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MOVING IN THE SPIRIT PRESENTS UPLIFTING COLLABORATIVE DANCE PERFORMANCE AT
RIALTO

ATLANTA, Georgia – April 1, 2008 – The Rialto Center for the Performing Arts at Georgia State University will present Moving in the Spirit's *Origins: Honoring Our Humanity* on May 1, 2008 at 7pm. This exciting event will examine music and dance throughout history – from Traditional African to Spirituals, from Jazz and Blues to Funk and Hip Hop. Through this vibrant performance, audience members will be able to trace the beautiful cultural threads that connect music and dance to our collective identity.

Moving in the Spirit, a dance-based youth development program serving youth ages 3-18, partners every year with local artists and youth groups to create a large scale multi-media production. This year, Moving in the Spirit collaborates with renowned poet Alice Lovelace, prominent visual artist Sal Brownfield and the Atlanta Young Singers of Callanwolde for this performance celebrating cultural heritage. "We believe that collaborative partnerships allow us to bridge communities, transcend barriers and deepen the cultural impact of our creative work", says Artistic and Executive Director, Dana Lupton.

For students in Moving in the Spirit's programs, *Origins* serves as a culmination of their class experience, and allows participants to practice the skills and values they have learned throughout the program year. In preparing for this performance, students learn

the importance of self-discipline, respect, teamwork, focus and motivation.

Additionally, they have the chance to express themselves through dance and work with some of Atlanta's finest artists. Stressing the importance of this opportunity for the young dancers, visual artist Sal Brownfield says, "We need the arts. The arts give us something that nothing else can provide, individual expression. We need opportunities for our youth such as Moving in the Spirit and I'm delighted to have been invited to participate."

Origins: Honoring Our Humanity will be held on May 1, 2008 at 7pm. Tickets may be purchased for \$16 at the door on the night of the event. Children under the age of 3 can attend the performance free of charge. For more information, call 404-624-5295.

Founded by Dana Lupton and Leah Mann in 1986, Moving in the Spirit is a nationally recognized youth development program that integrates high quality dance instruction with performance, leadership and mentor opportunities for young people in Atlanta's urban communities. Moving in the Spirit educates, inspires and unites young people through dance, in order to help them become compassionate leaders.

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