**

11/2/2020 • 5:30 PM - 7 PM





Chief Artistic Officer of KCFAA, Tyrone Aiken, in front of the office and studio space wearing a mask. KCFAA closed the office in 2020 due to the COVID Pandemic, but continued to hold virtual events. Photo: KCUR

Race, Place & Diversity Award

In 2020, KCFAA recognized two exceptional champions of diversity and national icons – **Senator Cory Booker** and Ailey’s Artistic Director Emerita **Judith Jamison**, and awarded them with our annual Race, Place & Diversity Award during two successful virtual events. We provided a virtual stage for them to share their wisdom and inspiring life stories to audiences over 200 people. The two events were moderated by KCMO Communications Director Chris Hernandez and Dancer/Director Debbie Allen.

“ I am so grateful that, at a time when arts funding is often under attack, there are philanthropists and others out there who value it and understand their dollar will multiply, in terms of its impact in communities when you fund and support the arts.”

- Senator Cory Booker 2020 Race, Place & Diversity Award Recipient

Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey

Gordon Parks: A Renaissance Man...

To be swept away
like trash
because of your color
or misunderstood
or your hoodie



Thank you to all of our supporters!

The COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 a year like no other.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up in any way to help **Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey** fulfill our mission to make dance accessible to all.

We could not provide the important arts education programs for underserved youth without your help!