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Maryland Youth Ballet Receives Stamp of Approval from the NEA
Outreach Initiative for Disadvantaged Children Awarded Grant



Silver Spring, MD: The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) selected Maryland Youth Ballet (MYB) as one of the 1,195 organizations nationwide, to receive funding. The NEA will award MYB \$10,000 to support JumpStart; the outreach initiative that aims to increase the racial and ethnic diversity in ballet as well as give at-risk children in the community access to formal dance training.

Competition for NEA grants is significant. In the round of funding for which MYB applied, the agency received 2,063 eligible applications. The importance of NEA funding is not only its monetary impact but also the recognition by the federal government of the programs' excellence.

MYB's JumpStart initiative, started in 2007, provides free afterschool ballet classes to girls and boys, grades 1-2, at several elementary schools in suburban Maryland within the Washington, DC metropolitan region. From about 200 afterschool students 20-25 are selected, based on talent, to participate in a summer dance intensive at MYB and from that group, those that exhibit real potential for success in ballet are offered full training scholarships to attend MYB's academy during the year.

This summer's weeklong dance intensive for selected JumpStart students runs June 19-23 with a culminating performance at MYB on Friday, June 23 at 3:00pm.

About Maryland Youth Ballet: For over 45 years, MYB has been successfully meeting its mission to prepare young dancers for a career in the performing arts as well as provide classes to dancers of all ages and levels in the metropolitan area. MYB has extended the reach and diversity of its ballet training by offering a program for physically-disabled children, by establishing an outreach initiative for disadvantaged children, by awarding training scholarships, and by offering professional quality performances that are accessible and affordable.

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