



**WEST TEXAS DANCING RAIDERETTES**

**FUNDING PROPOSAL**

**July 5, 2023**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

West Texas Dancing Raiderettes (WTDR Dance Company or WTDR), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, was established in 2014 to create a safe and inclusive environment where children from all backgrounds can engage in the transformative power of dance. We understand that access to quality dance programs is often limited for minority and low-income children due to financial barriers, lack of resources, and limited exposure to the arts. Through our organization, we strive to bridge this gap and ensure that every child has the opportunity to explore their passion for dance.

### **The Appeal**

The details in this document support a request for funding for our organization, allowing us to continue to reach these young artists. WTDR Dance Company is dedicated to providing performance and education opportunities for minority and low-income children in the West Texas region. Our mission is to empower young individuals through dance, volunteering, leadership development, and education, fostering their personal growth and contributing to the community.

WTDR offers dance classes and workshops taught by professional instructors to children aged 4-18. We focus on dance styles such as ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary, providing comprehensive training and encouraging artistic expression. We believe that performing on stage instills confidence and nurtures creativity. WTDR organizes annual recitals and participates in local events, allowing our students to showcase their talent and hard work.

One of the performances we are most proud of is our annual original retelling of Cinderella. Our "Tale of Cyndi" is what we call a "dancical." We incorporate over 14 dance numbers and utilize students, parents, and community members to help tell our story. Students spend the semester learning from touring artists and senior students who help choreograph specific dance numbers.

Some of the touring artists we bring to help train our students come from regional and national fame. Terrance Johnson of the TMJ Dance Project comes in up to two times a year to work with our students. He is a former Dallas Black Dance Theatre member and performed with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. Victoria Hackney is another touring artist that comes in to help train students and is from Spotlight Dance Company out of Dallas.

Our annual Christmas Spectacular is another opportunity for our students to perform original dance numbers with full lights, props, and costumes.

### **Collaborations**

We have collaborations that include performances, recognition by, and training opportunities with the following organizations:

- Lubbock Community Theatre
- LHUCA
- East Lubbock Art House
- Flatlands Dance Theatre
- 100 Black Men of West Texas
- Lubbock Alumnae of Delta Sigma Theta
- TTU Dance Department

### **Collaborations (continued)**

- American Dance and Drill Team - Summer Training, Regional Dance Competition, and National Dance Competition
- RISE Academy Charter School
- Joan Y. Ervin Elementary
- Dunbar College Preparatory Academy
- Estacado Early College High School

A list of individuals who have helped or been influential to our organization includes the following:

- Councilwoman Shelia Patterson-Harris
- Calvin Davis
- Reggie Dial
- J. Leon Williams
- Vernita Holmes
- Margaret Randle

### **Use of Funds**

Please consider supporting our programs financially. Funds from fundraising appeals will be used for instructor fees, production costs, marketing, and scholarships. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Treva Ellison, Board Vice President and Executive Director, at 806-239-0180 or via email at [tellison@thewtdr.org](mailto:tellison@thewtdr.org).

# **LEADERSHIP AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**West Texas Dancing Raiderettes d/b/a WTDR Dance Company  
Board of Directors  
As of July 5, 2023**

Ja'afar Abdullah	Board Member
Autry Freeman	Board Member
Kimberly Thomas	Board Member
KaWanna McCormick	Board Member
Tamara Clay-Mosley	Board President
Darrell Ellison	Board Secretary/Treasurer
Treva Ellison*	Board Vice President

\*Mrs. Treva Ellison also serves as the Executive Director of WTDR Dance Company