AILEY

Final Report of Activities and Accomplishments

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Caroline T. Dartey. Photo by Dario Calmese.

AILEY CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD, REACHING NEW MILESTONES AND ACHIEVING MORE GROWTH:

AILEY partnered with the Whitney Museum of American Art to produce ***Edges of Ailey*** (September 25, 2024–February 9, 2025), the first museum exhibition to examine Alvin Ailey's life and creative impact. The exhibition, which took up the entire fifth-floor galleries, showcased Mr. Ailey's personal diaries and artifacts, memorabilia and videos, and artworks from American artists that shared a kinship with Mr. Ailey's legacy. Each of AILEY's five divisions offered additional programming, including performances, workshops, and panel discussions.

On November 24, 2024, it was announced that former Ailey dancer **Alicia Graf Mack** would assume the role of AILEY's fourth artistic director beginning July 1, 2025. A member of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater from 2005–2008 and again from 2011–2014, she served as the dean and director of the Dance Division of The Juilliard School; received numerous accolades including an honorary doctorate from Juilliard, *Smithsonian Magazine's* American Innovator of the Arts and Sciences, and Columbia University's Medal of Excellence; and worked with countless arts luminaries from Judith Jamison to Arthur Mitchell to Beyoncé. Her appointment was met with celebration from the dance community and beyond.

The **Alvin Ailey Choreographic Legacy Project** made significant progress in digitizing and formally documenting select ballets from Alvin Ailey's repertory for restaging and research purposes. The fifth ballet chosen for the project was *Survivors* (1986), an impassioned tribute to Nelson and Winnie Mandela. The initiative is led by Ailey Conservator Masazumi Chaya, along with Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita Sylvia Waters and Ailey Archivist Dominique Singer.

AILEY continued to offer accessible programming in FY25. Ailey Extension returned to Times Square offering four free classes, May 8–27. Throughout the year, Ailey II, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Arts In Education hosted workshops and masterclasses throughout the country.

In January, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater returned to the **Fox Theatre** for its annual Atlanta engagement, with record-breaking ticket sales. AILEY offered the innovative ***Revelations*: An Interdisciplinary Approach** residency at local Atlanta schools; worked with the **National Black Arts Festival** to offer **AileyDance for Active Aging** workshops; presented special *Revelations*-inspired performances at **Cascade United Methodist Church** and **Ebenezer Baptist Church**; and collaborated with the SCAD FASH Museum of Fashion and Film on **DANCE FASH: A Conversation on Costume Design, Movement, and Dance**, a lecture demonstration showcasing how design and dance work together in Mr. Ailey's ballets.

Ailey Extension offered several special events specifically dedicated to honoring the passing of **Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison**, including four events in February for **Black History Month** honoring her legacy, and a special ***Cry* workshop with Nasha Thomas** in May.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Chalvar Monteiro. Photo by Dario Calmese.

EDGES OF AILEY

Whitney Museum of American Art | September 25, 2024 – February 9, 2025

Edges of Ailey, the first ever large-scale museum exhibition to reflect on Alvin Ailey's life, work, and legacy, was a blockbuster sensation, resonating with tens-of-thousands of visitors at the Whitney Museum of American Art. With artworks by Jean-Michel Basquiat, Faith Ringgold, and Kara Walker; letters from Duke Ellington and Langston Hughes; archival footage of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater; and Alvin Ailey's own diaries, *Edges of Ailey* offered a deep and sprawling look at the vast reach of Mr. Ailey's cultural and artistic influence.

Running concurrently with the exhibition was AILEY's own programming, featuring performances and events by AILEY's five divisions:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater gave 10 performances in two programs. Program I included excerpts from Alvin Ailey's classic works, including *Pas de Duke, Reflections in D, Masekela Langage, Cry,* and *Revelations.* Program II showcased excerpts of new works by Hope Boykin, Jamar Roberts, and Interim Artistic Director Matthew Rushing.

Ailey II gave 26 performances featuring a collection of excerpts from works by Judith Jamison and Alvin Ailey.

The Ailey School's Ailey Student Performance Group gave three performances, showcasing excerpts of three works by Avree Walker, Norbert De La Cruz, and Earl Mosley.

Ailey Extension offered 33 events including both paid and free classes as well as figure drawing (where Extension students modeled for the classes) during the museum's Member Nights, Free Friday Nights, and Second Sundays.

Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs conducted 12 events: six AileyDance Kids workshops, three AileyDance for Active Aging workshops, two *Revelations* assemblies, and one *Revelations* community workshop.

Interim Artistic Director Matthew Rushing was commissioned by the Whitney to create a world premiere, *Sacred Songs*, featuring a cast of Ailey Extension students. *Sacred Songs: A Journey of the Spiritual* marked the first time that a new ballet was choreographed on and in collaboration with Extension students, then re-staged on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

AILEY also offered special panel discussions with Ailey legends, including Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita Sylvia Waters and former company dancers Renee Robinson and Donna Wood.

A *New York Times* review of the exhibition stated, "it's an evocation of Ailey, and his dance, through the lens of African American visual art, which is a record and reflection of the Black culture that shaped him, and that he helped shape."

Edges of Ailey exhibition. Photos by David Tufino.

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

5 World Premieres | **2** New Productions | **20** Cities Visited | **218,623+** Audiences

JULY 30 – AUGUST 3, 2024

BAAND Together Dance Festival

The company participated in the fourth annual BAAND Together Dance Festival, which brings together Ballet Hispánico, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and Dance Theatre of Harlem on the Lincoln Center stage. More than **10,000** audience members attended the Choose-What-You-Pay festival. The company presented Hans van Manen's *Solo*, a showcase of the Ailey dancers' lightning-fast precision and agility.

OCTOBER 17 – 25, 2024

Ailey in Paris

The company made its first appearance in Paris **since 2017**, performing at the Palais des Congrès de Paris, reaching **31,621** audience members over 11 performances.

Members of the company. Photo by Dario Calmese.

DECEMBER 4, 2024 – JANUARY 5, 2025

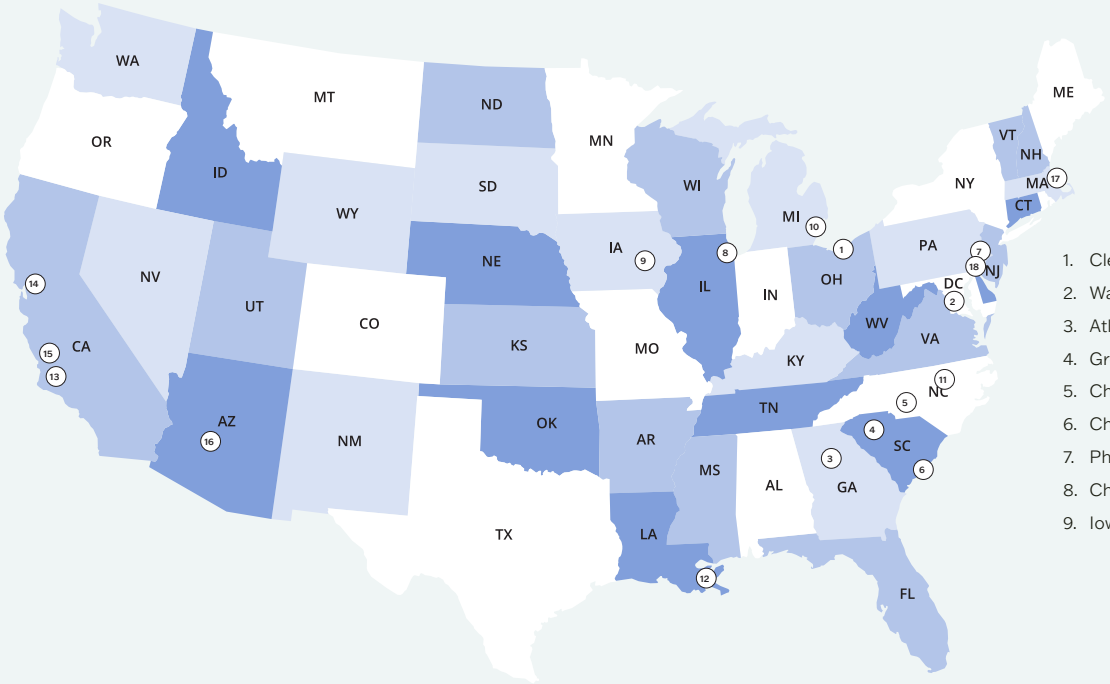
New York City Center

The company's five-week New York City Center season was the most successful in over a decade, reaching **53,704** patrons. The entire season was dedicated to the life and legacy of Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison and featured four world premieres—Interim Artistic Director Matthew Rushing's *Sacred Songs,* Hope Boykin's *Finding Free,* Lar Lubovitch's *Many Angels,* and Jamar Roberts' *Al-Andalus Blues*—as well as a new production of Elisa Monte's *Treading* and the 25th anniversary of Ronald K. Brown's *Grace*. The Opening Night Gala performance featured live performances by Tony® and GRAMMY® Award-winning artist Leslie Odom, Jr. and composer, visual artist, and GRAMMY® Award-winning vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant. The season ended on Mr. Ailey's birthday with a special tribute program.

JANUARY 31 – MAY 11, 2025

National Tour

Following the annual New York season, the company embarked on an 18-city national tour, which included the 25th annual Washington, DC Gala Benefit at the Kennedy Center in February and a record-breaking season at Atlanta's Fox Theatre. The tour reached a total of **129,378** theatergoers.



1. Cleveland, OH
2. Washington, DC
3. Atlanta, GA
4. Greenville, SC
5. Charlotte, NC
6. Charleston, SC
7. Philadelphia, PA
8. Chicago, IL
9. Iowa City, IA
10. Detroit, MI
11. Chapel Hill, NC
12. New Orleans, LA
13. Los Angeles, CA
14. Berkeley, CA
15. Santa Barbara, CA
16. Mesa, AZ
17. Boston, MA
18. Newark, NJ

JUNE 5 – 8, 2025

Spring Season at Brooklyn Academy of Music

The company returned for its third consecutive spring season at BAM with a program including the world premiere of *The Holy Blues,* choreographed by Urban Bush Women's Jawole Willa Jo Zollar in collaboration with Ailey company dancers Samantha Figgins and Chalvar Monteiro. The spring season drew large audiences to BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Yannick Lebrun, Jacquelin Harris, and Christopher R. Wilson. Photo by Dario Calmese.

NEW WORKS

Five World Premieres:

Sacred Songs
by Matthew Rushing

Finding Free
by Hope Boykin

Many Angels
by Lar Lubovitch

Al-Andalus Blues
by Jamar Roberts

The Holy Blues
by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Samantha Figgins, and Chalvar Monteiro

Two New Productions:

Grace
by Ronald K. Brown
(25th anniversary)

Treading
by Elisa Monte

Top: Members of the company in Jamar Roberts' *Al-Andalus Blues*. Photo by Paul Kolnik. Bottom: Members of the company in Ronald K. Brown's *Grace*. Photo by Danica Paulos.

AILEY II

THE NEXT GENERATION OF DANCE

2 World Premieres | **28** Cities Visited | **23,995** Audience Members
11,228 Students Reached Through Outreach Activities

OCTOBER 6, 2024 – MAY 1, 2025

National Tour

Ailey II's US tour reached audiences in 28 cities, including a two-week New York residency at the Ailey Citigroup Theater with sold-out performances for **3,745** audience members, an increase of nearly 500 from the previous year's New York season. In total, the national tour reached **17,634** audience members in theaters across the country. The tour included two world premieres: *Down the Rabbit Hole* by Houston Thomas and *Mystery at Sky Square* by Alia Kache.

Outreach Activities
As part of the company's national tour, Ailey II offered outstanding outreach programs to schools and student groups, including masterclasses, lecture demonstrations, pre-performance Q&As, and meet-and-greets. The company's outreach activities reached a further **11,228** people, almost six times as many as the previous year.

Top: Ailey II in Houston Thomas' *Down the Rabbit Hole*. Photo by Nir Arieli.
Bottom: Ailey II in Alia Kache's *Mystery at Sky Square*. Photo by Nir Arieli.

THE AILEY SCHOOL

Students Enrolled **818** | Scholarships Awarded **284** |
New Graduates from BFA Program **26**

The Ailey School continued offering top-tier dance education, inclusive of a robust and diverse dance curricula, to hundreds of talented students. The School's Junior Division trained **585** students ages 3–17, with the First Steps and Bounding Boys Programs (ages 3–6) introducing children to dance and the Pre-Professional Program (ages 7–17) helping students take their skills to the next level. The Professional Division (ages 17–25) furthered the dance education of **233** students through its innovative and diverse programs.

Students from The Ailey School Junior Division. Photo by Rosalie O'Connor.

OTHER SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

In May, 26 students graduated from The Ailey/Fordham BFA in Dance program, bringing the total number of graduates to 527.

The Ailey School gave 642 financial aid awards that amounted to more than $2 million through scholarships, institutional support, and housing aid to talented students with financial need.

AILEY ARTS IN EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

10 AileyCamps Serving 826 Students | **82** School Residencies Reaching 7,000+ Students
35 AileyDance for Active Aging Residencies Reaching 786 Older Adults

Top: AileyCamp New York, 2025. Photo by Nicole Tintle. Bottom: AileyDance for Active Aging. Photo courtesy of AILEY.

AileyCamp served 826 middle school-age students in 10 cities across the country. All camps were conducted in-person during the summer of 2024:

- Atlanta, GA
- Baltimore, MD
- Berkeley/Oakland, CA
- Chicago, IL
- Kansas City, KS
- Kansas City, MO
- Miami, FL
- New York, NY
- Newark, NJ
- Seattle, WA

AileyDance Kids reached more than 7,000 students through 82 residencies at schools and community organizations across New York City, Newark, and the greater New York area.

Launched in 2018, **AileyDance for Active Aging** continued in New York City and Newark, NJ, with more than 500 older adults participating in 31 Active Aging residencies. An additional 235 older adults were reached through national Active Aging residencies in Atlanta, Detroit, Miami, and Los Angeles.

The city of Newark, NJ issued a resolution commending AileyDance for Active Aging for its use of dance to create social engagement and its positive impact on creating and building communities among its participants.

National In-School Residencies were conducted in four cities, reaching over 400 students through school workshops in Atlanta, Detroit, Miami, and Los Angeles.

Additional residencies and special workshops included free ***Revelations* Celebration Community workshops** in New York City at BAM and as part of the BAAND Together Dance Festival; Boston, and Charlotte; ***Revelations* Master Class Workshops** in Atlanta and Detroit; participation in the **Naples International Dance Festival** in Florida; and special programming in Atlanta including the **SCAD-FASH Costume and Fashion** event and a screening of ***Portrait of Ailey.***

AILEY EXTENSION

Classes a Week **88** | Unique Workshops **101** | Participants **13,232**

Ailey Extension offered 68 weekly in-person adult classes and 20 weekly adult virtual classes, for a total of 88 weekly classes. The number of workshops offered by the Extension increased from 78 to 101 courses, including in-person and online/online courses.

Extension's three performance programs drew 479 adult participants and held nine different showcases at the Ailey Citigroup Theater.

The Ailey Experience Tour traveled to six American cities, providing **1,444 young dancers** of all skill levels with the opportunity to learn from esteemed Ailey dancers and instructors. The series of weekend-long workshops were held in:

- Charlotte, NC
- Dallas, TX
- Atlanta, GA
- Washington, DC
- Detroit, MI
- Philadelphia, PA

Horton with Amos Machanic at Ailey Extension. Photo by Whitney Browne.

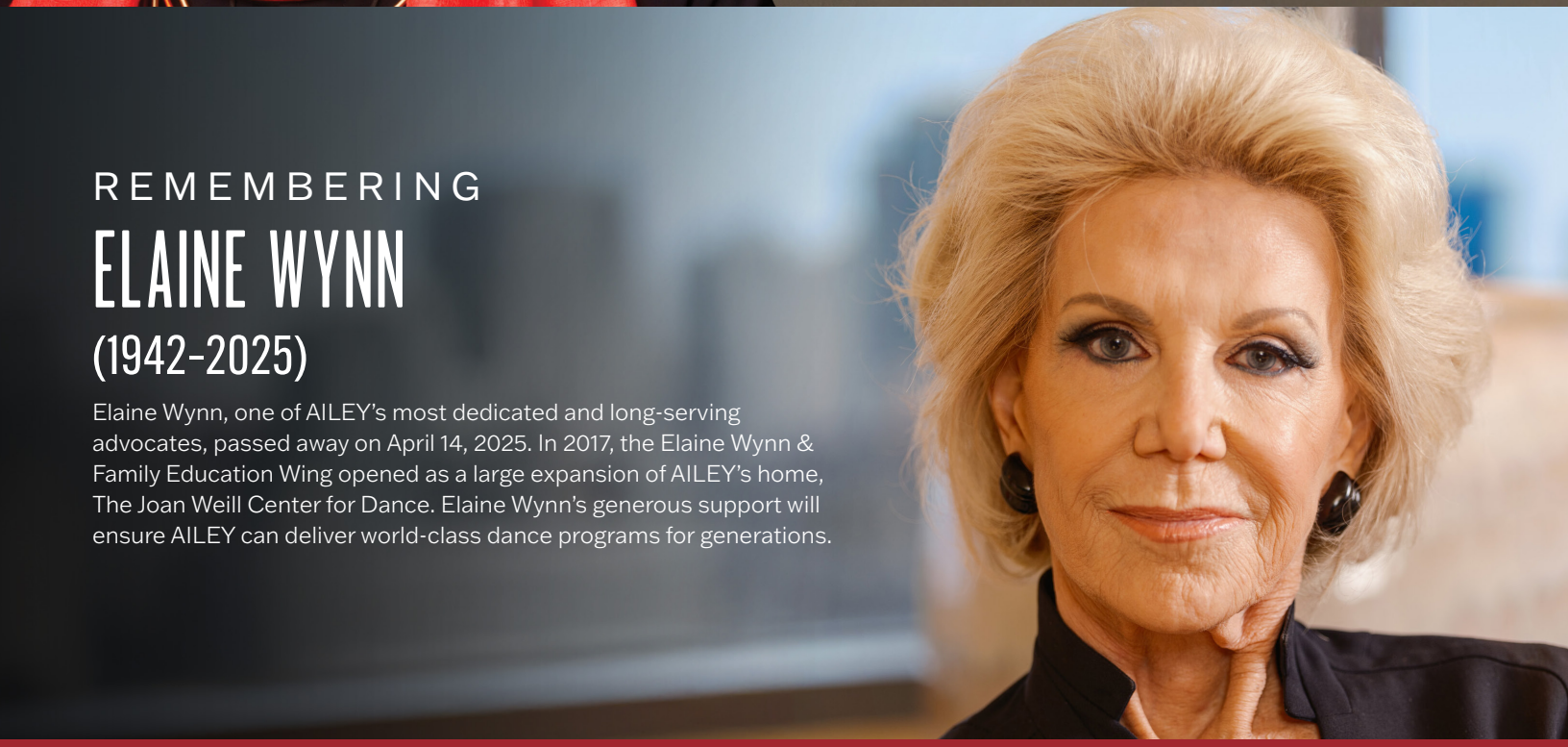
HONORING

JUDITH JAMISON

(1943-2024)

Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison passed away on November 9, 2024. She left behind an indelible legacy as a dancer, choreographer, teacher, mentor, and the second artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

On December 11, 2024, AILEY held a Celebration of Life at New York City Center, with remembrances and performances from company members past and present. May 10, 2025 was officially named Judith Jamison Day in New York City, to recognize the dance legend on her birthday.



REMEMBERING

ELAINE WYNN

(1942-2025)

Elaine Wynn, one of AILEY's most dedicated and long-serving advocates, passed away on April 14, 2025. In 2017, the Elaine Wynn & Family Education Wing opened as a large expansion of AILEY's home, The Joan Weill Center for Dance. Elaine Wynn's generous support will ensure AILEY can deliver world-class dance programs for generations.

OTHER NEWS

In conjunction with *Edges of Ailey* at the Whitney Museum, AILEY created the short film *Echoes of Ailey*, directed by Ezra Hurwitz with Ailey II Artistic Director Francesca Harper. The film features Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita Sylvia Waters walking alongside performers from Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ailey II, and The Ailey School, accompanied by music from the GRAMMY Award-winning band Radiohead. *Echoes of Ailey* received two Webby Awards and a New York Emmy Award.

Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs held a special edition of AileyDance for Active Aging in Altadena, CA following the Eaton fires last year, inviting older adults affected by the fires to come together for a healing free dance class.

Judith Jamison. Photo by Andrew Eccles. Elaine Wynn. Cody Cobb for *The New York Times*.

THANK YOU

AILEY is deeply grateful to the many individuals, government agencies, and corporate and foundation partners whose dedication help us deliver performances, training, classes, and community outreach throughout the country and around the world. We are delighted to share the highlights of AILEY's achievements during our 2024-25 season.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacquelin Harris. Photo by Dario Calmese.

Bennett Rink
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Matthew Rushing
Interim Artistic Director,
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Francesca Harper
Artistic Director, Ailey II

Tracy Inman
Co-Director, The Ailey School

Melanie Person
Co-Director, The Ailey School

Lisa Johnson-Willingham
Director, Ailey Extension

Dr. Rachel McCaulsky
Director, Ailey Arts In Education

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** In Memoriam*

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