



## **SCHOOL YEAR END APPEAL**

### **Help us meet our goal**

As our program winds down for the year, we ask for your support in helping us meet our operational budget for the year. We seek to raise an additional \$30,000 before our fiscal year ends on June 30 and ask for your continued support in the next six weeks. Your contribution helps us sustain seven underserved schools in Wake County and three in Orange, Durham and Chatham counties. On behalf of the children we serve, NC Arts in Action teachers, musicians and staff, we extend our deepest appreciation. If you have already contributed, we thank you. If you haven't yet given this year, please help by making a gift online or via a check in the mail. Thank you for giving our 1,000 children in four counties a wonderful experience again this year.

On behalf of the Board, Staff and children we serve, thank you for your continued support. NC Arts in Action 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.

[WWW.NCARTSINACTION.ORG](http://WWW.NCARTSINACTION.ORG)

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SPRING  
2017



# NORTH CAROLINA ARTS IN ACTION

Helping children reach their full potential  
one dance step at a time

NC Arts in Action (NC AIA) is an internationally acclaimed in-school, curriculum-based, performing arts program for elementary students. The program is directed at developing life skills such as self-esteem, teamwork, and focus among underserved students in Title 1 schools. We provide dance teaching from certified instructors, live music, and allow students rigorous exercise. NC AIA benefits schools in Durham, Orange, Wake and Chatham counties.

## LEAP PROGRAM CONCLUDES WITH NASHER PERFORMANCE MAY 21

Our LEAP dancers (Learning Excellence and perseverance) will showcase their skills at the Nasher Museum of Art on Duke University's campus on May 21 at 2:30 p.m. These students, who are our Arts in Action Ambassadors, participated in our program as it was launched in Wake County as a pilot program this past year. Teachers report that students who typically struggle in a traditional classroom often excel in Arts in Action, discover new talents about themselves, gain confidence and increase their ability to focus in school. These exceptionally achieving dancers now continue to enhance these important life skills after the fourth grade in the tuition-free Saturday LEAP Team program.

Program manager Kim Demery, a music educator in the community, was retained in Fall 2016 and has direct responsibility to manage and expand the reach of our LEAP program. Our program was active in Chapel Hill since 2013 and was launched in Wake County at the Brentwood Boys and Girls Club in November 2016.

All LEAP dancers learn complex choreography created expressly for them and they serve as role models for their peers at school and Ambassadors of our program in their communities. Our Teaching Artist teams consist of a lead teacher/choreographer, an assistant teacher and a musician, who lead groups of dancers at the Saturday program.

Other performances by the LEAP team this Winter and Spring included:

- York Elementary School Game Night – January
- Knightdale High School Dress rehearsal and Performance - March
- Marbles Museum – March
- Millbrook Elementary School Science Night – March
- NC School of Science and Math – April

Congratulations to our LEAP Dancers on a successful year!

Photo Credits: MaryBeth Carpenter

## COMPLETING ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR:

Our program concludes for the year in ten schools and four counties

In early May, we held our final performance for Pittsboro Elementary School, completing a year in which 1,000 fourth grade students were directly served in ten Title 1 schools in Wake, Durham, Orange and Chatham Counties.

We launched our program at Baileywick and at Rolesville Elementary Schools this winter in Wake County. NC Arts in Action helps children reach their full potential using performing arts as the catalyst to build focus, discipline, self-esteem, teamwork and leadership among underserved students in Title 1 schools. We have directly served 5,600 children since our program began 12 years ago.



**“Yesterday the kids were exhausted but focused after Arts in Action. They look forward to it and need it.**

**When we don't have Arts in Action we have an off day.”**

*– A fourth grade teacher at Lake Myra Elementary*



“My students get so excited for the AIA program on Thursdays and their behavior for the rest of the day is dramatically different. They are happy, positive, focused, and respectful! You guys have made a huge difference in the lives of these kids and you give them something to really be proud of themselves about.”

*- Fourth grade Wake County teacher at York Elementary*

## THE TRAINING OF AN ARTS IN ACTION TEACHER

It takes at least three years to train an effective NC Arts in Action teaching artist. The journey of an Arts in Action teacher begins with the introduction to the genius work of legendary ballet dancer Jacques d'Amboise and the teaching techniques that he invented. Developed over 40 years of working with inner-city children, his techniques have become a methodology disseminated across the world by teaching artists who share his vision and have mastered his basic techniques. Teachers trained by Jacques and the National Dance Institute's Master Teachers, have had great success using the NDI methodology and the arts to transform the lives of children with diverse backgrounds and abilities. From preparing to meet the children, working with them every week for 16-20 to weeks, the performance, and the wrap-up classes, Arts in Action teachers rely on their continued training to make the experience for every child in the fourth grade a successful and joyful one.

Our instructors are professional dancers and musicians trained in NDI's unique, award-winning pedagogy. Every summer and throughout the year, Arts in Action teachers participate in professional development through NDI in New York, including a two-week intensive workshop that enables our instructors to study NDI's renowned teaching methodology. Providing ongoing professional development is key to ensuring the highest quality teaching and artistry.



## WHAT MAKES AN EXCELLENT ARTS IN ACTION TEACHING ARTIST?

### ENERGY

Energy bursts out of the NC AIA teachers who are ruled by the conviction that what they are teaching is invaluable. Teaching and demonstrating with 100% physical energy models one's commitment to setting high expectations.

### PASSION

NC AIA teachers possess a passion for their art form and for the pursuit of excellence as well as a desire to teach life and learning skills while teaching dance.

### COMMITMENT

NC AIA teachers possess a commitment to setting high expectations for each individual student and for the class as a whole.

### HONESTY

NC AIA teachers are always honest with the children and share true observations in a loving, caring fashion.

### RESPECT

Communicating honestly, in a straightforward way, the NC AIA teacher demonstrates respect for the dancers. We always tell the children that respectful behavior is just as important as excellent dancing.

### BELIEF IN EVERY CHILD

NC AIA teachers believe that excellence resides in every child.