



Media Contact:

Leigh Lotocki

Director of Marketing & Communications

press@dancewave.org

+1 (703) 851-4210

Dancewave Integrates Racial Equity & Advocacy Curriculum Across All Youth Education Programs

BROOKLYN, NY - September 1, 2020 Launching with the Fall 2020 semester, the socially-conscious Brooklyn nonprofit **Dancewave implements an innovative new racial equity curriculum.**

Through this curriculum, Dancewave underlines its core value of cultivating both strong dancers and empowered young artist citizens at the heart of its education model. This framework, developed by Dancewave's education staff, integrates discussion sessions with dance to support students as they confront racism in their communities, schools, and among friends, and engage in antiracist advocacy for upcoming generations.

"In response to this year's uprisings against police brutality and the national cry for racial and social justice to be interwoven into all that we do, we brought our students together to talk through their questions and feelings," says Phoebe DeVincenzi, Dancewave Manager of Education, Inclusion and Equity. ***"This individual and collective processing related to identity, equity, and community organizing inspired us to build out a more structured discussion series that we feel can benefit all of our students as they move through our program."***

Since 2016, Dancewave has hosted its own [Youth Leadership Council](#), part of a citywide advocacy program for teens run by [NYC Service](#) in partnership with the NYC Mayor's Office. Dancewave's YLC has been integral to keeping youth development and social justice at the center of the organization, helping students deepen their critical thinking skills and gain the tools necessary to make impactful change within their communities.

Dancewave's Race & Dance Curriculum follows two different models for each of its mainstay education programs: its [Youth Company Program](#) and public school [Residencies](#). This year, Company students ages 13-18 will meet in monthly Regroup sessions outside of their class and rehearsal time, alternating between topics including dance history, equity, advocacy and wellness. NYC Public Schools can customize a 5, 8, or 16-week residency with a Dancewave staff and Teaching Artist to fit their particular needs, tying in with the Department of Education STEAM and social-emotional learning standards.

Says Sindy Folgar, Dancewave Director of Community Programs & Partnerships: *"We are using dance as a medium to support these critical conversations with youth, helping students to process and embody difficult topics like racial bias, systemic racism and privilege in an empathetic way, as well as empowering advocacy in our youth. For the public school residencies curricula we are **creating a through line from African Diasporic forms all the way through TikTok** videos, discussing the origins of social dances in America while making it fun for students and relevant to their own lives."*

On August 25, Dancewave hosted its annual Arts Educator training [Strategies for Young Artist Citizens](#) for Dancewave Teaching Artists and guests with a focus on racial equity and empathy, including a **keynote speech by guest educator and social justice advocate, [David King](#)**. To learn more about how Dancewave is addressing racial equity internally and externally, please email press@dancewave.org or call +1(703) 851-4210.

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OUR MISSION: Dancewave provides access to a community dance experience that encourages individuality and whole-person development throughout New York City and beyond. Through innovative programming, we use dance as an expressive vehicle for transformation. Visit Dancewave's [Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)