



CULTURAL
AMBASSADOR
TO
THE WORLD

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

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Alvin Ailey, Founder JUDITH JAMISON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director Sharon Gersten Luckman, Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALVIN AILEY DANCE FOUNDATION WINS VOTE FOR FUNDING THROUGH MEMBERS PROJECT® FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS AND TAKEPART

Having Garnered the Highest Number of Votes in the Arts & Culture Category,
Ailey Organization to Receive a \$200,000 Donation from American Express

[New York] March 2, 2011 – Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation is proud to be voted as one of the charities to receive \$200,000 from American Express through the company’s Members Project program. The funds will help the Ailey organization further its mission of using dance to inspire, unite and educate, extending the scope of Ailey’s dynamic performances, innovative arts education activities and world-class training programs.

“I applaud American Express for championing Ailey and other great organizations through this fabulous campaign,” stated Sharon Gersten Luckman, Executive Director of Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation. “We are so grateful for the vote of confidence and thank all our fans for their resounding ovation of support through the Members Project. The award from American Express will broaden the reach of Ailey’s performances and programs serving people in New York City, across the country, and around the world.”

In the coming year, The Ailey School will award over 300 scholarships to talented young dancers, AileyCamps in 10 cities and other inner city programs will impact over 100,000 students nationally, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Ailey II will inspire over 400,000 people around the globe with performances of premieres and classic works, like Ailey’s masterpiece *Revelations*.

Members Project encourages everyone, including non-American Express® Cardmembers, to take his or her step and help support worthy causes and charitable organizations.

Anyone can get involved in Members Project by volunteering or donating. Members Project provides the platform to help make taking action easier with organizations like Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation. For more information about Members Project, visit: <http://www.takepart.com/membersproject>

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congress as a vital American “Cultural Ambassador to the World,” is currently in the midst of a tour to 24 North American cities. Led by the renowned Judith Jamison in her final year as Artistic Director, and joined by Artistic Director Designate Robert Battle, the performances celebrate five decades of *Revelations*, an American classic called a must-see for all people. For further information visit: www.alvinailey.org

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Press: photos and additional materials at pressroom.alvinailey.org

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American “Cultural Ambassador to the World,” grew from a now-fabled 1958 New York performance that changed American dance. Now led by Judith Jamison, and joined by artistic director designate Robert Battle, the Company over the years has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa, celebrating the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance tradition. The Ailey organization also includes; Ailey II (1974), a second company of young dancers and choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), extensive dance training programs; Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, bringing dance into classrooms and communities; and The Ailey Extension, dance and fitness classes for the general public at Ailey’s home – The Joan Weill Center for Dance in New York City—the nation’s largest building for dance. For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.