Announced on the occasion of the 25th anniversary year of the Americans with Disabilities Act, this Dance/NYC initiative aims to advance inclusion and access to the art form for disabled people. This work extends Dance/NYC’s core capabilities for research, technology, and convening, and the organizational values of equity and inclusion embedded into all aspects of its programs and services.

Primary activities through 2018 include funding integrated dance in the metropolitan New York City area; quantitative and qualitative analyses at the nexus of disability and dance; targeted leadership training, networking, and convening; and a directory of online resources.

Dance/NYC established the Disability. Dance. Artistry. Fund (DDA Fund), made possible by the generous support of the Ford Foundation, to generate dance making and performance by and with disabled artists. This activity is intended to advance artistic innovation and excellence— and, by extension, further disability rights.

The Disability. Dance. Artistry. initiative is made possible with founding and leadership support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; Ford Foundation; Booth Ferris Foundation; Engaging Dance Audiences, administered by Dance/USA and made possible by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; and The Lucille Lortel Foundation. The project is also supported, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; the City of New York, Bill de Blasio, Mayor, and the New York City Council, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker, through the Department of Cultural Affairs, Tom Finkelpearl, Commissioner; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Dance/NYC thanks the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, Victor Calise, Commissioner, for its partnership, and the initiative task force.

Please continue to visit Dance.NYC for initiative updates, and join the Disability. Dance. Artistry. Network to receive information on integrated and disability dance artistry in the New York City metropolitan area.