STEP AFRiKA!

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

STEP AFRiKA!

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Step Afrika! Family,

Wow, 2016/2017 was such a game changing season for Step Afrika! I am so proud of our artists, staff, Board and supporters for their teamwork and commitment in making the season such a remarkable success for our audiences and students. I am delighted to share this review of the season with you. Some of my personal highlights were…

- Our performance of *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence* at UDC Theatre of the Arts and the subsequent national tour of the production represented the culmination of 5 years of artistic development. It was a great honor to share the performance across the country during the centennial of Jacob Lawrence's birth and to see the impact of our performances on diverse audiences from Atlanta to Minnesota.
- The opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and Step Afrika!'s invitation to create an interactive stepping exhibit was also a very special moment for me personally and for stepping as an art form. Thank you to everyone who has shared their interaction with the exhibit with us through social media. We are honored every day to see thousands of DC residents and visitors following along with the artists and learning about the tradition of stepping.
- Engaging 27,217 young people in DC, MD and VA through Stepping into Schools. Every day we are in the schools inspiring our students and motivating them to strive for academic success takes me back to the first stepping class I taught at 7th and P Streets NW. The Company has grown so much, yet we still remain true to our mission of using stepping as a tool to educate our young people

We are excited to carry this momentum forward to our 2017/2018 season with some amazing firsts for Step Afrika! – our first national grant from the Knight Foundation, first Off-Broadway run and first Stepping Festival in DC to name just a few. I look forward to sharing these and many more great moments with you throughout the coming season.

Best wishes,

C. Brian Williams, Founder and Executive Director

STEP AFRiKA!

NATIONAL TOUR

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS

1. University of Mount Union, Alliance, OH
2. Washington State Comm. College, Marietta, OH
3. Pittsburgh State University, Pittsburgh, KS
4. Western State University, St. Joseph, MO
5. Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH
6. Goshen College, Goshen, IN
7. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
8. W. Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT
9. Furman University, Greensville, SC
10. Iowa State University, Ames, IA
11. Iowa Wesleyan University, Mt. Pleasant, IA
12. Chatham University, Pittsburgh, PA
13. University of Albany, Albany, NY
14. Frederick Community College, Frederick, MD
15. Heritage Center, Dubuque, IA
16. Salem State University, Salem, MA
17. E. Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT
18. S. Milwaukee PAC, S. Milwaukee, WI
19. S. Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT
20. University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, PA
21. Emory and Henry College, Emory, VA
22. Armstrong State University, Savannah, GA
23. Berry College, Atlanta, GA
24. Door Community Auditorium, Fish Creek, WI
25. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
26. Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC
27. University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC
28. Converse College, Spartenburg, SC
29. Coker College, Hartsville, SC

Step Afrika! performed at 67 US Colleges, Universities and Performing Arts Centers in 2016/2017 promoting stepping, the arts and commitment to higher education and serving more than 30,000 students.

STEP AFRiKA!

NATIONAL TOUR

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS contd.

30. NC Central University, Durham, NC
31. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
32. Broward PAC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
33. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
34. Dominican University PAC, Forest, IL
35. Benedicta Arts Center, St. Josephs, MN
36. University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN
37. Clemson University, Clemson, SC
38. Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA
39. Harris Stowe State University, St. Louis, MO
40. Arkansas Polytechnic University, Russellville, AR
41. Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA
42. Towson State University, Towson, MD
43. Millersville University, Millersville, PA
44. Prince George's Community College, Largo, MD
45. Connecticut College, New London, CT
46. Lander University, Greenwood, SC
47. Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC
48. Radford University, Radford, VA
49. Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA
50. Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA
51. Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona, FL
52. Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL
53. Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, VA
54. Morehead State University, Morehead, KY
55. Children's Theatre, Charlotte, NC
56. Air Force Academy, CO
57. University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY
58. Lincoln Center, New York, NY
59. Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY
60. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS contd.

61. Strand Capitol PAC, York, PA
62. Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA
63. Texas A&M, College Station, TX
64. Brooklyn PAC, Brooklyn, NY
65. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
66. Clemens Center, Elmira, NY
67. Southern New Hampshire University, NH

Stepping into Schools

1. SEED School, Washington DC
2. Johnson Middle School, Washington DC
3. DC DYRS Youth Services Center, Washington DC
4. Bruce Monroe Elementary School, Washington DC
5. Kelly Miller Middle School, Washington DC
6. Takoma Park Elementary School, Washington DC
7. Stokes Public Charter School, Washington DC
8. Tyler Elementary School, Washington DC
9. Sherwood Elementary School, Sandy Spring, MD
10. Bannockburn Elementary School, Bethesda, MD
11. Ronald McNair Elementary School, Germantown, MD
12. Waples Mill Elementary School, Oakton, VA
13. Louis Archer Elementary School, Vienna, VA
14. Girl Scouts of the National Capital Region, Washington DC
15. Highlandtown Elementary School, Baltimore, MD
16. Evangel Cathedral Bishop Chapel, Upper Marlboro, MD
17. Takoma Park Education Campus, Washington DC
18. Marie Reed Elementary School, Washington DC
19. Eaton Elementary School, Washington, DC
20. Roosevelt High School, Washington DC
21. Shining Star Montessori School, Washington, DC
22. McKinley Tech Education Campus, Washington, DC
23. LaSalle-Backus Education Campus, Washington DC
24. Maury Elementary School, Washington DC
25. Promise Academy, Washington DC
26. Malcolm X Elementary School, Washington DC
27. Ketcham Elementary School, Washington DC
28. KIPP DC-Heights Academy, Washington DC
29. Murch Elementary School, Washington, DC
30. Paint Branch High School, Burtonsville, MD
31. Briggs Chaney Middle School, Silver Spring, MD
32. Good Hope United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, MD
33. Francis Scott Middle School, Silver Spring, MD
34. Warren Elementary School, Cockeysville, MD
35. Chapel District Elementary School, Cordova, MD

STEP AFRiKA!
STEPPING INTO SCHOOLS

- 26,872 students attended Stepping with Step Afrika! in school performance and workshop
- 270 students completed a Step Up to College residency
- 75 students attended Summer Steps with Step Afrika! Camp
- 41% Boys / 59% Girls
- 48% African American / 19% White / 23% Latinx / 8% Asian American / 2% Other
- 325 students participated in a Step Shop Creativity Workshop

Stepping into Schools contd.

36. Central Elementary School, Edgewater, MD
37. Massie Academy, Forestville, MD
38. Carrolton Elementary School, New Carrolton, MD
39. Lamont Elementary School, New Carrolton, MD
40. Cold Spring Elementary School, Potomac, MD
41. Westminster Elementary School, Westminster, MD
42. Whitehall Elementary School, Bowie, MD
43. Southern Middle School, Lusby, MD
44. Holton-Arms School, Bethesda, MD
45. Glenmount Elementary School, Baltimore, MD
46. Baltimore School for the Arts, Baltimore, MD
47. Stevens Forest Elementary School, Columbia, MD
48. Strathmore Elementary School, Silver Spring, MD
49. Stoneleigh Elementary School, Baltimore, MD
50. Cedar Lane School, Fulton, MD
51. Clearspring Elementary School, Damascus, MD
52. Montgomery County Correctional Facility, Boyds, MD
53. Sangster Elementary School, Springfield, MD
54. Templeton Elementary School, Riverdale, MD
55. William Winchester Elementary School, Westminster, MD
56. Mechanicsville Elementary School, Sykesville, MD
57. Friendship Valley Elementary School, Westminster, MD
58. Bel Pre Elementary School, Silver Spring, MD
59. Highland View Elementary School, Silver Spring, MD
60. Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, Clinton, MD
61 Mill Creek Elementary School, Rockville, MD
62 Dranesville Elementary School, Herndon, VA
63 Mason Crest Elementary School, Annandale, VA
64 Campbell Elementary School, Arlington, VA
65 Henry Elementary School, Arlington, VA
66 Gunston Middle School, Arlington, VA
67 Jamestown Elementary School, Arlington, VA
68 Foxcroft School, Middleburg, VA
69 Taylor Elementary School, Arlington, VA
70 Armstrong Elementary School, Reston, VA
71 The Potomac School, McLean, VA
72 McKinley Elementary School, Arlington, VA

STEP AFRiKA!

"The Step Afrika! residency was fun, challenging and rewarding and definitely something we plan doing again."

"I have been told by the vice principal and many teachers that this is one of THE best assemblies I've ever brought in--and I've been doing it for 7 years! The fact that they got ALL the kids to participate and be engaged made the difference. The history of the gum boot dancing was fascinating! The discussion of the importance of fraternities and sororities was refreshing, too. Great job!"

STEP AFRiKA!

THE MIGRATION: REFLECTIONS ON JACOB LAWRENCE

The Migration: Relfection on Jacob Lawrence

In September 2016, Step Afrika!'s acclaimed production of *The Migration* returned to the DC stage in celebration of the centennial of Jacob Lawrence's birth.

More than 900 DC, MD and VA audiences enjoyed the performances at the UDC Theatre of the Arts presented in partnership with Washington Performing Arts.

Following the DC performances *The Migration* began a national tour to:

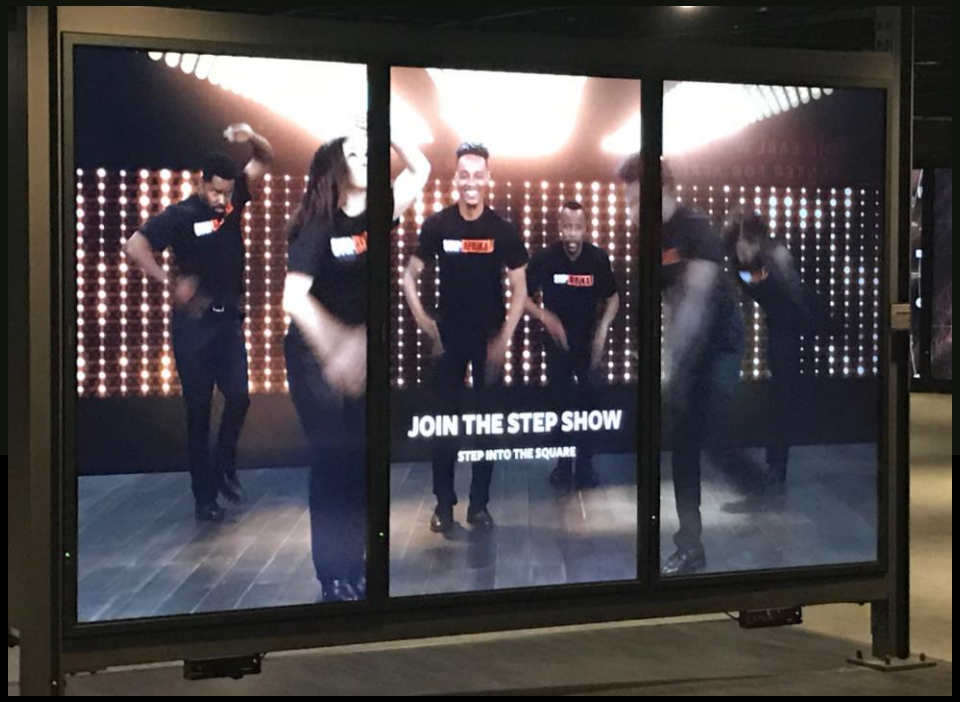
- The National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta
- Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa
- Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, St. Paul
- Annenberg Center, Philadelphia
- Meany Hall, University of Washington, Seattle
- Krannert Center, Urbana-Champaign

The Migration was made possible through commissioning support from Washington Performing Arts; Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa; The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at Illinois; Ordway Center for the Performing Arts; and Meany Hall for the Performing Arts at University of Washington, Seattle.

Images from Jacob Lawrence's "The Migration Series" generously provided by The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC and the Jacob and Gwendolyn Knight Lawrence Foundation, Seattle/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

STEP AFRiKA!

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE



Step Afrika! Exhibit at the National Museum of African American History and Culture

Step Afrika!'s exhibit in the Museum opened in September 2016. During the Company's 2016/2017 season thousands of visitors to the Museum engaged with stepping and shared their experiences on social media.

Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show

Who wants to sit still and be quiet for the Holidays?

Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show returned to the Atlas Performing Arts Center for its 6th year in December 2016. The dynamic artists of Step Afrika! and their friends Polo, Pinky, Poppa and DJ Frosty the Snowman enchanted the audience with the *Snow Day*, *The Frosty Shuffle* and *Home for the Holidays*. 2,959 DC, MD and VA residents and visitors enjoyed this annual festive tradition on H Street NE.

Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show: Audience Response

- "From the warm welcome at the door, where we were invited to decorate noise makers, to the final bows where the cast invited everyone onto the "stage" floor for photos, this was a friendly, warm get-in-the-holiday spirit event."
- "What a wonderful performance! The stepper were truly talented and it was a great show for both the adults and kids with lots of audience participation! We will be back next year."
- "Oh my, this was a great show!! Was interactive with the audience and even had the audience participate in the DJ Frosty Jam. Prior to the show we had to opportunity to make a drum, rattle or shaker too!! I LOVED the show. Just wish it was even longer. This will become a new holiday tradition!!!"

STEP AFRiKA!

STEP XPLOSION SUMMER 2016

"I just want to thank you and express my appreciation for your community connection, which is so needed in our city and world today."

The fourth annual Step Xplosion tour visited venues in all 8 Wards and culminated in a traditional Step Show. 1,377 DC residents enjoyed a Step Afrika! performance or creative workshop in their neighborhood.

Step Xplosion Venues

Ward 1 – Mt. Pleasant Library
Ward 2 – PEPCO Edison Place Gallery
Ward 3 – CityDance POP!
Ward 4 – Raymond Recreation Center
Ward 5 – Lamond-Riggs Library
Ward 6 – Blind Whino
Ward 7 – Boys and Girls Clubs
Ward 8 – THEARC

"I just love how the audience was able to be apart of the event. My daughter was still doing the moves the next morning!"

"I brought family members who had never seen a performance. They were in awe of the production and the involvement with the audience."

STEP AFRiKA!

STEP XPLOSION WINTER 2017

Step Afrika! Step Xplosion

Step Afrika! celebrated Black History Month with its third annual Maryland Step Xplosion presented by The Music Center at Strathmore. The event sold out well in advance and a standing room only crowd of more than 1,500 packed the main concert hall.

Step Xplosion Step Teams

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Beta Chapter, Dem Raider Boyz, HYPE 3G, The Lady Raiders, QuaDrew and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.

STEP AFRiKA!

SPECIAL EVENTS
VIP GALA

Step Afrika! VIP Gala

June 1, 2017

Gala Chairs: Marc K. Battle and Bill and Daphne Jarvis

Gala Committee: Brady Birdsong, Ran Borgersen, Dyonicia Brown, Beverly J. Burke, Jacqueline N. Francis and Patricia Howell.

Step Afrika!'s 6th annual VIP Gala raised $186,940 to help young students across the DC area develop their creative skills and learn Step Afrika!'s core values of teamwork, commitment and discipline at the 2017 Summer Steps with Step Afrika! camp.

Step Afrika!'s Board were joined by DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs, Charon Hines; DC Commission of the Arts and Humanities Chair, Kay Kendall, Detroit CFO John Hill and more than 250 Friends of Step Afrika!, to celebrate an incredibly successful year for the Company in inimitable style.

STEP AFRiKA!

SPECIAL EVENTS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Step Afrika!'s 22nd Birthday Party

December 4, 2016

Honorary Chairs: Councilmember Charles Allen, Councilmember Yvette Alexander, Councilmember Anita Bonds, Councilmember David Grosso, Councilmember LaRuby May, Councilmember Kenyon McDuffie, Councilmember Brandon Todd, and Councilmember Robert White

Presenting Chair: Marc K. Battle

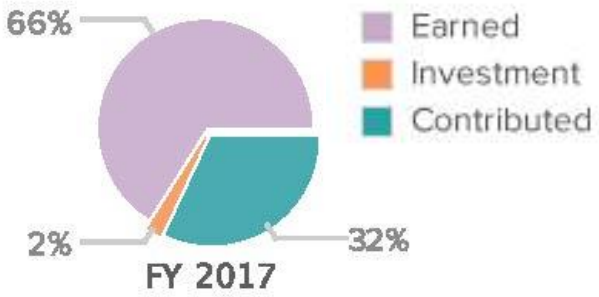
Chairs: C. Brian Williams, Lamont Akins, Brady Birdsong, Kiel Chesley
Bobette Gillette and Beth Henson

Host Committee: Makeda Abraham, Robert Bacon, Kimberly Bassett, Dyonicia Brown, Cheryl Anne Boyce, Ian Callender, Courtney Edmonds, Althea Evans, Dezmond Evans, Donnel Jones, Josette Kelley, DeMarco McMillian, Traci Miller, Latrena Owens, Karen Parker, Troy Patterson, Anesia Sandifer, Curtis Shearin, Andrew Vinson, Angela Wiggins, Frank Williams, Eliot Williamson

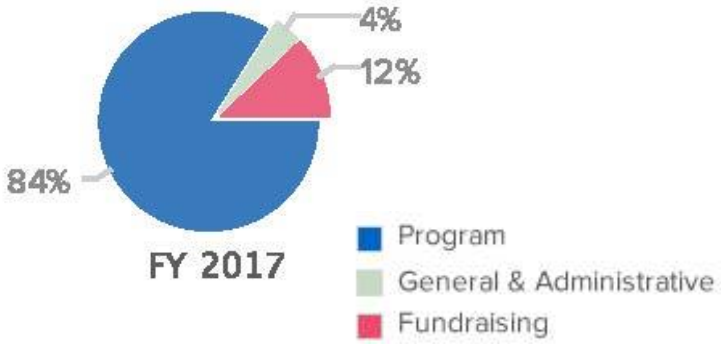
Step Afrika!'s 22nd Birthday Party, generously hosted by PEPCO Edison Place Gallery raised $29,439 to support the Company's performances and arts education programs. Guests enjoyed music and dancing with Step Afrika!'s artists, ice luge shots, catering by Corcoran Caterers and Silent Auction featuring DC theatre tickets, hotel stays, wine, chocolates and art work.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REVENUE 2016/2017



EXPENSE 2016/2017



STEP AFRIKA!
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JULY 31, 2017

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$	525,125
Investments		319,234
Accounts receivable		36,166
Prepaid expenses		29,673
Total current assets		910,198
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and equipment		73,475
Less accumulated depreciation		(55,423)
Total property and equipment		18,052
OTHER ASSETS		
Other assets		2,000
TOTAL ASSETS	$	930,250

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$	8,077
Accrued liabilities		27,779
Deferred revenue		287,399
Total current liabilities		323,255
NET ASSETS		
Total Unrestricted Net Assets		606,995
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	$	930,250

STEP AFRiKA!

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all the artists, staff and students of Step Afrika! thank you very much for your friendship and your generous support.

Step Afrika!'s 2016/2017 season was our most ambitious season ever! We hired 7 new full time artists, bringing our total company to 17, and launched an incredibly successful national tour of *The Migration. The Migration* will continue to tour next season with our first ever Off-Broadway appearance and an exciting project in Detroit through the Knight Arts Challenge.

At home in DC, our 2017/2018 Step Xplosion program will activate under-used spaces across DC, including the inaugural Step Fest at Kingman and Heritage Islands. And, of course, we will continue our commitment to our City's young people at schools in all 8 Wards.

Step Afrika! is extremely committed to innovative performances on stage and to making a difference in the lives of students and audiences everywhere. And none of this work could be done without you...on behalf of our audience, students and artists, many thanks for your generosity!

Best wishes,

Marc K. Battle
Chair, Board of Directors

STEP AFRiKA!

BOARD, STAFF AND ARTISTS

Board of Directors

Marc K. Battle, Chair
Brady Birdsong, Vice Chair
Angela Wiggins, Secretary
Ran Borgersen, Treasurer

Neil Albert
Kimberly Bassett
Dyonicia Brown
Beverly Burke
Jacqueline N. Francis
John Hill
Patricia Howell
Allen Orr
Troy L. Patterson
W. Lynn Wallace
C. Brian Williams
Conrad Woody

Staff

C. Brian Williams, Founder and Executive Director
Joanne Coutts, Deputy Director
Alorie Clark, Arts Education Manager
Barrett Kinsella, Marketing and Development Manager
Jonathan Alexander, Production Manager

Patricia Kelsick-Fasusi, Bookkeeper
Eliot Williamson, Development Consultant

Artists

Mfoniso Akpan, Artistic Director
State University of New York, Stony Brook
Christopher Brient, **Assistant Artistic Director**
Texas A & M University

Reginald Barrington, Bowie State University
Emanuel Chacon, University of Delaware
Deatrice Clark, Howard University
Matthew Evans, Elizabeth City State University
Kiera Harley, Towson University
Joe Murchison, University of Central Oklahoma
Anesia Sandifer, University of Georgia
Brittny Smith, Texas Southern University
Jordan Spry, Howard University
Andrew Vinson Jr., Elizabeth City State University
TaQuez Whitted, Elizabeth City State University
Jerel Williams, Tallahassee Community College

Teaching Artists

LaDraveous Lee, Florida Atlantic University
Maurice Pough, Alabama State University

Contact Information

Step Afrika!

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202.399.7993 ext. 112, www.stepafrika.org