



**Midlands Arts Conservatory
Public Charter School
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News Release

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Photo: Terrance Henderson, dance instructor at Midlands Arts Conservatory

Renowned dance instructor Terrance Henderson joins Columbia's Midlands Arts Conservatory charter school

Master dance instructor and artist Terrance Henderson is joining Midlands Arts Conservatory to lead the downtown charter school's growing dance program.

Henderson was the creative force behind Columbia's Vibrations Dance Company, serving as Artistic Director and Principal Choreographer for more than 10 years. As a teaching artist, he has worked extensively throughout the state and served as a long-term Artist in Residence at Logan Elementary School where he taught dance and drama for almost 20 years.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have Mr. Henderson take the lead with our dance program, and his experience and expertise will help Midlands Arts Conservatory students excel," said Rosie Craig, chair of the MAC Board of Directors.

Henderson joins the school this month and will be coordinating improvements to the dance program for the upcoming school year with incoming Head of School Brad Tillman, an experienced and well-known educator from the Columbia area.

"Our first year has been amazing, but as we prepare to launch into our second year with expanded and improved offerings, the energy at Midlands Arts Conservatory is spreading fast," said Catharine Aitken, a board member who helped recruit Henderson to the dance program.

MAC is still accepting new student applications for the 2019-20 school year for students who will be in grades 6, 7 and 8. The application is online at www.midlandsartsconservatory.org.

On Tuesday, May 21, from 5:15 until 7 p.m., Henderson and Tillman will meet and greet MAC families as well as those interested in registering their children at the arts-focused, no-tuition charter school.

Midlands Arts Conservatory's dance program features a well-rounded conservatory approach with a foundation in ballet. The school continues to grow and improve its offerings in theatre, visual arts and music.

Terrance Henderson is the Director of Modern Dance at Southeastern School of Ballet, Artist in Residence at Columbia Ballet School, and a company member of both Full Circle Productions and Trustus Theatre. Terrance is also the Director and a founding member of IndigoSOUL -- a soul music trio dedicated to using song, story, and conversation as a healing device through performances, residencies and workshops.

His directing skills have been showcased in *Dreamgirls*, *Ain't Misbehavin'* and *Smokey Joes Café* at Trustus Theater.

Henderson received the 2009 State Artist Fellowship in dance performance, was the 2013 Jasper Magazine Dance Artist of the Year, and was awarded the Bronze Leo Award at the 2009 Jazz Dance World Congress in Chicago -- a first for a choreographer from South Carolina. In 2016 he earned the Steve G. Morrison Visionary Award, which honors the best combination of vision and leadership applied to arts and history and the entire cultural foundation of Columbia.

Midlands Arts Conservatory is a state charter school, approved by the S.C. Public Charter School District Board in 2016. The school opened in August 2018 and quickly is building buzz in the arts community. The school was approved to serve students in middle and high school, and plans are to add one additional grade level each year – for 2019-20 the school will offer grades 6-8.

MAC is located at 3806 North Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29203. For more information, follow them on Facebook for regular updates and videos of their ongoing work, or visit www.midlandsartsconservatory.org.

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