

# AILEY

## Arts In Education & Community Programs

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### **AILEY LEADS ACCLAIMED *REVELATIONS* RESIDENCY PROGRAM FOR LOCAL STUDENTS IN ADVANCE OF ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER'S ARSHT CENTER PERFORMANCES, THE FIRST LED BY MIAMI NATIVE AND NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROBERT BATTLE**

#### **CHASE SPONSORS WEEK-LONG WORKSHOPS, FEBRUARY 6-10, AT CHARLES DREW MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NORTHWESTERN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WHERE ROBERT BATTLE STARTED HIS JOURNEY IN DANCE**

**NEW YORK** (February 2, 2012) – The Ailey organization is proud to continue its mission of using dance to educate, inspire and entertain people of all ages through the implementation of ***Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach***, in advance of Arsht Center performances led by Miami native and new Artistic Director Robert Battle. This innovative curriculum-based initiative for public school students utilizes Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* as the inspirational framework for an in-depth study of language arts, social studies and dance. **Sponsored by Chase, the Miami residency will be held at Charles Drew Middle School and Northwestern Senior High School from February 6-10.**

"Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is a world renowned company, rich with cultural history, and JPMorgan Chase is honored to have the opportunity to bring this dance company's creativity, inspiration and story to students in the Liberty City area," said **Alvaro Martinez-Fonts, Managing Director, J.P. Morgan Private Bank**. "At Chase, we invest in neighborhoods like this one because we know that our long term and holistic commitment brings about positive change in the communities we serve."

Created in 1999, ***Revelations: An Interdisciplinary Approach*** engages students' analytic and creative thinking skills while exploring the life story of Alvin Ailey and *Revelations*; Mr. Ailey's beloved 1960 masterpiece. Led by Ailey teaching artists along with local teachers, students connect this story to their academic studies, life experiences, community, and the broader world around them using customized lesson plans. Students will experience a live performance by members of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater while the company is in town for **Ailey's Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County engagement, February 23-26.**

"Thanks to Chase, young people in Liberty City will be enlightened and motivated by Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* this season, just as I was when I began my education in dance as a student attending Miami Northwestern High School," said **Artistic Director Robert Battle**. "I also look forward to seeing the students join Arsht Center audiences of all ages to experience the world's most amazing dancers in this classic masterwork, along with our exciting new premieres, as we take the next step in Ailey's legacy of inspiration."

**In fall 2010, First Lady Michelle Obama hosted "The White House Dance Series: A Tribute to Judith Jamison" that featured a *Revelations* Residency involving students from across the country led by Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, Ailey's Arts In Education spokesperson, master teacher and former Company member. The**

curriculum has been profiled on CNN and has earned enthusiastic responses from participants in New York City, Atlanta, Detroit, Chicago, Washington, D.C, and London.

“From the White House to London I have seen firsthand how *Revelations* inspires these students, as it has audiences around the world since 1960,” said Nasha Thomas-Schmitt, who will be leading the Miami residencies. “I’m grateful that Chase has made it possible to offer this unique residency which guides students to new ways of learning academic subjects, as well as self-esteem, creativity, and how to write their own life story.”

**Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs** are committed to bringing dance into classrooms, communities, and lives of people of all ages. Programs include special student performances; lecture-demonstrations; technique classes; and AileyCamp, a full scholarship summer camp for underserved inner-city youth, now in 10 cities nationwide. For further details on Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Ailey organization’s performances and Ailey Arts In Education activated, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).

***Revelations* Residencies in Miami are sponsored by Chase**

**PRESS**

Open house for press will be held at Northwestern Senior High School on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> led by Nasha Thomas-Schmitt. For additional information contact Amanda Householder, (212) 405-9032 or [ahouseholder@alvinailey.org](mailto:ahouseholder@alvinailey.org).

For photos, video and press materials:

- [Ailey Arts In Education](#) *Revelations* Residency
- [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) Miami engagement February 23-26

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**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 March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Founded by Alvin Ailey, and guided by Judith Jamison beginning in 1989, the Company is now led by Robert Battle, whom Judith Jamison chose to succeed her on July 1, 2011. Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for an estimated 23 million people in 71 countries on 6 continents, promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the American modern dance tradition. In addition to being the Principal Dance Company of New York City Center, where its performances have become a year-end tradition, the Ailey company performs annually at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County in Miami, The Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark (where it is the Principal Resident Affiliate), and appears frequently in other major theaters throughout the United States and the world during extensive yearly tours. The Ailey organization also includes Ailey II (1974), a second performing company of emerging young dancers and innovative choreographers; The Ailey School (1969), one of the most extensive dance training programs in the world; Ailey Arts in Education & Community Programs, which brings dance into the classrooms, communities and lives of people of all ages; and The Ailey Extension (2005), a program offering dance and fitness classes to the general public, which began with the opening of Ailey’s permanent home—the largest building dedicated to dance in New York City, the dance capital of the world —named The Joan Weill Center for Dance, at 55th Street at 9th Avenue in New York City. For more information, visit [www.alvinailey.org](http://www.alvinailey.org).