

Congrats Zenetta Drew!



National Arts Strategies announced it has selected Dallas Black Dance Theatre Executive Director Zenetta Drew and 49 other exceptional leaders to take part in the year-long The Chief Executive Program: Community and Culture. Drew is the only executive from Texas selected to take part in the program. The program brings together an international cohort of 50 CEO's who are working to lead change in their organizations, communities and in the cultural field.

According to National Arts Strategies the selected executives come from outstanding institutions of all sizes and disciplines. They are united by the presence of deep community roots. Over the next year, these executives will be supported in their work through the introduction of different approaches from outside their sector, a range of analytical frameworks, and an international, cross-disciplinary network of allies and collaborators.

They will travel to Harvard Business School and University of Michigan, Ross School of

Business where they will be introduced to tools they can use vear-after-year to help put their great ideas into action. They will work with and learn from each other, forming a community of practice as they join The Chief Executive Program alumni network of nearly 200.

Participants in The Chief Executive Program: Community and Culture were selected through a highly competitive recruitment process that identifies 50 top cultural leaders from around the world whose organizations work closely with communities - as defined by the applicant. The leaders chosen to participate in The Chief Executive Program: Community and Culture were selected from a wide range of cultural forms, locations, perspectives, and experience levels. These executives have proven themselves to be effective. innovative, collaborative, and curious and were chosen from a pool of over 150 open applications from 34 states and 18 countries.

"This will be an invaluable experience that will help me develop new strategies for critical executive functions, become a more expansive, innovative leader, and help advance Dallas Black Dance Theatre and the global arts ecology," said Dallas Black Dance Theatre Executive Director Zenetta Drew.

Drew worked at ARCO Oil and Gas Company in accounting and management for 12 years before joining Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT) in 1987. When she started managing DBDT, the annual operating budget was

\$175,000. It has now grown to over \$4 million with a staff that has increased from two to 33. The company's yearly performances and outreach activities have grown from 30 to over 600 services spanning the United States and international venues. and the audience growth has increased from 20,000 to 100,000 annually. Having performed at two Olympics, DBDT's outreach is now on a global scale. To date, the dance company has toured in five continents, 15 countries, and 31 states.

Sunny Widmann, the director for The Chief Executive Program, says, "We were overwhelmed by both the quality and quantity of applications for this fourth and final cycle of The Chief Executive Program. Our aim was to create a cohort in a way that maximizes learning opportunities - so that each leader benefits from a new international, cross-disciplinary network. Together with our partners at Harvard Business School and University of Michigan, Ross School of Business, we're thrilled to share knowledge with and learn from this incredible group of change agents in the cultural sector."

The program is the result of support from The Kresge Foundation. The Educational Foundation of America and The Chief Executive Fellowship Fund Honoring Ken Fischer. The partnership of Harvard Business School and the University of Michigan, Ross School of Business makes this work possible.