



DEA EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION



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## **DEA Youth Dance Program - At a Glance**

### **Concept:**

The DEA Youth Dance Program, a part of the DEA Educational Foundation, was established to empower kids by providing a free and positive afterschool alternative to drugs through the fun, healthy, and expressive art form of dance.

### **Founded/ Pilot Program:**

The Youth Dance Program, now operated by the DEA Educational Foundation, was originally established in 1999.

In 2012 the DEA Educational Foundation acquired the program and branded it as the DEA Youth Dance Program. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and their field offices throughout the country support the program. The DEA Youth Dance Program has grown to be one of the most successful after-school dance programs in the United States, positively influencing thousands of students each year by providing the healthy outlet of dance. Jill Roberts, founder and director of the DEA Youth Dance Program, is a former professional dancer and authority in after-school programs and drug education. She won the President's Volunteer Service Award from President Obama in 2009, in part, because of the dance program and her commitment to kids.

The DEA Youth Dance Program was piloted in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. in 2012 with 10 programs and has now expanded to 47 cities in the United States.

### **Curriculum:**

The DEA Youth Dance Program begins at a participating school with an assembly led by a professional dance company. The professional company demonstrates different styles of dance to appropriate musical choices, speaks to the students as role-models, and asks student volunteers to try out movement during the performance hour. Students then may elect to register for a free 20-week dance class series led by a professional dance instructor. At the end of the series, students perform in a community or school performance setting, bringing family and other students together. Finally, students are encouraged to apply for scholarships at a local studio for long-term study in dance. Students targeted to participate in the program are primarily in upper elementary and middle school years.

The program curriculum incorporates the DEA Educational Foundation's anti-drug messages and themes such as: participating in positive alternatives to drugs and gang violence, the building of self-esteem, teamwork, resisting negative peer pressure, and focusing on positive health and attitude.

### **DEA Youth Dance Program Cities:**

Launched 10 programs in Los Angeles and Washington D.C. in the spring of 2012.

Current Cities (2017) include: Annapolis MD, Albuquerque NM, Alexandria VA, Arlington VA, Astoria NY, Auburn WA, Aurora IL, Austin TX, Baltimore MD, Boston MA, Charleston WV, Chicago IL, Dallas TX, Dayton OH, Federal Way WA, Houston TX, Jersey City NJ, Kennett Square PA, La Puente CA, Lima OH, Los Angeles CA, Louisville KY, Manchester NH, Milwaukee WI, Mt. Vernon NY, Newark NJ, New York NY, Pacific Grove CA, Philadelphia PA, Phoenix AZ, Pittsburgh PA, Port Huron MI, Quincy MA, Seattle WA, Shepherdstown WV, Silver Spring MD, Sioux City IA, South Dennis MA, St. Louis MO, Tacoma WA, Venice CA, Van Nuys CA, Washington DC, West Memphis AR and West Chicago IL, Yarmouth MA.

Projected National and International Cities 2017: Cartagena, Colombia; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Mobile, Alabama; Lima, Peru; and Quito, Ecuador

### **Participating Dance Companies/Instructors:**

Currently the DEA Youth Dance Program is working with 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Arts, Allegro Dance, Attack Theatre, Breaking Ground Dance Studio, CityDance, ClancyWorks, Contradiction Dance Company, Culture Shock LA, Culture Shock Chicago, Dark Circles

Contemporary Dance, DCypher, Emotions Physical Theatre, Epik Dance Company, Fancy Feet Dance Studio, Hip Hop ConnXion, Houston Ballet, Huron Physical Arts Center, Karlovsky Company, Kashet Dance Company, Kathy Dunn Hamrick Dance Company, Lindenwood Dancers, Lyn's Dance Academy, Massive Monkees Extraordinary Futures, New Ballet Ensemble, Rainbow Tribe, River City Youth Ballet Ensemble, The Rock School for Dance Education's RockReach Program, Safiyyah Dance, and many individual professional artists from New York City and across the country.

### **Number of Schools and Students Participating:**

In 2012 the program ran in 25 schools in 15 U.S. cities. Approximately 725 kids enrolled in the program and 16,000 viewed performances and assemblies.

In 2013 the program ran in 37 schools in 21 U.S. cities. Approximately 1,000 kids enrolled in the program and 25,000 viewed performances and assemblies.

In 2014 the program reached 31 cities and 55 schools with 1,500 students participating in dance classes and over 50,000 students viewing assemblies conducted by professional dance companies where they learn about healthy activities, behaviors and attitude, and focusing on their dreams.

The 2015 the program reached 35 cities nationwide.

In 2016 the program reached 43 cities nationwide, with over 100,000 people influenced by the program and nearly 3,000 in classes.

The 2017 goal is to expand to 46 cities nation wide and three in South America to meet the growing needs abroad linking together multi-cultural programming to prevent drug use for future generations.

### **Local and National Program Sponsors 2013-2017:**

Ahmanson Foundation	General Mills Foundation	Free Space
Arts Council of Monterey	University of Iowa Dance Club	The Schneebeck Foundation
DC PAY	Dizzy Feet Foundation	Ravens Foundation
Global Giving Program	Anchor Free	Siouxland Community Foundation
GE Foundation	thalo	Eastern Bank
The Gregory and EJ Milken Foundation	Target	China Trust Charity Foundation
Our Gift of Light Fundraiser (Fancy Feet)	Athleta	Wells Fargo Bank
Numerous Private Donors/Supporters	Mason Hirst Foundation	Tulalip Cares

### **Program Staff:**

Jill L. Roberts; Senior Vice President, DEA EF and National Director, DEA Youth Dance Program  
Kiera Anderson; Assistant to the Senior VP, DEA EF and National Project Consultant, DEA Youth Dance Program  
Cristine Dhimos; New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, West Virginia and Florida Regional Manager  
Kelly Kuder; Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania (Kennett Square), Virginia, Washington D.C. Metro and Wisconsin Regional Manager and Development Consultant  
Jodi Obeid; Arkansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Pittsburgh), and Texas Regional Manager  
Allison Tanaka; California and Arizona Regional Manager  
Meredith Liepelt; Evaluation, Community Service, Media  
Michele Morris; Training Director

### **Program Information and Inquiries:**

The DEA Youth Dance Program is currently seeking funding for expansion to meet a waiting list of schools wanting to implement the Youth Dance Program. If you would like to be a part of our efforts to offer a positive alternative to kids, please contact our National Director directly at [jill.roberts@deaeducationalfoundation.org](mailto:jill.roberts@deaeducationalfoundation.org).

**<http://www.deaeducationalfoundation.org>**  
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