



The  
**DEFYING  
GRAVITY**  
DANCE SCHOLARSHIP

*Investing in the dance development of African-American and Latino high school seniors in the Dallas metroplex.*

**APPLICATION WINDOW:  
FEBRUARY 15- APRIL 15**

**CULTURED**  
Classroom 



# About the Organizations

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DG Fine Arts (DGFA) serves the Dallas/Ft. Worth community by providing qu(ALL)ity programming, mentorship, transportation and more for students, expanding their scope of opportunity for learning and cultural experiences. Expanding on our original core values of Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Artistic Development, we are cultivating new and innovative resources that will prepare the next generation of Art Citizens.

The Cultured Classroom provides educational solutions to fine arts departments across school districts. Offering custom curriculums, professional development and culturally-relevant classroom resources for fine arts educators.

# About the Scholarship

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The Defying Gravity Dance Scholarship (DGDS) was founded to support Black and Latino high school seniors pursue post-secondary dance development. The DGDS is awarded to student dancers that demonstrate the capability to thrive in collegiate dance environments. By awarding scholarships to students who exhibit not only exceptional talent but also qualities of leadership and dedication, the DGDS strives to create a more equitable landscape for aspiring dancers.

Additionally, the scholarship serves as a catalyst for empowering young artists to overcome financial barriers, ensuring that economic constraints do not hinder their pursuit of a dance education. In doing so, the DGDS contributes to breaking down systemic barriers and promoting equal access to opportunities in the world of dance.

# Scholarship Eligibility

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All applicants must meet all the criteria below to be considered eligible for the scholarship:

- Identify as Black/African-American or Latino/Hispanic
- Be an active member of a school or community dance program
- Currently a high school senior (expected graduation 2024)
- Intends to major or minor in Dance, or selected as a member of a Historically Black College & University dance line
- 2.75 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)

A complete application must have all the following submitted electronically to be considered:

- Official high school transcript (PDF upload or sent electronically to [devondria@dgfinearts.org](mailto:devondria@dgfinearts.org))
- Two (2) recommendation references (Recommenders will be sent an electronic form to complete)
  - One must be your current dance coach/teacher/instructor
  - One must be an academic teacher or a school administrator
- A dance solo, no longer than 1 minute and 30 seconds
- An introduction video, no longer than 2 minutes

# FAQs

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Browse our frequently asked questions regarding the scholarship and application process.

**Q: When will applicants be notified if they were selected?**

A: Applicants will know no later than May 15, 2024 via email.

**Q: Will late applications be accepted?**

A: Late applications will not be accepted. All applications must be submitted by April 15, 2024 to be considered.

**Q: What genres are acceptable for the dance solo?**

A: All genres of dance are accepted. Solos must demonstrate the applicant's full dance capability. Choreography should reflect the applicant's ability to be competitive in a collegiate program.

**Q: What information should be included in the *Introduction Video*?**

A: The applicant's video should include an introduction of themselves and the campus they attend. It should also include any clubs or extra curricular activities he/she is involved in. Be sure to include any leadership roles and/or awards won, if applicable. They should also answer how has dance impacted their decisions about their future and why they deserve the Defying Gravity Dance Scholarship.

**Q: Auditions for my desired collegiate team does not happen until after the scholarship window, can I still apply?**

A: Yes, you may still apply. If selected, applicants will be required to submit proof of audition registration and/or team selection before funds will be released.

**Q: What school districts are eligible for the scholarship?**

A: Seniors attending any high school in Dallas county is eligible to apply.

**Q: Will my recommenders need to write a letter?**

A: No, recommenders will be sent a digital recommendation form to complete. One recommender must be your current dance teacher/ coach/ instructor. The second recommender must be an academic teacher or school administrator. Applicants will need to submit their full name and email addresses when completing the application.

**Q: How many scholarships will be awarded?**

A: Scholarships will be awarded until all allocated funds are exhausted.

**Q: Where can I apply?**

A: All applications must be completed electronically at [www.dgfinearts.org/scholarships](http://www.dgfinearts.org/scholarships)

**Q: Who can I contact if I have more questions?**

A: Please direct all questions to Devondria Douglas, [devondria@dgfinearts.org](mailto:devondria@dgfinearts.org).

# SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

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Use the following checklist to gather all the required materials for submission:

## Check eligibility requirements

- Currently a high school senior (Class of 2024)
- Active member in a dance program (school or community)
- 2.75 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- 2024-2025 Dance major or minor, or HBCU dance line member

## Official high school transcript

- Must clearly show classification and current GPA
- Official transcripts may also be emailed directly to Devondria Douglas at [devondria@dgfinearts.org](mailto:devondria@dgfinearts.org)

## Contact information for **two (2)** recommenders

- Must include their full name, job title, and professional email to receive digital recommendation form

## University/ college acceptance letter

- Please upload the letter from your top university choice

## Video of dance solo (less than 1 min and 30 sec)

## Introduction video (less than 2 min)

- Answer all the following questions:
  - Name, school, and list any club/ extra curricular activities. Be sure to include any leadership roles and/or awards won, if applicable
  - How has dance or your dance journey impacted your decisions about your future?
  - Why you deserve the Defying Gravity Dance Scholarship?