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### Letter of Support from Joan Myers Brown

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THE COMPANY OF THE 21st CENTURY

# philadanco

THE PHILADELPHIA DANCE CO.  
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February 8, 1993

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*Managing Director*  
Gwen Coleman  
*General Manager*  
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*Development Director*  
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President, Howard University  
Howard University Board of Trustees

Dear Dr. Jennifer:

It has been called to my attention that Howard University will be implementing a dance major program and I would like to offer a letter in support of this innovative project. Significant to this, is the prospect of a dance program from the African-American aesthetic. Where the important contributions of our predecessors are not belittled but viewed as the major contributions that they are.

In an academic setting with a university designed program that offers professional level technical training and related academic opportunities for individuals with the ability to become performers, the potential is unlimited.

In the area of the arts, dance is often not viewed as a significant discipline. This will dispel that ideology and prove it is a viable contribution to one's growth and development in an institution of higher education.

The knowledge that a dance major is offered at Howard University offers a resource to potential performers of professional dance companies. It also can offer dance related opportunities to a current generation of artists from the view point of a historically black college, while challenging them physically and mentally.

The importance of dance is being acknowledged by institutions of higher learning across the country as well as arts specific universities. However the aesthetics of our historical, philosophical views and spirituality offer a diverse approach to the arts. One we must preserve.

February 8, 1993

Page Two

It is important that dance become a major part of the curriculum offered at Howard and I strongly urge it.

I could elaborate further and am willing to do so, however, I hope my expressed interest and concern are sufficient .

For further information, you can most certainly call me at any time.

Sincerely,

A large, fluid handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Myers Brown". The signature is written over a large, light-colored scribble that partially obscures the text below it.

Joan Myers Brown  
Executive/Artistic Director