PRESS RELEASE

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FOUR DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND NATIONAL URBAN DANCE COMPANY SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE SHOWCASE AT THE KENNEDY CENTER IN WASHINGTON, DC

WASHINGTON, DC – Four Detroit Public Schools (Detroit School of the Arts, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Senior High School, Lewis Cass Technical High School, and Renaissance High School) along with Urban Dance Company, Premier Dancers Detroit have been selected to participate in the 25th Annual Silver Anniversary Celebration of the International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) Conference and Festival being held in Washington, DC, January 24 – 27, 2013. The theme of this year’s conference is "Celebrating Our Legacy…Embracing Our Future…One Bond, One Goal!"

The four Detroit Public Schools and Urban Dance Company were selected to participate through dance submissions reviewed by a National Black Dance Review Committee of their peers. All five Detroit-based organizations were selected and will be showcased in International performance venues during the 4-day conference. Cass Tech HS, Detroit School of the Arts, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. SHS, and Renaissance SHS will make their debut at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Millennium Stage (Friday, January 25, 2013 at 6:00pm) and Premier Dancers Detroit will showcase at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts (Friday, January 26, 2013 at 8:00pm). The Millennium Stage performance is FREE to the public and can be viewed via live broadcast online at 6:00pm EST.

The Dance Directors for the Detroit Public Schools are Anthony L. Smith, Cass Tech; Denise M. Allen, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., SHS; Gina Ellis, Renaissance HS; and Nicole Burrell, Detroit School of the Arts. Kevin Collins serves as the Artistic Director of Premier Dancers from Detroit, a leading Urban Ballroom Dance Company.

The 25th Annual Conference has become the convergence of ideas and interaction for the Dance community, with a focus on those who serve the black community. This four-day event brings together people from around the world to discuss issues that are relevant to dance within the global dance ecology. The Association is committed to documenting and addressing Black aesthetics in Dance. It also educates younger generations about contributions of Black artists in Dance. Conference attendance this year is expected to be higher than it has ever been – approximately 400 delegates and 50 speakers, master teachers, artistic directors, choreographers and many more will convene for 4-awe inspiring days of...
Dance master classes, panels, workshops, lecture/demonstrations, and performances. The conference includes off-site activities, a multi-company audition, networking events and the opportunity to be surrounded by peers and pioneers of the Black Dance Community.

More than 30 speakers will host professional development sessions and in-depth discussions facing the dance field. Programming will examine a broad variety of topics to include:

- The Foundation of Legacy
- The Importance of International Connections
- How to gain maximum Media Exposure
- Dance in Education

Conference activities will take place throughout the Washington, DC area in multiple venues allowing for conference delegates to experience the local dance scene in Washington, DC. An alliance of fifteen individuals from the DC, MD, VA region serve as the Annual Conference Host Committee. It is co-chaired by Carol Foster, DC Youth Ensemble and Yvonne Walker, Baltimore Dance Tech.

IABD is grateful to the following Host Partners of the 2013 Conference: Atlas Performing Arts Center, Dance Place, Dance Institute of Washington, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Howard Theatre, Howard University, Joy of Motion Dance Center, and The Kennedy Center.

To register for the conference, visit www.iabdassociation.org/conference. In the coming weeks, refer back the IABD website for finalized performance programs, master classes, and workshop schedules.

About IABD

Celebrating 25 years of dance – THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE preserves and promotes dance by people of African ancestry or origin, and assists and increases opportunities for artists in networking, funding, performance, education, audience development, philosophical dialogue, touring and advocacy.

About Detroit Public Schools

Detroit Public Schools is creating Centers of Excellence in every school in every neighborhood to ensure all students perform at high academic levels. DPS offers educational advantages to students throughout the district’s schools, including expanded time for reading and mathematics under a common core curriculum, pre-algebra for 7th graders, 9 different languages and robust ESL programs, Advanced Placement courses at every high school, Fine Arts programs with instrumental music, vocal music and dance, 3 new state-of-the-art school buildings opening this fall along with millions of dollars in school building improvements district wide, extended day opportunities, business partners for every school to help raise student achievement and safety and security enhancements.
About Premier Dancers
Premier Dancers is lead by the artistic direction of Kevin Collins. The dance company members are local representatives who have mastered a variety of night club dances that are traditionally found in African-American urban centers, cultures and communities. Their repertoire of social night club dances include locally defined and recognized socialized names such as the Graystone, urban Ballroom, Salsa, Cha Cha, the Bop Chop, the Social and Latin Hustle. The World Dance Council Ltd. defines suggest these formal dance styles range from Swing, American Rhythm, International Latin, Latin, novelty and fad dances. Their primary goal is to preserve the legacy, essence and integrity of African-American vernacular dances which are passed down informally generation to generation. Their participation ensures important informal dance characteristics; aesthetics and cultural nuisances are shared and expressed to dance professionals who may not have the opportunity in a formal setting.