Dear Destiny Community,

After careful deliberation and with the needs of our youth, families, and teaching artists in mind, we are suspending programming at Destiny Arts Center as of Monday, March 16 through Monday, April 6. To be clear, we have NO confirmed cases of coronavirus at Destiny, yet we are canceling to protect our Destiny and Oakland community and per the advisement of the Alameda County Public Health Department, the State of California, the CDC, and Governor Newsom. Classes at our partner school districts and community centers at AJJC will continue at this time.

This decision was not made lightly. We understand that the closure may disrupt lives. To address this, our staff is available to support families in accessing food (from the Alameda County Food Bank) and will share information resources as we receive them. Additionally, in service to our values, the Board and Leadership of Destiny are committed to ensuring the livelihood of our Teaching Artists and paying them during the preventative closure at the Center.

We will be making the following changes to our other Center-based programs, in addition to the two week closure:

- **DAYPC (Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company)** rehearsals will CONTINUE during this time
- **DJC (Destiny Junior Company) rehearsals** will be CANCELLED during this time
- The **DAYPC and DJC shows at Laney College** (originally scheduled for an April opening) will be CANCELLED, in accordance with Governor Newsom's current ban on gatherings of more than 250 people. We will be in touch soon with updates about alternative plans to showcase the work of our two performance companies
- At this point, we are still planning to hold our annual **Gala at Yoshi's in Oakland on May 14th**, but we will continue to revisit this as the situation evolves

The new reality we are all facing is causing great uncertainty and highlighting the deep divisions and inequities in our society. We will stay in close touch with you over the next couple of weeks about further developments. As always, we are committed to centering youth, artists, people of color and our Oakland home as we work together for the well-being of all.

In Community,

*Destiny Arts Center Staff*