



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dance Place to Partner for 2025 Coyaba's Village Celebration

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 28, 2025): Dance Place is ecstatic to announce it is partnering with Coyaba Dance Theater and Carla Creative, Inc. to support *Coyaba's Village Celebration*. The week-long celebration will take place from **June 2–7, 2025** at both Dance Place (3225 8th Street NE, Washington, DC 20017) and Joe's Movement Emporium (3309 Bunker Hill Rd, Mt Rainier, MD 20712).

June 2-6, Dance Place will host a series of daily African drum and dance master classes. The master classes represent various parts of the African diaspora and will be taught by professionals from Coyaba Dance Theater, KanKouran West African Dance Company and Keur Khaleyi African Dance and Cultural Institute, Inc.

On **June 7, from 12 to 7 PM**, Coyaba Dance Theater and Carla's Creative Family Arts Festival will be held at Joe's Movement Emporium. The outdoor festival will include an African-style market place, arts and crafts, Soul in Motion, Taratibu, Hulu Hoop and more. At **3 PM and 6 PM**, there will also be indoor ticketed performances by Coyaba Dance Theater, Ni Dembaya and MWENDI Traditional Cameroonian Ballet.

"I'm delighted that we are able to expand access for both Maryland and DC residents to join in our annual experience of music, food and culture," said Griot Sylvia Soumah, founder and artistic director of Coyaba Dance Theater. Soumah is also the director of Dance Place's African Dance program.

Founded in 1997, *Coyaba Dance Theater* presents traditional and contemporary West African dance and music, celebrating the diverse ethnic groups and rich cultural traditions of West Africa. The company has graced renowned stages such as The Kennedy Center, The Publick Playhouse, the Lincoln Theatre, and the Lisner Auditorium, as well as international platforms like the World Culture Open in Seoul, South Korea.

About Dance Place

Rooted in Washington, D.C., Dance Place supports movement artists by creating opportunities for creative development, performance, and education. The organization strengthens the dance field by investing deeply in artists and centering those who have been systematically excluded.

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