

August 7, 2023  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AAA PTA Receives Grant Award for community arts festival, *Dance Africa***

*Third Annual Dance Africa festival to be held on National Dance Day in Huntsville, Alabama*

Huntsville, Alabama – The Academy for Academics and Arts PTA (AAA PTA) is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. 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 year, AAA PTA has partnered with the Alabama Dance Council to host this unique community event.

“The Alabama Dance Council (ADC) is excited to partner with AAA PTA for Dance Africa,” says Kerri-Noelle Humphrey, founder of Dance Africa. “Events like this not only build the visibility of dance but also broaden who gets to do it. We believe all students should have access to high-quality, meaningful arts experiences. Dance Africa will certainly provide that.”

The grant award will fund the third annual Dance Africa festival, an all-day FREE dance festival. We expect our audience to be in the region of 150 students. The event will be held on Saturday, September 16th, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at 4800 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, AL and is open to students grades 3-8. The festival will offer West African dance, West African drums, American tap, jazz, and hip-hop classes. (Facebook @DanceAfricaHuntsville)

“Our organizations are 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” says Humphrey.

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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.*

*The Alabama Dance Council is a statewide network of people who are inspired to make, teach, share, and experience all forms of dance as a powerful way to move toward a more just society. We believe that dance emboldens every body to connect, build community, and transform the experience of being human. The council will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving the Alabama Dance community in January 2024.*