

FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF DANCE/USA'S FIRST BRANCH OFFICE, DANCE/NYC, PASSES AWAY

Friday, June 24, 2016

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WASHINGTON and NEW YORK – June 24, 2016 – Dance/USA and Dance/NYC announce the [passing](#) of Bob Yesselman, founding director of Dance/USA's first branch office, Dance/NYC, on June 1, 2016.

An inspired director, Yesselman led Dance/NYC from 2002 to 2007. Under his leadership, the branch office delivered powerful advocacy, research, and professional development to dance artists in the New York metropolitan area and served as a model when Dance/USA developed additional branch offices in Philadelphia and Washington, DC. He retired in 2007 after 36 years of serving dance artists.

In his [retirement letter to the field](#) Bob counted three accomplishments as highlights of his career: the first, his presidency of the 1987 gala, "Dancing for Life," which drew critical attention to HIV/AIDS in the dance field; second, his role as executive director of the Paul Taylor Dance Company; and third, his time at Dance/NYC.

"I have had the privilege to work with Bob in many capacities over many years," said Linda Shelton, executive director, The Joyce Theater; Dance/USA Trustee; and Dance/NYC Board Member. "As an admirer during his many years with Paul Taylor, as his general manager at the Joffrey Ballet when he was the executive director, as a collaborator on the original studies for the World Trade Center Performing Arts Center and as Dance/NYC's founding director. He was a great leader, a wise mentor, and a trusted advisor, but most of all, Bob was a wonderful friend. I will miss him."

"Bob was an inspiring & visionary activist for dance," said dance advocate and Dance/NYC advisor Beverly D'Anne. "His dedication to the field was unwavering. He is much missed!"

Bob Yesselman's legacy is very much alive at Dance/USA and Dance/NYC. The world of dance has lost a great advocate.

Dance/USA

Established in 1982, Dance/USA is the national service organization for the professional dance field. Dance/USA sustains and advances professional dance by providing national leadership, services, and enhancing the infrastructure for dance creation and distribution. Dance/USA is committed to honoring, nurturing and advancing dance through the lens of diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity in all aspects of its programming, services and organization. Learn more at [Dance/USA](#).

Dance/NYC

Formerly a branch office of Dance/USA, Dance/NYC began its operations as an independent nonprofit on in January 2013, working in alliance with Dance/USA. Dance/NYC's mission is to promote the knowledge, appreciation, practice, and performance of dance in the metropolitan New York City area. It embeds values of [equity and inclusion](#) into all aspects of the organization. [Dance.NYC](#)

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