



STEP AFRiKA!

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

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Dear Step Afrika! Family,

Wow, what an incredible season! I am so proud of Step Afrika!'s artists, staff, Board and supporters for making our 22nd season such an amazing success. As you read the following pages you will see just how much Step Afrika!'s impact has grown locally, nationally and globally since I first started the Company in 1994. Some of my personal highlights from the season were...

- Our 4th International Youth Exchange in Croatia and 2nd year of bringing students from DC Public Schools to learn stepping with their European peers and experience a different country and culture. The 10 young women from schools across DC were fantastic Ambassadors for our city, they gave 100% participation and showed the Step Afrika! values of teamwork, commitment and discipline throughout the program.
- The return of our National Tour to my hometown, Houston, Texas was also a special moment, more than 4,000 people packed the Miller Outdoor Theatre for a high energy evening of stepping under the stars.
- Inspiring 23,228 young people in DC, MD and VA through Stepping into Schools. Our expanded Company of 5 part-time teaching artists showed their dedication to helping our young people achieve their potential in stepping and in life.
- And, finally, of course, I was deeply honored to bring Step Afrika! to The White House to perform at the Black History Month Reception for President Obama and the First Lady. It was a truly historic occasion for the Company and for the art form of stepping. We were all deeply moved and grateful for the opportunity.

There is still work to be done, your engagement with Step Afrika! drives me to work even harder in our 2016/2017 season. Thank you so very much for your support. I look forward to catching up with you soon.

Best wishes,



C. Brian Williams, Founder and Executive Director

STEP AFRiKA!

INTERNATIONAL TOUR



Step Afrika! serves as DC's official Cultural Ambassador representing DC at performances, festivals and cultural exchange programs around the world.

2015/2016 International Tour:

Jazz Fest Caribbean Cruise, Uruguay, Bermuda, Oman, Israel, Slovenia, Croatia and Romania



STEP AFRiKA!

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE



The second Washington DC class of Step Afrika!'s International Youth Exchange, the #Crosistahs, traveled with the Company to Zagreb, Croatia in April 2016 for an intensive week of stepping and cross cultural exchange with 100 of their European peers...



STEP AFRiKA!

NATIONAL TOUR

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS

1. National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta GA
2. Folly Theatre, Kansas MO
3. Miller Outdoor Theatre, Houston TX
4. Georgia Regents University, Augusta GA
5. After Dark, Washington DC
6. Goodrich Chapel, Albion MI
7. Lyric Opera, Baltimore MD
8. Ball State University, Muncie IN
9. Harman Center for the Arts, Washington DC
10. NACA Mid-Atlantic, Buffalo NY
11. Huston-Tillotson University, Austin TX
12. Assn. of Black Storytellers, Washington DC
13. Appalacian State University, Boone NC
14. Culp Auditorium, Johnson City TN
15. Mellon Arts Center, Wallingford CT
16. The Music Center at Strathmore, Bethesda MD
17. Brooklyn Performing Arts Center, Brooklyn NY
18. Oakland University, Rochester MI
19. Kirkland Performing Arts Center, Decatur IL
20. Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff AZ
21. Indiana University, Kokoma IN
22. Illinois College, Jacksonville IL
23. University of North Carolina, Greensboro NC
24. South Miami Dade Arts Center, Miami FL
25. Salisbury University, Salisbury MD
26. The White House, Washington DC
27. Eckerd College, St. Petersburg FL
28. Whales Arts Center, Lakeland FL
29. NACA National, Louisville KY

Step Afrika! performed at 44 US Colleges, Universities and Performing Arts Centers in 2015/2016 promoting stepping, the arts and commitment to higher education and serving more than 30,000 students.



STEP AFRİKA!

NATIONAL TOUR

COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTERS contd.

30. Averett University, Danville FL
31. University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth MA
32. Hamilton College, Clinton NY
33. University of South Carolina, Columbia SC
34. East Carolina University, Greenville NC
35. Pennsylvania State University, Abington PA
36. University of Delaware, Newark DE
37. Peace Center, Greenville SC
38. University of Maryland, College Park MD
39. Eastern Region Alpha Phi Alpha, Pittsburgh PA
40. Western New England University, Springfield MA
41. Framingham State University, Framingham MA
42. Bardavon Opera House, Poughkeepsie NY
43. Cobo Center, Detroit MI
44. Imagination Stage, Knoxville TN

“The performance kept members of the audience mesmerized. Incorporating skits and stories into step routines...Step Afrika! gave the crowd the rare opportunity of stepping into a world of fun, education and music. Most importantly, Step Afrika! taught audience members about a key component of African American life, culture and history.” Kyandrea Jones, *The Spectator*

PRESS

Hamilton College

[Step Afrika! thrills audience in night of interactive fun](#)

Kirkland Performing Arts Center

[Step Afrika puts foot down about education](#)



Stepping into Schools

1. Anne Beers Elementary, Washington DC
2. Johnson Middle School, Washington DC
3. Langley Elementary School, Washington DC
4. Kingsbury Day School, Washington DC
5. Malcolm X Opportunity Center, Washington DC
6. Maret School, Washington DC
7. Georgetown Day School, Washington DC
8. Jefferson Academy, Washington DC
9. Garfield Elementary, Washington DC
10. Woodland Terrace Community Center, Washington DC
11. Walter S. Mills Parole, Annapolis, MD
12. Cross Country Elementary School, Baltimore, MD
13. Norwood School, Bethesda, MD
14. Gaithersburg Middle School, Gaithersburg, MD
15. Farmland Elementary School, North Bethesda, MD
16. Ritchie Elementary School, Rockville MD
17. Flora Singer Elementary School, Silver Spring MD
18. Oakland Terrace Elementary School, Silver Spring MD
19. Barrett Elementary School, Arlington, VA
20. Hoffman Boston Elementary School, Arlington VA
21. Herndon United Methodist, Herndon, VA
22. Murch Elementary School, Washington DC
23. Center City Public Charter School, Washington DC
24. Washington Metropolitan High School, Washington DC
25. SEED School, Washington DC
26. New Community for Children, Washington DC
27. Tyler Elementary School, Washington DC
28. Hart Middle School, Washington DC
29. Good Hope United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, MD
30. Briggs Chaney Middle School, Silver Spring, MD
31. Paint Branch High School, Burtonsville, MD
32. Garfield Elementary School, Washington DC
33. Secondary Transition Forum, Washington DC
34. Dumbarton Church, Washington DC
35. Cedar Tree Elementary School, Washington DC

STEP AFRiKA!

STEPPING INTO SCHOOLS

- 23,228 students attended Stepping with Step Afrika! in school performance and workshop
- 192 students completed a Step Up to College residency
- 150 students attended Summer Steps with Step Afrika! Camp
- 10 female high school students from DC Public Schools traveled to Croatia for the International Youth Exchange
- 60 students participated in a Step Shop Creativity Workshop



Stepping into Schools contd.

36. Ketcham Elementary School, Washington DC
37. KIPP Promise Academy, Washington DC
38. Rolling Terrace Elementary School, Washington DC
39. Carlos Rosario Intl. Public Charter, Washington DC
40. Rock Creek Valley Elementary School, Rockville, MD
41. Waters Landing Elementary School, Germantown, MD
42. Randallstown Elementary School, Randallstown, MD
43. Montgomery County Correctional Facility, MD
44. Severn School, Chesapeake Campus, Arnold, MD
45. Highlandtown Elementary School, Baltimore, MD
46. Sligo Creek Elementary School, Silver Spring, MD
47. Davis Library, Bethesda, MD
48. Seven Locks Elementary School, Bethesda, MD
49. Meade Middle School, Fort Meade, MD
50. Greencastle Elementary School, Silver Spring, MD
51. Wayne Elementary School, Wayne, PA
52. Beaumont Elementary School, Wayne, PA
53. Radnor Middle School, Wayne, PA
54. Hillside Elementary School, Wayne, PA
55. Devon Elementary School, Devon, PA
56. Tredyffrin Easttown Middle School, Berwyn, PA
57. Valley Forge Elementary School, Wayne, PA
58. Valley Forge Middle School, Wayne, PA
59. Tuscarora High School, Leesburg, VA
60. Little Run Elementary School, Fairfax, VA
61. Dranesville Elementary School, Herndon, VA

STEP AFRiKA!

“It was fantastic that the artists could talk about their education and careers in addition to their stepping skills. I enjoyed the connections to the historical aspects when performers discussed origins of stepping.” – Ms. Lee, Hillside Elementary School

“Stepping is a useful tool for academic success because it combines physical discipline with collaboration and sense of belonging and pride.” – Ms. Norell, Greencastle Elementary School

93% of students said they learned the definition and history of stepping, 80% identified the core values as a take away from the performance and 41% mentioned the connection between stepping and African dance as something new they had learned from seeing Step Afrika!

“After seeing Step Afrika! the students were stepping in the hallways.” – Ms. Spears, Severn School



STEP AFRiKA!

WHITE HOUSE PERFORMANCE



Step Afrika! at The White House

In February 2016 Step Afrika! was honored to be the featured performer at President Obama's Black History Month Reception. The Company performed *Tribute* and *Wade* in the East Room for more than 200 guests.

Step Afrika! was overjoyed by the response from friends and fans from DC, across the country and around the world...as a result our Facebook page reached more than 1.5 million people and received more than 700K views.



STEP AFRiKA!

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 5th year in December 2015. 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*. More than 2,600 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

- "We loved that the show was so inclusive for kids while keeping the adults equally captivated."
- "The show was exceptional...loved the part where the audience got to come on the floor and participate. I thought this was a wonderful Holiday family event."
- "Singing, dancing and stepping to Christmas favorites and hip hop hits. Fun for the young, the old and all those in between."
- "Step Afrika! were amazing! I had a great time! Expect to get up and dance - it was like going to a party, for real! A lot of crowd participation, not just with dancing but with various noisemakers and clapping and stomping. Really fun night!"

STEP AFRiKA!

STEP XPLOSION SUMMER 2015



Step Afrika! Step Xplosion

The third annual Step Xplosion tour visited venues in all 8 Wards and culminated in a traditional Step Show highlighting the wealth of stepping talent in DC, Maryland and Virginia. More than 1,700 DC residents enjoyed the energy and excitement of a Step Afrika! performance for free in their community.

Step Xplosion Step Teams

Dem Raider Boyz, KAOSS Entertainment, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Hop Team, QuaDrew and University of MD S.T.E.P.P with special guest DJ Beauty and the Beatz

Step Xplosion Venues

Ward 1 – Columbia Heights Recreation Center, Ward 2 – PEPCO Edison Place Gallery, Ward 3 – Joy of Motion Dance Studios Ward 4 – Raymond Recreation Center, Ward 5 – Starburst, Ward 6 – Yards Park, Ward 7 – Deanwood Recreation Center, Ward 8 – Thearc



Step Afrika! Step Xplosion is supported by the City Fund, which works to make the District of Columbia a more healthy, stable and vibrant place to live for all its residents. The City Fund is administered by The Community Foundation for the National Capital Area.

STEP AFRiKA!

STEP XPLOSION WINTER 2016



Step Afrika! Step Xplosion

Step Afrika!'s celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with its second 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, Crimson Inferno, Dem Raider Boyz, Herndon High School Step Team KAOSS Entertainment and QuaDrew

Step Afrika! Step Xplosion at Strathmore was reviewed for The Rogers Review by Stephanie Taylor

"It was a joy to see artists and enthusiasts of many different colors and ages come together to have a good time and honor a great man. I know where I will be for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend next year!" – Stephanie Taylor

[Read the full article here](#)



Step Afrika! VIP Gala

June 9, 2016

Gala Chair: Andre Wells, Events by Andre Wells

Gala Committee: Kimberly Ann Bassett, Brady Birdsong, Ran Borgersen, Dyonicia Brown, Beverly J. Burke, Jacqueline N. Francis, Bobette Gillette and Angela Wiggins

Step Afrika!'s 5th annual VIP Gala raised \$185,430 to support the return of *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence* to the DC stage and the creation of new work, *A Swingin' Nutcracker* in collaboration with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in December 2016.

Step Afrika!'s Board were joined by DC Schools Chancellor, Kaya Henderson, Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs, Charon Hines; DC Commission of the Arts and Humanities Chair, Kay Kendall and more than 250 Friends of Step Afrika!, to celebrate 21 years in inimitable style.



Step Afrika!'s 21st Birthday Party

December 4, 2015

Honorary Chair: The Honorable Brandon Todd

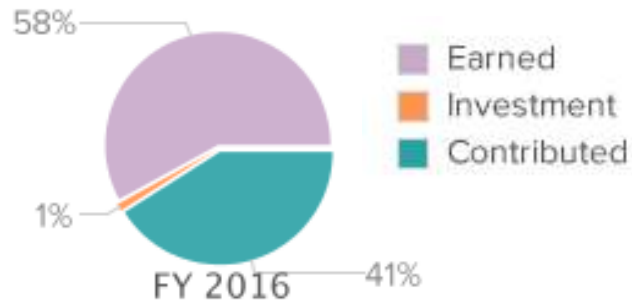
Chairs: C. Brian Williams, Lamont Akins, Brady Birdsong, Dr. Yolandra Hancock,
Latrena Owens, Sheldon Scott and Saundrell Stevens

Host Committee: Robert Bacon, Kimberly Bassett, Cheryl Anne Boyce, Kristen Corliss, Crystal Davis,
Courtney Edmonds, Althea Evans, Josette Kelley, Brian McCollum, Karen Parker, Curtis Shearin,
Robert White, Angela Wiggins, Frank Williams and Eliot Williamson

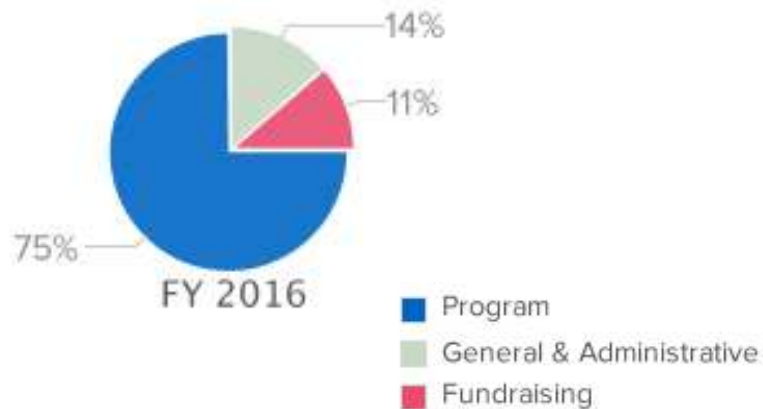
Step Afrika!'s 22nd Birthday Party, generously hosted by PEPCO Edison Place Gallery raised \$29,439 to support the Company's performances and arts education programs. Guests enjoyed music and dancing with Step Afrika!'s artists, jello shots, catering by Feast in a Basket and Silent Auction featuring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



REVENUE 2015/2016



EXPENSE 2015/2016



STEP AFRiKA! STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JULY 31, 2016

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 304,034
Investments	279,662
Accounts receivable	46,357
Prepaid expenses	22,429
Total current assets	<u>652,482</u>
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
Furniture and equipment	70,275
Less accumulated depreciation	(48,958)
Total property and equipment	<u>21,317</u>
OTHER ASSETS	
Other assets	<u>2,286</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 676,085</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$ 13,606
Accrued liabilities	14,865
Deferred revenue	125,619
Total current liabilities	<u>154,090</u>
NET ASSETS	
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>521,995</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 676,085</u>

STEP AFRiKA!

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

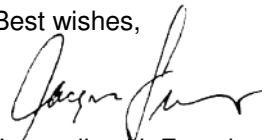
On behalf of all the artists, staff and students of Step Afrika! thank you very much for your friendship and your generous support.

You have given Step Afrika! a solid foundation for our 2016/2017 season...our most ambitious season ever! This summer we will hire 7 new full time artists, bringing our total company to 17, and engaged Step Afrika! alumni for the DC premiere and national tour of *The Migration*. We are delighted to welcome Step Afrika!'s former Artistic Director back to the Company to create choreography for the world premiere of *A Swingin' Nutcracker* in December 2016. And, of course, we have some spectacular, festive surprises in store for *Step Afrika!'s Magical Musical Holiday Step Show*.

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!

I hope you will join me, and all your Step Afrika! family for another incredible season in 2016/2017.

Best wishes,



Jacqueline N. Francis
Chair, Board of Directors



Board of Directors

Jacqueline N. Francis, MD, Chair
Traci Miller, Vice Chair
Brady Birdsong, Secretary
Neil Albert, Treasurer

Kimberly Bassett
Marc K. Battle
Ran Borgersen
Dyonicia Brown
Beverly Burke
John Hill
Allen Orr
Sheldon Scott
W. Lynn Wallace
Angela Wiggins
C. Brian Williams

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
Danielle Dubois Glover, Howard University
Joe Murchison, University of Central Oklahoma
Artis Olds, Central State University
Anesia Sandifer, University of Georgia
Brittney Smith, Texas Southern University
Jordan Spry, Howard University
Andrew Vinson Jr., Elizabeth City State University
TaQuez Whitted, Elizabeth City State University

Teaching Artists

Deatrice Clark, Howard University
LaDraveous Lee, Florida Atlantic University
Maurice Pough, Alabama State University

Contact Information

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