

30 YEARS OF HISTORY

1
1990

Waverly Lucas and Nena Gilreath met with Mozel Spriggs at Spelman College and officially began working as Ballethnic Dance Company, becoming the second professional Black ballet company. The first was Dance Theatre of Harlem founded in 1968 under the leadership of Arthur Mitchell & Karel Shook, in which Ballethnic cofounders Gilreath & Lucas were dancers in the company before joining the Atlanta Ballet and ultimately The Ballethnic Dance Company.

2
1995

The Ballethnic Dance Company's 5th Anniversary was almost the last after deciding to perform our signature ballet, "The Leopard Tale" at the Atlanta Civic Center which was a union theater. The costs to produce the show resulted in a seemingly insurmountable debt that took the company over a year to recover from.

3
2000

10th Anniversary Season, The Ballethnic Dance Company is selected as the Critics' Choice in the Arts & Entertainment section of Atlanta's Creative Loafing. The article highlighted our productions of "The Leopard Tale" and "Urban Nutcracker", as well as "its exceptional youth educational programs, including the athletic Danseur Development Project, training male youths ages 7-21.

4
2010

Ballethnic founders attend 'The Kennedy Center' for Michael Kaiser's 'Culturally Specific Symposium' focusing on the needs of dance organizations of color and their ideas and opportunity being poached by mainstream organizations with more resources.

5
2020

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary, Ballethnic Dance Company Inc. presented a Virtual Ballethnic Dance Company Inc. Gale Fundraiser with 'The Leopard Tale' as the theme with participation by Ballethnic alumni from former and current members of the professional company, Ballethnic Academy of Dance, Ballethnic Youth Ensemble, Danseur Development Project, as well as supporters, and board members.

6
PRESENT

The Ballethnic Dance Company launches its capital campaign to raise funds to build Ballethnic Way: The Campus. The new renovated home of Ballethnic will be a place to learn, grow, serve, and inspire students, teachers, and community alike.

[See the complete timeline here](#)