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Contact: Thandi Gooden
Title: PTA President
Organization: Academy for Academics and Arts PTA
Phone: 256-428-7600



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AAA PTA Receives Grant Award for *Dance Africa*

Inaugural Dance Africa workshop to be held on National Dance Day this fall in Huntsville, Alabama

Huntsville, Alabama – The Academy for Academics and Arts PTA (AAA PTA) is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$7,700 grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA), the state arts agency. This grant signified that AAA PTA provides programs of artistic quality, serves the needs of the community, and demonstrates high-level administration standards, as well as enhancing education of students at all levels.

This grant awarded by the Alabama State Council on the Arts is made possible through funding from an annual appropriation from the Alabama Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. This public support allows AAA PTA to demonstrate the importance of arts as a component for quality of life in Alabama.

The grant award will fund the launch of Dance Africa, an all-day FREE dance festival being hosted by the AAA PTA. We expect our audience to be in the region of 100+ students. The event will be held on Saturday, September 18th, from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm at 4800 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, AL and is open to north Alabama students grades 3-8. The festival will offer West African dance, West African drums, American tap, jazz, and hip hop classes. (Facebook @DanceAfricaHuntsville)

Our organization is committed to enriching the lives of all students but especially those with limited or no access to dance training/education. We want to offer opportunities to watch, meet, and learn from the artists, provide participants with exercise, valuable cultural information, self-discipline, and the tools needed for confident self-expression.

“I envisioned a program that would expose students to richness of cultural diversity in dance and connect the historical context of the African diaspora to the formation of American vernacular and concert dance” says Kerri-Noelle Humphrey (event founder).

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The AAA PTA serves Huntsville’s first magnet school, the Academy for Academics and Arts. The school was established in 1984, at the Cavalry Hill School on Poplar Avenue. The PTA is committed to the students’ educational success, health and well being through strong family and community engagement through creative programs. Those programs include the Reflections arts program, an annual Fine Arts Festival, participation in the national Read Across America program and providing financial support for the annual professional development teacher retreat.