



# City of Cambridge

1.

## IN CITY COUNCIL

June 26, 1995

MAYOR REEVES  
COUNCILLOR BORN  
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY  
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO  
COUNCILLOR MYERS  
VICE MAYOR RUSSELL  
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN  
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has always professed and demonstrated a love for and support of the dramatic arts, particularly in the area of dance; and

WHEREAS: One cannot speak of the history or development of modern dance without speaking of the Dance Theater of Harlem, and one surely cannot speak of the Dance Theater of Harlem without paying homage to its legendary founder and artistic Director, ARTHUR MITCHELL; and

WHEREAS: ARTHUR MITCHELL has earned worldwide recognition as a teacher, choreographer, and director, and has been a pivotal figure in the dance world for over four decades; and

WHEREAS: ARTHUR MITCHELL made history early in his dance career as the first Black male dancer to become a permanent member of a major ballet company when he joined the New York City Ballet in 1955, where he rose to the position of principal dancer, and remained for over fifteen years; and

WHEREAS: ARTHUR MITCHELL founded the DANCE Theater of Harlem in 1969, inspired by the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, to provide Harlem youth with the unique opportunity to enrich and expand their world through the agent of dance; and

WHEREAS: ARTHUR MITCHELL has been globally recognized and honored for his artistry and his work, and in 1994 alone is the recipient of the coveted MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, the Barnard Medal of Distinction from Columbia University, and 1994 Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; and

WHEREAS: In 1993, ARTHUR MITCHELL became the youngest ever recipient of what is surely the most nationally recognized arts honor, the Kennedy Center Honor for "an extraordinary lifetime of contribution to American culture through the

arts;" and

WHEREAS: ARTHUR MITCHELL is, in addition to these superlative accomplishments, the recipient of no less than fourteen Honorary Doctorate degrees from institutions of higher learning across the nation, including Howard University, the Juilliard School, and Williams College; and

WHEREAS: To continue to list the accolades, honors, awards, and other recognition bestowed upon this "Icon of the Arts" would fill volumes, and only increase our esteem for this paragon of arts and letters; and

WHEREAS: ARTHUR MITCHELL has graciously agreed to include his *Dancing Through Barriers* National Education Initiative in this year's Summer Arts Program, as a pilot program, with an eye towards making this a permanent fixture; and

WHEREAS: This program will introduce many of our Cambridge youths to the beautiful world of fine arts and modern dance; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council does hereby officially thank ARTHUR MITCHELL for sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience with the children of Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this City Council does hereby officially welcome ARTHUR MITCHELL to the City of Cambridge.

In City Council June 26, 1995

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

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*Don Duhey Kathleen Myers Russell*  
Consent Order #1

*Sullivan Giannafilio*

Mayor Reeves re: Official thanks to  
Arthur Mitchell for sharing his wealth  
of knowledge and experience with the  
children of Cambridge.

*R-611*

**In City Council June 26, 1995**

*Order adopted.*