



SPARK
SF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Robert Moses' Kin performing For Our Students, For Our Schools; Photo courtesy of Robert Moses' Kin

**Robert Moses' Kin
with Spark* SF Public Schools Announces
*For Our Students, For Our Schools***

An original dance film dedicated to supporting San Francisco Public Schools
during the COVID-19 shutdown

Proceeds go to [Spark* SF Public Schools](https://www.spark-sf.org)

To Donate and View: <https://www.robertmoseskin.org/performances>

April 13, 2020 , San Francisco, CA -- Multiple award-winning San Francisco dance company **Robert Moses' Kin** today announced they have turned their efforts toward supporting the San Francisco Unified School District's students and their families with the premiere of the short dance film, *For Our Students, For Our Schools*. The 17-minute film, choreographed by Robert Moses, is performed and filmed by the dancers in their shelter-in-place environments in solidarity with SFUSD's 56,000 students and their families impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. Over the next seven days, with a donation to [Spark*](#), SFUSD's non-profit 501(c)(3), donors will receive password access to view *For Our Students, For Our Schools*, which will be released for wider viewing later this year.

"The impact of the pandemic can lead to punishing effects on our most vulnerable students who rely on our public schools for access to opportunities," explains Colm Hegarty Development Director, SFUSD Fund Development Office, Spark* SF Public Schools. While the mobilization effort by SFUSD has been extensive, with schools closed now through the end of the school year, the need continues to grow. "SFUSD projects millions in new unfunded costs associated with providing meals and equipping students without access to digital devices and WiFi," says Hegarty, adding that 53% of SFUSD student population falls near or below poverty, 10,000 students do not have a dedicated computer and 5,000 live in households without an internet connection.

Proceeds from *For Our Students, For Our Schools* will help SFUSD deploy the technology and online instructional infrastructure students and teachers need to deliver distance learning while they remain sheltered in place, as well as continue to provide and distribute meals to an increasing number of students and their families who are furthest from opportunity.

"We were thrilled when Robert reached out to us," says Hegarty. "It's through community partnerships like this that we'll get through the shutdown together."

The parent of two SFUSD students, Moses explains that this effort is personal. "We all want to do what we can to provide for our kids. I hope that what we've created will inspire people to give as generously as they are able." Like other performing arts organizations, Robert Moses' Kin has been on hold as theaters and studios remain closed, during this their 25th anniversary season and what was planned as an ongoing monthly performance season at multiple venues, entitled RMK Around the Bay. "We'll be back," Moses states. "Right now, we just want to help."

For Our Students, For Our Schools features dancers Crystaldawn Bell, Vincent Chavez, Cora Cliburn, ArVejon Jones, Emily Hansel, Kaia Makihara, Elena Martins, Alivia "Liv" Schaffer and Samuel Melecio-Zambrano. Filmed by the dancers and edited by Cliburn, *For Our Students* is choreographed by Moses with collaboration from the dancers and original music composed by Moses.

ABOUT ROBERT MOSES' KIN

The company's mission is to produce work that speaks to what is specific and unique in human nature. Robert Moses' Kin uses movement as the medium through which race, class, culture and gender are used to voice the existence of our greater potential and unfulfilled possibilities. Moses' focus on the

expressiveness of the human body and his desire to speak with the voices of his African American heritage have produced works with regional, national and international recognition.

Since founding Robert Moses' Kin in 1995 in San Francisco, choreographer Robert Moses has collaborated with prominent dancers, musicians, composers, sculptors, authors, poets, and designers to realize the concept of dance as a unifying form of art, an art form that speaks broadly from a specific place. While touring nationally and creating over 100 original works, Robert Moses' Kin has earned a host of awards, including seven Isadora Duncan Awards (IZZIES), the Bonnie Bird North American Choreography Award, a Bay Guardian Outstanding Local Discovery Award in Dance (Goldie), and a SF Weekly Black Box Award for Choreography. Moses was on faculty at Stanford University 1995-2015. He has been a returning guest artist at the Northwest Dance Project and a mentor with Choreographers in Mentorship Exchange (CHIME). He conducts movement and performance workshops internationally. A highly-regarded master teacher and educator, Moses has taught throughout the United States, including Bates Dance Festival, Colorado Dance Festival, Goucher College, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, University of Texas, University of Nevada and Stanford University.

ABOUT Spark* SF Public Schools

Spark* SF Public Schools is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to building private partnerships in support of the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to ensure that each and every child receives the quality instruction and equitable support required to thrive in the 21st century.

Spark* leverages philanthropic support to pilot new ventures, propel promising ideas, and scale proven practices across the district. We learn from what's working and pivot when necessary, all in service of driving innovation and progress across San Francisco's public school system.

For Our Students, For Our Schools: <https://www.robertmoseskin.org/performances>

Spark*, SF Public Schools: <https://www.sparksfpublicschools.org/>

Website: www.RobertMosesKin.org

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