

31th Cambridge River Festival: Sat. June 5 Noon-6pm

Engage: Interactive Dance Stage Schedule and Biographies

Memorial Drive across from Flagg Street

Coordinated by José Mateo Ballet Theatre & Dance for World Community

Hosted by Alice Hunter, Cambridge-based choreographer and instructor

José Mateo Ballet Theatre Youth Works

12-1pm

Founded more than 20 years ago, José Mateo Ballet Theatre is a non-profit professional performance company and school. The Theatre is distinguished as the only ballet company in New England to produce an entire repertory by its own resident choreographer. It also recently signed a 41-year lease with the National Historic Landmark Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square. Mark your calendar for Dance for World Community on Saturday, June 12 in Harvard Square. Enjoy performances, take free introductory dance classes, and connect with social service and advocacy organizations.

OrigiNation

1-2pm

Founded in 1994, OrigiNation is a non-profit organization that implements programs that motivate, challenge, and inspire youth to be the best they can be. The company uses dance, theater arts, and African history education to teach young people between the ages of five through eighteen the importance of self-respect, health, nutrition, education, self-esteem, and the extent of African influences on various contemporary art forms.

La Piñata

2-3pm

La Piñata is an organization that celebrates indigenous, folkloric, and contemporary Latin American music, dance, drama, visual arts, and stories. Established in 1990, La Piñata is dedicated to youth and educational work around Boston with the ultimate objective of spreading understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity.

Mladost Folk Ensemble

3-4pm

Meaning “youth” in many Slavic languages, Mladost explores a wide array of cultures and ethnicities performing songs and dances from all over the world. The group consists of high school and college students as well as young professionals from a variety of backgrounds diverse as their repertoire.

Hyde Square Task Force - Ritmo en Accion

4-5pm

Since 1980's, Hyde Square Task Force has been developing programs for youth and families that help create positive relations and opportunities to take pride and action in the community. Founded in 2001, the Ritmo en Acción is an Afro-Latin and contemporary dance troupe that serves over 300 teens and children in the community.

Benkadi Drum and Dance

5pm

Benkadi, which in Bamanankan language of Mali means “Coming Together Sweetly,” is an group of artists and educators dedicated to performing, teaching and researching West African dance and musical forms. Based in the Boston area, the group aspires to bring people together in a spirit of harmony with respect for traditions.