Committed to reaching the broadest audience through culturally diverse storytelling in the art of contemporary dance!
ABOUT DCDC
Exceptionally + Culturally Diverse

Founded in 1968 and rooted in the African-American experience, the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company is a culturally diverse contemporary dance company committed to reaching the broadest audience through exceptional performance and arts-integrated education. DCDC is ranked in the top 20 African-American arts and cultural organizations in the country and is the future of Dance and Arts Education.

A co-recipient of one of the dance world’s highest honors, the 2016 Bessie Award for Outstanding Revival, DCDC has been presented by American Dance Festival, Paul Taylor American Modern Dance, and Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, and supported by National Endowment for the Arts and New England Foundation for the Arts among others.

Photo by: Scott Robbins
DEBBIE BLUNDEN-DIGGS became Artistic Director for Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) in 2007. For over 20 years she performed with the company, appearing in most of the company’s repertoire. Before becoming Artistic Director, she served as the company’s Associate Artistic Director, Deputy Director for Arts and Operations, and Resident Choreographer. She has created works for the company, which have become part of the company’s artistic blueprint. Her notable works include Configurations, Kaleidoscope, Fragments, In My Father’s House, and Traffic. Her first piece, Variations in Blue, composed when she was 17, was submitted as an entry in the Young Choreographers Showcase and selected for inclusion in the National Choreographic Plan. She has contributed an impressive body of work, including No Room, No Place, No Where, for which she received a Monticello Award in 1982.

She served on the Board of Directors for “the International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD)” from 2000 to 2006. She has received numerous awards and accolades. Among them are honors from Regional Dance America, Monticello Choreographic Fellowships in 1979 and 1980, and two Individual Fellowship Awards from the Ohio Arts Council in 1981 and 1984. She received the Black History Month Congressional Award for Community Service by Congressman Mike Turner (OH-10) in recognition of 40 years serving the community through dance and dance education.

The Fisk University Alumni Association honored her with an Excellence in Artistry Award, and she was awarded a Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District Master Fellowship for artistic excellence and community outreach initiatives in 2000. In 2014, she received the Image of Hope Youth Advocacy Award for her contributions to improve the lives of youth in the Greater Dayton area. Ms. Blunden-Diggs is an adjunct professor at University of Dayton in the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology Program, and serves on numerous boards: membership chair of the IABD, secretary for the national Board of Trustees of Dance/USA since 2020, and the Seedling Foundation Board for Stivers School for the Arts.

Photo by: Scott Robbins
DCDC’s “The Black Tour” brings a city’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), art galleries, civil rights museums, and prominent performing arts centers together to infuse art into the community’s conversation on the Black experience. Anchored by the commissioned work of Tommie-Waheed Evans, this tour celebrates and honors key civil rights events that make the tapestry of American culture.

Works Available for The Black Tour

» HOME/ An Untitled Portrait
» American Mo’
» In My Father’s House
» Strong Like We
» The Geography of the Cotton Fields
» Wawa Aba
DCDC’s mixed repertory programs exemplify the diverse and complex range of the dancer’s through varying styles of dance and storytelling. DCDC has a collection of over 100+ works and growing including historical benchmark works by master choreographers. Rainbow ‘Round My Shoulders by Donald McKayle and Vespers by Ulysses S. Dove are but a few of the classic works in the DCDC repertory. Alongside of these historical black works, the company continues to build and tour new works by today’s renowned choreographers such as Ray Mercer, Donald Byrd, Abby Zbikowski, Stafford C. Berry Jr, and more.

Contact our touring managers for a complete list of repertory available to tour this season.

Angela Burdon  angela@dcdc.org
David Young  dyoung@dcdc.org
Download approved images and videos for use in promotional materials.

**PHOTOS**
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The Digital Media Manager would be happy to provide more photos and videos

Michael Green mgreen@dcdc.org

Photos by:
Scott Robbins | Andy Snow | Hiromi Platt Photography | Christopher Duggan
Contact DCDC

840 Germantown St
Dayton, OH 45402, USA
937.228.3232

Artistic Director
Debbie Blunden-Diggs   debbie@dcdc.org
Interim Executive Director
Phyllis Brzozowska    phyllis@dcdc.org
Director of Development
David Hoard         david@dcdc.org
Executive Assistant
David Young           dyoung@dcdc.org
Marketing Director
Jay Peterson         jpeterson@dcdc.org

Associate Artistic Director
Crystal Michelle       crystal@dcdc.org
Associate Artistic Director
Qarrianne Blayr       qmcclellan@dcdc.org
Digital Media Manager
Michael Green         mgreen@dcdc.org
Company Manager + Creative Programs Manager
Angela Burdon        angela@dcdc.org

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