



F O U N D A T I O N

Mission Statement

The Dream in Color Foundation has been organized to facilitate a community dance program that strives to diversify both the participation in and appreciation of the Performing Arts. The program is designed to make our dance activities more accessible to underprivileged and/or minority children by offering scholarship assistance, transportation services, academic support and nutritional guidance programs.

The foundation's services offer children of all ages top quality dance instruction in a nurturing environment, emphasizing self-esteem, cultural pride, artistic growth and commitment to one's self. DDCF will provide creative incentives for children of all races and socio-economic backgrounds to help them overcome the barriers that hinder their advancement. The overall vision of Dream in Color's program is to empower the next generation to make a more productive contribution to society and actively lead their peers in cultivating a more inclusive nation — one that fully accepts and appreciates the richness and unity that diversity conveys.

Goals & Objectives

The goal of Dream in Color Foundation is to unify our communities by encouraging and facilitating a dance arts program aimed at promoting the acceptance of minority participation in the arts, as well as a more diverse society of spectators. The program is poised to reach the frequently excluded but not disinterested clientele and will hopefully start a trend that will make a much needed impact on the dance industry as a whole. It also stands to creatively address the socio-economic needs of the thousands of children that are generally hindered by the barriers placed upon them by the society in which they live and constantly seek approval. The overall vision of Dream in Color's programs is to empower the next generation to make a more productive contribution to society, actively lead their peers and cultivate a more inclusive population. And a nation that fully accepts and appreciates the richness and unity that only diversity can convey.



If we truly desire a better world, we need to implement programs to motivate and inspire all of our children.

Brief Program Description

The Foundation and its programs offer the following dance and self-empowerment services to its students:

- **Dance instruction** at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels in the following artistic genres: modern ballet, jazz, modern, lyrical/liturgical, tap and hip-hop
- **Scholarship** assistance to qualified applicants.
- **Workshops** throughout the year that will introduce and incorporate styles of dance from different cultures. (e.g. African, Asian, European, Latino and Middle Eastern cultures)
- **Dance performances** that will draw diversified audiences of the students' family, peers and local community groups.
- **Diversity outreach dance ensembles** (the "Dare to Dream" & "Little Dreamers" ensembles) will travel and perform in an effort to promote the Foundation's initiatives and accomplishments, as well as to show its support and appreciation of all cultures and backgrounds. (Shows will be scheduled in conjunction with various events and holidays including Kwanzaa, Black History Month, Health Awareness month, Woman's History month, Cinco de Mayo Latino celebrations, the Chinese New Year and many others.)
- **Programs and dance camps** with collegiate dance groups that will expose as well as encourage DDCF's high school students to aspire to achieve higher education goals.

Services DDCF intends to provide once we secure our own facility:

- **Homework and tutoring assistance** will eventually be available in the study room, and is expected to encourage and support a healthy balance between artistic stimulation and academic success.
- **Transportation** services from participating schools to the studio.
- **Nutritional guidance** services that support healthy habits and **obesity prevention**.
- **After school and summer work/study programs**. (For ages 12 years to 18 years of age and includes participation in community service projects and fundraising activities).



The key to success is exposure, accessibility and opportunity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the foundation's primary mission?

Dream in Color Foundation's mission is to facilitate a dance program that is more accessible to minority and underprivileged children to promote diversity in both the participation and appreciation of the performing arts.

We aim to do this in a nurturing environment and provide creative incentives for children of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds to help them increase their self-esteem, cultural pride, artistic growth, and establish a strong commitment to themselves.

What are the social issues inspiring DICF's objectives?

For the last decade, the issue of cultural diversity has drawn more attention within the industry, however few organizations have initiated public campaigns that provide solutions. The industry as a whole has yet to establish major diversity initiatives, both culturally and socio-economically but they are encouraging arts philanthropists to build funding opportunities for programs that support diversification.

Increased awareness concerning health issues, such as obesity prevention and the need to "level the learning field" across socio-economic boundaries are also issues that motivated the establishment of our foundation.

What created the problem?

The five major elements that have created these problems are:

1. Lack of exposure to draw interest in the arts
2. Lack of transportation (scheduling conflicts, no car in the family)
3. Lack of disposable income for extra curricular activities and/or after school child care programs that engage children in physical activity
4. Budgetary restrictions for educational resources in schools that serve lower income neighborhoods
5. Lack of resources and additional support for children who struggle academically

Densely populated urban areas have arts programs that target inner city youth as an alternative to the streets, yet they still remain isolated and segregated within the industry. Meanwhile, thousands of struggling families relocate to the suburbs in order to offer their children bet-

ter opportunities. As a result of these relocations, these children tend to become increasingly excluded from enrichment activities due to the exorbitant participation fees. Consequently, these children through their inability to identify with their surroundings, become more isolated than before, and more vulnerable to the peer pressures that lead to self-destructive behavior.

What are some supporting facts and demographic statistics?

Arts programs can effect meaningful, positive change in the lives of young people most at risk. Researchers found that when compared to groups of young people not involved in an arts program, participants in youth arts programs showed:

- Better attitudes toward themselves and their role in the world;
- Less criminal conduct, and juvenile delinquency;
- An increased ability to express anger appropriately and to communicate effectively with both peers and adults; and
- An increased ability to stick with a complex task through its completion.

The Americans for the Arts Monograph also stated that young people who participate in the arts for at least three hours on three days per week, through at least one full year are:

- 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement;
- 3 times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools;
- 4 times more likely to participate in a math and science fair;
- 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance;
- 4 times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem;
- 4 times more likely to perform community service.

The fact is that arts education makes a tremendous impact on the developmental growth of every child and has proven to help level the "learning field" across socio-economic boundaries. Approximately 43% of Alexandria city's 135,337 person population is heavily represented by African-Americans or Blacks, Asians and Hispanics. In the Alexandria city public school system,

Frequently Asked Questions (cont'd)

69.10% of the student population is of an ethnic minority group. Of these groups, the Virginia Department of Education reported that 5,230 school aged children qualified and are receiving free or reduced lunch through their public school this year. These statistics indicate a large population of "at risk" youth in need of affordable programs that will stimulate their creativity and have the potential to influence their outlook on the future.

DICF's program expects to nurture the needs of at least 200 students each year, but we hope to have the capacity to accommodate up to 500 students each year.

How does DICF impact the problem?

The program has been designed to make our dance activities more accessible to underprivileged and/or minority children by offering scholarship assistance, transportation services, academic support and nutritional guidance programs. DICF feels it is important to offer these additional services so that the groups who are generally excluded from arts programs will have access to the same opportunities as the privileged population. We feel that our program has the potential to significantly impact the lives and future aspirations of its students as well as expose them to an art form that has the power to unify communities beyond cultural and socio-economic differences.

How is this program important to the community?

- Our program is not only important to the families that we will serve, it is important to the communities where crime is high because kids are home unsupervised after school, in that we offer a safe haven and constructive activities.
- It is important to the schools and educators because our program supports and encourages academic excellence by offering artistic incentives to excel as well as tutoring assistance for kids that need extra help.
- Our program is also important to health care activists, in that we encourage the participation of students who struggle with obesity and offer healthy habit programs as well as scholarship assistance for long term exercise regimens.

- It is important to lower income community residents to see that local businesses support programs that provide their children with opportunities that break barriers and encourage personal excellence.

What can DICF offer its supporters?

Local businesses will benefit from the publicity associated with supporting Dream in Color's initiatives in diversifying the arts, developing youth empowerment programs and supporting healthy habits. The following marketing benefits are available based on the size of the gift:

- Logo placement on all Dance Company signs/banners, event advertisement & programs
- Company name/logo featured on all promotional/marketing materials
- Company logo featured on the sponsor page of the DICF website with link to sponsor's site
- Feature article and a quarter page ad in our quarterly newsletter (circulated to all of our patrons)
- Speaking opportunity at special events
- Placement of promotional materials in gift bags (items provided by sponsor)

Knowing that you have helped to provide the following:

- a safe haven for children to participate in constructive activities that teach them discipline
- keeping kids off the streets and involved in something positive
- encouraging improved academic performance by offering tutoring
- nutrition support for children who struggle with obesity, and teaching healthy habits

... and supporters of all types should feel a sense of satisfaction that they helped build the bridge of opportunity for hundreds of children in the Alexandria area and are contributing to a promising future for the next generation.



"Dare to Dream, Learn to Dance"