



Inspiring performance. Empowering children.

## LEAP UPDATES

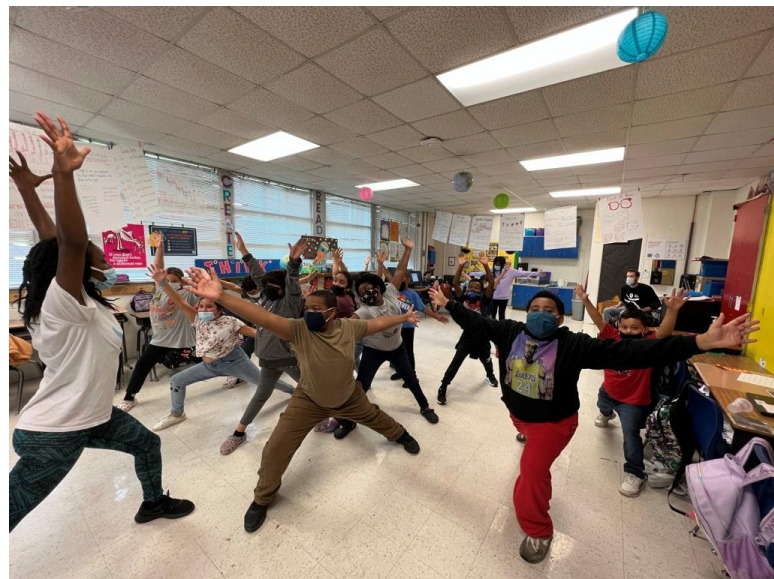
This year's LEAP (Learning Excellence and Perseverance) program began in September at City Ballet in Raleigh. Due to space considerations we have capped attendance at 25 students. Our NC AIA Ambassadors will be working with dancer, choreographer and a 2016 Bessie Award Winner for Innovative Achievement in Dance, Ephrat Asherie and her dance company this Spring at NC State University, along with other community engagements.

Our LEAP alumni meet on Saturday mornings to deepen their dance experience. We extend our deepest gratitude to City Ballet for the donated rehearsal space and support of our LEAP dancers.

## HOLT CELEBRATES 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

For the past 10 years, NC Arts in Action has partnered with Holt Elementary Language Academy to provide an innovative dance education program to fourth-grade students. Through this program, the children build confidence, learn teamwork, and experience the transformative power of the Arts.

We are delighted to celebrate this 10-year partnership with this school and celebrate all of our generous donors who help us continue the program at this Title 1 school in Durham.



Holt Elementary  
Photo credit: Marlon Torres

*"Arts in Action has been at Holt Elementary for 10 years! It is a pleasure to have a program that focuses not only on the arts but on all aspects of children's lives. We don't always get to see kids perform differently and outside of academics. With Arts in Action we get to see their creative sides, the shyest children come out of their shells, and just be who they are. With COVID and all the mental health challenges going on, Arts in Action is something that supports the mind, the body and the soul. Arts in Action is the way to go and we would love to see it in all the schools!" -Holt Elementary Principal Donya Jones*

## OUR SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

NC AIA kicked off our new year of programs by offering Summer Learning in 10 Durham schools. With funding from Durham Public Schools, we delivered a two-week intensive learning program for children in fourth grade. Students at each participating school learned about things move, animal adaptations, conservation, and space exploration. Students explored these concepts through dance and music and performed a final showcase at the two-week residency's end.



Millbrook Elementary  
Photo credit: MaryBeth Carpenter

Instruction was held in June at Eastway Elementary, Creekside Elementary, Forest View Elementary, Spring Valley Elementary, and Southwest Elementary, with their final showcases on June 24 and 25. The second summer session began on July 19 for students at WG Pearson, C.C. Spalding, Eno Valley, Hillandale and R.N. Harris. Final showcases were July 29 and 30.

In partnership with Durham Public Schools, NC AIA addressed the impact of COVID-19 on learning; improved learning outcomes by providing summer learning opportunities to targeted students; and cultivated partnerships to provide every student with a joyful, purposeful summer learning experience.

Our summer program evaluations showed that:

- **NC AIA elevates children's feelings and behaviors** – The data indicates that NC AIA helps to increase student's self-confidence and may help children feel more positive about exercising.
- **NC AIA helps children learn about new subjects** - Prior to the program, most children did not know more about armadillo adaptation, protecting the environment, or how the human body creates energy. After the program, there was greater understanding about these subjects.
- **Teachers have a positive view of the program** - Teachers saw a positive impact on children's self-confidence and felt that the program helped foster good relationships between students and teachers.

Connect with us:



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## THANK YOU!

Thanks to the many contributors who have given generously to support our mission!

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## END OF YEAR APPEAL- Keep 'Em Dancing

As 2021 draws to a close, we ask our supporters to help keep our 1400 students dancing and learning with NC Arts in Action across four counties this year. Our innovative dance program is active with live programming in 13 Title 1 schools, one after school program at Club Roar, through Durham Public School's Ignite! Online Academy, and on Saturdays with children participating in our LEAP Team. We have reached 11,200 students with direct instruction since our inception 16 years ago.

Our program continues with live instruction and live music inside the schools this year, and our residencies are moving forward while dealing with the challenges of COVID restrictions in each school and each district. This year we added two new Durham elementary schools to our 16-week in-school program, in addition to our current programs at Holt and Lakewood Elementary Schools. We will reach 200 more students in Durham at Merrick Moore and Eastway Elementary Schools. These 200 new students have joined the children already active in our programs in other Title 1 schools across Wake, Durham, Orange and Chatham counties. All children, including those with disabilities, are included in our program.

Please help us maintain our programs during this transition time as we help children succeed through the unique and transformative power of dance and music.

The cost of supporting one child through a 16-session Arts in Action residency is \$320. As a tax-exempt nonprofit, we rely on donations from generous individuals like you to ensure our students have free access to arts education programs like ours that inspire and build confidence in children. Please make your gift today!

## SAVE THE DATE- APRIL 30 GALA

Mark your calendars now for NC Arts in Action's annual Gala event to be held April 30 at the North Carolina Museum of Art. This celebration will feature great food, cocktails and a silent auction. More details will come this winter so please save the date and plan to attend.



York Elementary School  
Photo credit: Marlon Torres

## IGNITE! ONLINE ACADEMY

NC AIA is one of the very few community organizations invited to join Durham's Ignite! Online Academy. We added a curriculum-integrated dance component, presented as an Ignite! Arts Expedition with this school year. The NC AIA's Arts Expedition program is serving two groups of students in grades 3 to 5 and 6 to 8.

Two expeditions took place in the Fall, beginning in September, for a total of seven weeks, and ended in late October. Two more expeditions will take place during the Winter/Spring session, starting in January, for a total of nine weeks.

During the first semester Dance Arts Expedition, students focused on the "Elements of Dance," and how dancing relates to Newton's Laws of Motion! As the dancers proceeded through the course they gained a better understanding of how to create a dance of their own. Whether they have dreams to be a TikTok Star, Broadway Dancer, Ballerina, or HipHip Artist, all students learned dances created with these fundamental elements taught by our trained Teaching Artists committed to teaching with excellence.

## OUR MISSION

To empower children in elementary schools statewide through dance and live music programs accessible to all students regardless of abilities and socio-economic status.

North Carolina Arts in Action is for children in underserved elementary schools who do not have the opportunity to participate in a high quality in-school performing arts program. We provide curriculum integrated dance residencies with live music using an award-winning teaching methodology that develops life skills such as self-esteem, self-discipline, resilience, teamwork and perseverance. Unlike other organizations which focus only on optional afterschool programming, NC AIA provides a critically acclaimed arts education program that instills a love for dance and music, builds life skills and is accessible to all students.

On behalf of the Board, Staff, and children we serve, thank you for your support. NC AIA believes that participation in the arts promotes self-confidence, builds self-esteem, self-discipline, tenacity and a commitment to excellence. Please donate today by check or online!



Millbrook Elementary  
Photo credit: MaryBeth Carpenter