

Founded in 1986 by a group of Cambodian refugees with a passion for Khmer performing arts came together in Lowell, Massachusetts, with the sole purpose of reviving a culture once almost lost, Angkor Dance Troupe (ADT) was formed to preserve and develop the traditions of Cambodian performing arts. Now, 30 years later, what began as an idea in the basement of a home has grown to an organization of 10 dedicated staff and over 100 volunteers. Nationally recognized as one of the most accomplished U.S.-based Cambodian traditional arts ensembles, the Troupe is directed by world-renowned master teachers and performs a body of work developed by the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Cambodian culture continues to thrive here in Lowell through the generations of students who have been enfolded into the journey ADT has travelled.

Each year over 20,000 people enjoy performances by ADT, which also reaches over 1,000 through a quarterly newsletter, and in the past 30 years ADT has instructed over 4,500 youth in classical Cambodian dance and arts. We continue to receive national attention, including recognition by the National Endowment of the Arts, a performance at the White House, a major role in the award-winning documentary Monkey Dance, and television segments on the Travel Channel with Andrew Zimmerman, WGBH's Neighborhood Kitchens, and Chronicle.

The ADT youth of the past have become today's leaders, and they carry with them the legacy of the magnificent Cambodian culture of performing arts. To celebrate this milestone, ADT's anniversary celebration on April 7, 2017 will establish an endowment to ensure that today's youth will become future leaders of the community, overcoming challenges with creativity and innovation.