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Arts, Briefly

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Ailey Dance Theater Has City Center Deal

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has signed its first multi-year agreement with City Center, according to officials of the two companies who were scheduled to announce that arrangement on Tuesday. Ailey, now approaching its 40th season at City Center on West 55th Street in Manhattan, cemented the relationship by agreeing to a 10-year, nonexclusive contract that names the company as the hall's principal dance troupe. The center will also provide major support toward commissioning a new Ailey work each year. "I wanted us to have a special place there," **Sharon Gersten Luckman**, the executive director of the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, said in an interview on Monday. The company also wanted to lock in its lucrative five-week holiday season, said Ms. Luckman, who would not disclose the deal's dollar value.

Ailey has also been discussed as a possible replacement for New York City Opera at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center. Ms. Luckman said the company "still might" perform there in June 2013. Ailey will also continue shows at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The company will celebrate its first season under **Robert Battle**, the new artistic director, with an opening-night gala on Nov. 30 at City Center. Performances will continue at the center, which is completing a major renovation, through Jan. 1.

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