

OUR MISSION

Armour Dance Theatre uses the power of exceptional dance training to ensure every student reaches their full potential.

VISION

Arts education builds crucial life skills and has the power to transform a child's future. Armour Dance Theatre will continue its legacy of making dance accessible to all children in our community regardless of income, race, ethnicity, gender identity, ability, or body type.



OBJECTIVES

- Serve youth regardless of income level.
- Reflect the diversity of the community in all programming.
- Facilitate the removal of barrier that may impede success.
- Offer inclusive programming for youth with or without disabilities.

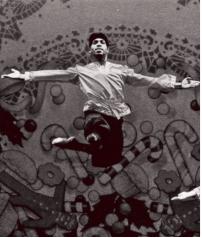






THE HISTORY









N THEIR WAY: Nine students from the Miami Conservatory will bend six weeks at the Dance Theater of Harlem. They are, first low: Monique Roig, Ina Charles, Selina Hall and Lana Sealy; second

What is now Armour Dance Theatre was founded in 1949 by Thomas Armour, a professional dancer whose performing career was cut short by service in the army during World War II. Returning to Florida after the war, Armour established his school of classical ballet, The Miami Conservatory (now The Academy), and a non-profit performing company called The Miami Ballet Company.

In 1996, the Miami Ballet Company was renamed the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, and its mission was expanded to include an emphasis on community outreach. Scholarship programs were created to help talented students from low-income neighborhood receive the training needed to gain coveted placement in Miami-Dade County Public School's dance magnet programs.

In 2021, the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet changed its name to Armour Dance Theatre, Miami's Community Dance Conservatory, to reflect the broader scope of its dance offerings and its focus on community outreach. Armour Dance Theatre now has five Community Program outreach locations in addition to its flagship South Miami Academy.

More than 1,000 students receive dance training annually, with nearly 400 participants on full scholarship through the support of the Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County, Armour Dance Theater is licensed as a State of Florida after-school program. In addition to daily dance classes, each of our Community Program locations provide students with academic instruction, social and emotional learning, parental engagement opportunities, and health and nutritional support.

Today, Armour Dance Theatre is the only community dance school in Florida accredited by The Accrediting Commission for Community and Pre-collegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS).



THE ACADEMY

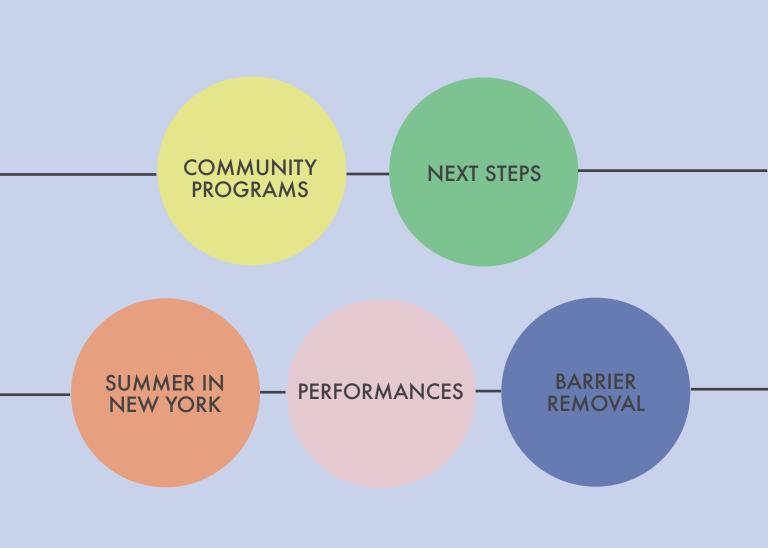


In 1949, Thomas Armour laid the foundation for the future of dance in our community. Over 70 years later, the ADT academy continues to be recognized as a standard of excellence in classical and contemporary training.

ADT's renowned faculty come from distinguished artistic backgrounds. Building upon their years of experience on stage they became master level teachers in their genres, which include classical ballet, Horton and Graham based contemporary, classical tap, hip hop and Broadway style jazz.

As a result of the faculty and a detailed and leveled curriculum, ADT's students have a reputation beyond our local community. They are awarded placement in highly competitive magnet programs, professional summer intensives, and contracts with professional companies. ADT works with families to ensure each child gets the training they need at a tuition level that is affordable.







COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

More than 400 children study dance every day after school for free in Miami Gardens, Little Haiti, Goulds and South Miami Heights. Students from ages 5-11 flourish in the nurturing and safe environment provided by our professional team of instructors and after-school caregivers. Children of all abilities are welcomed.

Ballet, tap, hip-hop, and West African dance classes are augmented by reading instruction, math instruction, homework assistance, mental health, and social-emotional learning activities. Snacks, meals, dance clothing, and shoes are provided free of charge. Fifth graders are counseled and supported when applying to middle school magnet programs.

A free all-day summer camp includes art and music classes, field trips, reading, and math instruction along with dance offerings including Flamenco, Broadway and Jazz.

Through its strategic community partnerships, Armour Dance Theatre provides wrap-around services, helping families navigate legal, medical and transportation needs among other challenges.

Armour Dance Theatre Community Programs are made possible through the financial and professional support of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County and other key individual, corporate and foundation supporters.



EACH YEAR, FIVE COMMUNITY

PROGRAMS DELIVER

1,170 — 98,750

hours of math meals





PROVEN IMPACT

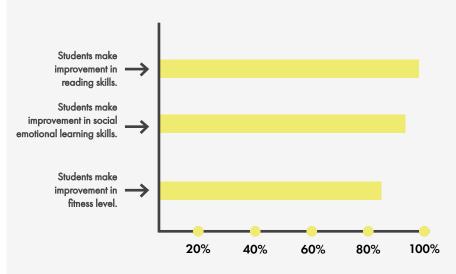


Success is not left to chance. In addition to consistent, comprehensive dance and academic curricula carefully tailored to the child's age and abilities, ADT continually evaluates the effectiveness of all aspects of its programming at its community program sites.

Starting with an assessment upon entering the program, student performance is measured using evidence-based tools.

Data is collected for every student three times during the school year and twice during the summer.

Student Improvement Data





NEXT STEPS



Students from the community programs ages 11 and above are invited to continue their advanced dance training on scholarship at the Academy in South Miami. The Next Steps Program offers free or low-cost dance training, assistance in cross-county transportation, training for middle school and high-school magnet program auditions, academic support, physical therapy, mental health services, and preparation for college scholarship applications and admissions. Participants also have access to the Summer in New York Program.

95%

of Next Steps students were admitted to MDCPS Magnet High Schools.

100%

of Next Steps students graduate high school.

90%

of Next Steps pursue a college degree or sign a professional dance contract.



SUMMER IN NEW YORK

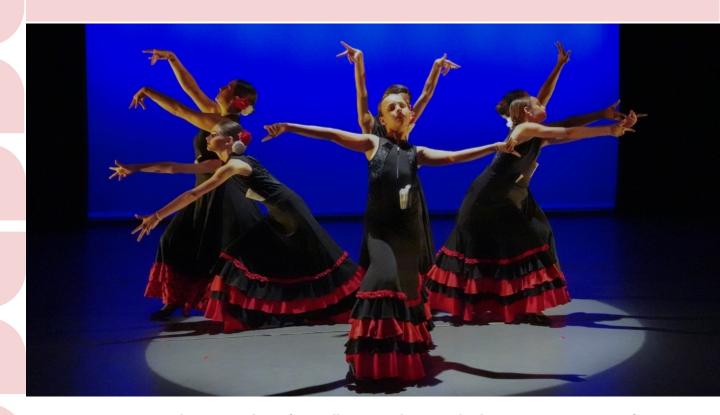


Advanced Armour Dance Theatre students in high school and college often dream of studying in a summer intensive program with a professional dance company. Such intensives offer access to the highest levels of training, networking opportunities, and an advantage when auditioning for professional companies or college programs. The program also provides participants an exposure to cultural experiences they might never receive in their own neighborhoods, teaches them to work and live with students from different backgrounds and widens their view of the world and its opportunities.

Armour Dance Theatre makes this dream come true for more than 20 students each year by providing room, board, and chaperones for up to eight weeks in New York City.

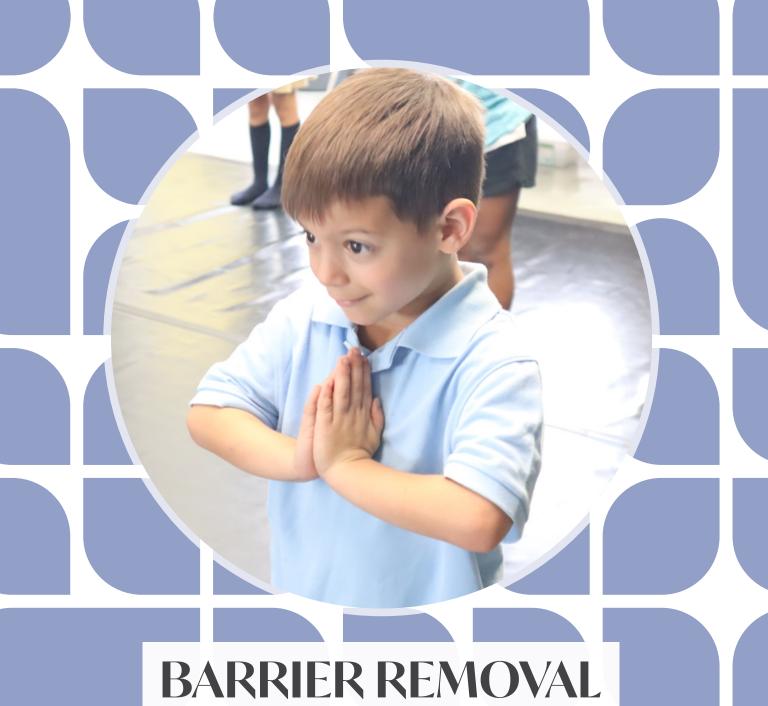


PERFORMANCES



Armour Dance Theatre students from all six sites have multiple opportunities to perform each year at no cost:

- In-studio performances are held at each site multiple times per year during class hours for friends and family.
- The Nutcracker Ballet, in collaboration with New World School of the Arts, provides students the opportunity to be a part of a professional production presented to over 10,000 audience members each year the power in that number is that most are students who are probably attending their first professional ballet performance.
- ADT tap team and hip-hop team, made up of students from all six sites, produce in-studio performances throughout the year and perform at community events across Miami-Dade County.
- ADT annual Spring Concert presents original and classic works performed by intermediate and advanced level students, along with ADT's dance teams and alumni.





Barrier removal is a crucial piece of the "success puzzle." Beyond the skills learned through dance, Armour Dance Theatre maximizes each child's potential by identifying any barrier to success and working to remove them. Through community partners, Armour Dance Theatre connects families to services that include:

- Health and dental services.
- Mental health services.
- Immigration services.
- Legal services.
- Housing opportunities.



How does the study of an art form contribute to a child's success? The study of any art form instills crucial life skills from an early age. Those skills include discipline, focus, attention to detail, a strong work ethic, teamwork, problem solving "outside the box" and the ability to delay gratification.







MARIYA DASHKINA MADDUX

"I don't think I will ever be able to repay all the good that Armour Dance Theatre has done for me. This program gave me a purpose, a sense of belonging, it became my second home during a particularly disorienting time after moving to US from Ukraine. Becoming a scholarship student at Armour Dance Theatre gave me a life-changing opportunity where none existed, it gave my parents the comfort of seeing their daughter hold her head up high again and have that sparkle in her eye that went missing."

DESTINY DELANCY

"Armour Dance has made such a huge impact in my career. If it had not been for this program I wouldn't have made it this far. Every milestone that I've accomplished in my career was made possible because of the support of ADT. Because of the countless hours invested in my future, I want to be able to inspire someone to never give up, the same way this program never gave up on me. I will forever be grateful for the Armour Dance family that I have become a part of."

JAVIER ARANZALES

"Apart from the dance training that has opened up doors for me all over the world, Armour Dance Theatre taught me that if youth are given access to opportunities, such as dance education, they can take control of their lives. It is because of Armour Dance Theatre and the belief that they had in me, a Latino refugee from a low-income family, that I was able to believe in myself."

WE EXTEND A SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE MAJOR SUPPORTERS



The Armour Dance Theatre is funded by The Children's Trust. The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County.

The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County is a DVS funder whose vast network of services also provides crucial ancillary support, through Armour Dance Theatre, to our students and staff.



With the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.





























