



## KCFAA AileyCamp Opens June 20

June 14, 2011

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI - Tyrone Aiken, Executive Director of the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA), announces the opening of AileyCamp's 23rd year in Missouri on Monday, June 20. The location is 3221 Indiana Avenue, KCMO 64128.

AileyCamp is an innovative six-week, summer dance camp for middle-school boys and girls. Daily dance classes are complemented with creative communications and personal development workshops. Throughout the summer, students explore their creativity, learn to master their bodies, foster critical-thinking skills and strengthen their respect for themselves and others.

Dance classes in jazz, tap, modern and ballet are taught by instructors who have trained at leading institutions including The Ailey School in New York City, Dance Theatre of Harlem, The School of American Ballet and Kansas City Ballet.

"We are so grateful for the consistent commitment and invaluable support of this program, which provides relevant role models who nurture and assist in the development of the whole child," said Mr. Aiken. "Students are encouraged to not only develop their artistic interests, but also to address their academic, social and emotional challenges."

Field Trips and Family Events round out the AileyCamp experience, and provide a wide range of arts, cultural and entertaining experiences to further reinforce the goals of this urban camp. The next family and neighborhood event is the KCFAA Block Party on Friday, June 24, at 7:00 p.m. Neighbors, KCFAA members, and AileyCamp families are welcome to enjoy complimentary hot dogs, chips, and refreshing non-alcoholic beverages at the southeast corner of 18th & Woodland in the Attucks School Parking Lot, KCMO. Entertainment will include a Chalk Walk, music, dancing, and an after dark full screen motion picture will be shown: *The Karate Kid*.

Michael Joy, Missouri Site Director and Director of Artistic and Educational Programs for KCFAA, noted, "Alvin Ailey personally believed that dancers should be world citizens. He believed that dance came from the people and should be given back to the people, and that when dancers visited other cultures they should explore the new cities and bring back their experiences to share onstage. This access to a larger world inspires students to open doors of opportunity. At AileyCamp they learn they can do so through hard work, dedication, commitment, and the integrity to make healthy choices. Learning that they do have a choice is a primary AileyCamp component."

Five years after the birth of KCFAA, Alvin Ailey personally requested that the organization establish an intensive summer dance program. Mr. Ailey made his last public appearance at an AileyCamp event prior to his untimely death in December of 1989. Mr. Ailey's successor, dance legend Judith Jamison, continues to support Alvin Ailey's belief that "dance is for everybody."

AileyCampers range from eleven to fourteen years of age, with 80% of the students female and 20% male. On average, they are 75% African-American, 15% Hispanic, and 10% Caucasian, Asian American and Native American, and are representative of every public school district in the Greater Kansas City Area - the only city with two AileyCamp sites (there are now AileyCamps in nine other U.S. cities). Each program, AileyCamp Missouri and AileyCamp Kansas, accepts up to 90 students, totaling 180 summer participants. There is no fee for participation, and dance leotards, T-shirts, and shoes are provided at no cost to the student.

The Final Performance for families, friends and sponsors brings 180 vibrant young people from both AileyCamps together for a moving presentation on stage. The students will showcase their unique talents and skills they learned over the summer. The AileyCamp Final Performance is Wednesday, July 27, 7:00 pm, location to be announced. Admission is free.

### ***About Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey***

*The mission of Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (KCFAA) is making 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's vision is a diverse community united by dance to inspire and change lives. For more information, please visit [www.KCFAA.org](http://www.KCFAA.org), or call 816.471.6003.*