

Richard B. Burks

Chief Business Officer
Promise Christian Dance Academy
725 Washington Ave.
Greenville, MS 38703
info@thepromisecda.org

02/03/2025

Ford Foundation

320 E 43rd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ford Foundation Grant Committee,

I want to share a story with you about a small place making a big difference. Here in the Mississippi Delta, where opportunities can be scarce, Promise Christian Dance Academy (PCDA) has spent the last 13 years giving children something many of them have never had before: HOPE.

Since 2012, PCDA has been more than just a dance academy—it's been a safe place, a second home, and a foundation for children who dream of something bigger than their circumstances. Whether it's through creative arts, mentorship, or leadership programs, we've watched these kids take their first steps toward futures they never thought possible—futures in healthcare, the military, education, and beyond.

But right now, we're at a crossroads. Our building, the space that has been a second home for so many, is in dire need of renovation. Without these updates, it's becoming harder to provide the safe, welcoming environment our children deserve.

Your work at the Ford Foundation inspires us. Your commitment to justice, equity, and empowering the underserved aligns perfectly with the heart of what we do. With your help, we could:

- Provide scholarships to ensure every child, no matter their financial situation, has access to our programs.
- Expand our mentorship and leadership initiatives, giving kids the tools and confidence they need to succeed in life.
- Host community events that bring people together and create a sense of family.

These kids are more than statistics. They're the faces of resilience. They're children who show up every day. They're children who are eager to learn, grow, and dream.

"It's The Children"

They are why we're asking for your support—to give them a space where they can continue to thrive.

I wish I could introduce you to each of them, to see the joy on their faces when they realize they're capable of so much more than they thought. For now, I can only invite you to join us in this journey to keep those dreams alive.

Please feel free to reach out to me or Horacia Burks, CEO at 662.394.3278 or info@thepromisecca.org. I'd love to share more about the impact we're making together and how, with your support, we can continue to change lives in the Mississippi Delta.

Thank you for taking the time to hear a short part of our story.

Sincerely,

Horacia Burks, CEO
Richard B. Burks
Chief Business Officer
Promise Christian Dance Academy
