Dance/NYC advocates on behalf of the greater New York City dance community with core values based on justice, equity, and inclusion. As the only dance service non-profit in New York City, Dance/NYC uses its action-oriented research as the foundation for effectively advocating to make all New Yorkers, New Yorkers for Dance. Dance/NYC advocates on behalf of the dance sector and remains adaptable to best serve the changing needs of dance workers, artists, organizations, and businesses to ensure that dance thrives in the metropolitan New York City area and isn’t leaving until it does.

TAKE ACTION - City Budget Advocacy
Urge your City Council representatives to support the cultural sector

- Refer to the cultural sector's Visionary Investment in Building the Economy for NYC (VIBE) budget proposal to craft your advocacy for investing in the City's arts and cultural sector.
- Sign on to support HueArtsNYC's letter to Mayor Adams to prioritize and adequately fund the 400+ arts entities founded by, led by, and serving Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and all People of Color across New York.
- Check out a recent op-ed by City Council Member Chi Ossé responding to the Mayor's preliminary budget which closes with a strong case for supporting the arts and cultural sector.
- Amplify the importance of the arts in schools! Browse NYC Arts in Education Roundtable's campaign site and review the budget response one-pager to learn more. Be an arts education champion by taking the following actions:
  - Contact your representative using this one-click form. Make an impact in under 60 seconds.
  - Use this Social Media Toolkit and the #ItStartsWithTheArts hashtag to grow the coalition.
  - Share press coverage on the It Starts with the Arts campaign.

TAKE ACTION - Tell the Mayor to support housing, healthcare, and food access
Sign on to support More Art's open letter to the Mayor Adams to advocate for the City's underserved populations and demand the prioritization of well-being with a series of policy reforms on access to housing, healthcare, and food. Review the letter and revisit the panel discussion.

TAKE ACTION - Advancing Equity through the Arts and Humanities Act
Sign on to endorse the Advancing Equity Through the Arts and Humanities Act (H.R. 7627), which was recently introduced to Congress by Representative Barbara Lee of California. Review the full text of the bill and press release.

TAKE ACTION - Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act
Sign on to endorse the Nonprofit Sector Strength and Partnership Act which would establish government structures and policies that deepen this relationship and help nonprofits achieve their missions. Learn more about the bill, review and share the info sheet, and advocate to your community through the A Seat at the Table campaign.

BILL PASSED - NYC Salary Transparency Law
The New York City Council recently voted to adopt Int. 1208, which mandates employers to include in job listings the minimum and maximum salary offered for any position located within New York City. Violations constitute an unlawful and discriminatory practice and can be reported to the NYC Human Rights Commission.
The City Council voted to delay implementation of this law until November 2022. A similar bill (S. 5598B) is currently under consideration by the New York State Senate Labor Committee. Learn more about the law and its effects on bridging inequities.

Learn more about the latest debate around amendments to the salary transparency law.

BILL PASSED - NY State Office of the Advocate for People with Disabilities

Governor Kathy Hochul has signed into law A. 3130 / S.1836 to authorize the reestablishment of the Office of the Advocate for People with Disabilities.

- Learn more about what the state can do to invest in the disability services sector
- Governor Hochul calls to boost employment and housing opportunities and investments for disabled people
- Learn more about Chief Disability Officer Kimberly Hill
- Learn more about the Office's top line priorities

Upcoming Events / Hearings

Events

Dance/NYC hosts monthly Field-Wide Calls for the dance sector. The calls address questions, needs, and plans for the future of the field. Calls are every third Thursday of the month from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The next call is on July 21st, on the Dance. Workforce. Resilience. Initiative. Register to attend Dance/NYC Field-Wide Calls.

Join New Yorkers for Culture and Arts for weekly advocacy calls for the arts sector, held every Thursday from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Email Lucy Sexton to sign up to join the calls: [email protected].

Join Dance/USA for monthly virtual Advocacy Office Hours the first Friday of every month at 1:00 p.m. with Tony Shivers, Dance/USA’s Director of Government Affairs, to learn what is happening on Capitol Hill, discuss federal, state, and local advocacy opportunities, ask questions, seek guidance, and more.

Hearings

Stay up to date with upcoming hearings on the City Council hearing calendar and State Legislature hearing calendar. Visit Dance/NYC's Advocacy Resources page for more information on giving testimony.

Federal

Review Americans for the Arts summary of federal creative economy legislation

Infrastructure

Learn more about the Build Back Better Act This historic bill passed in the House is currently awaiting passage in the Senate.

- Full Build Back Better Act bill text
- Biden Administration’s Build Back Better Framework and Guidebook
- The Build Back Better Act contains key provisions to support disabled people, specifically regarding increased access to home and community-based services and competitive integrative employment to eliminate subminimum wages for disabled people.
- Sign on to support provisions for disabled people in the Build Back Better Act.

The historic federal bipartisan infrastructure bill has been signed into law.

- Review a fact sheet about the bill
- Review a summary of key nonprofit and civic infrastructure provisions

Arts Workforce

The Creative Economy Revitalization Act (CERA - H.R.5019) is a bipartisan bill that proposes to create a federal workforce grants program for artists that would allocate grants and commissions for art that is public and accessible to the entire community. This historic legislation stands to contribute significantly to the recovery of the arts and culture sector by putting arts workers back to work.

- Review the official CERA press release
- Explore the CERA Explainer and FAQ from the Get Creative Workers Working coalition
- Send a letter to your representatives through Americans for the Arts
- Use this one-click advocacy tool to send a letter to your legislators
- Spread the word by using this CERA Advocacy Toolkit from Be An Arts Hero.
- Sign on to support CERA and other programs for the creative economy by reauthorizing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

Ask your member of Congress to cosponsor the bipartisan Performing Artist Tax Parity Act (H.R. 4750/S.2872) to restore tax fairness for arts workers by allowing them to deduct necessary expenses related to their work.

The Promoting Local Arts and Creative Economy Workforce Act (PLACE Act; S.3232) would provide for opportunities for education, job training, technical assistance, and business development in creative industries and professions. Learn more about the potential impact of this bill.
The Comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts to Transform the Economy Act (CREATE Act: H.R. 6381/S. 3521) would expand financial assistance for and establish measures to support the creative economy and arts entrepreneurs. This includes establishing an Artist Corps to increase national service through the arts, expanding programs at the Small Business Administration (SBA) to increase resources for entrepreneurs, and improving the visa processing time for immigrant artists.

Join the Performing Arts Alliance in advocating for Recovery for Nonprofits and Arts Workers Impacted by COVID-19. Browse issue areas and send a letter to your representatives to support your chosen cause.

Arts Organizations
The Save Our Stages Extension Act (H.R. 5429 / S. 2889) would extend to March 11, 2023, the time frame during which Shuttered Venue Operators Grant recipients may use grant funds to cover their expenses. This acknowledges the ongoing nature of the pandemic and its extended effects on venues currently experiencing cancellations and interruptions in programming.

The Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) Extension Act (H.R. 6163) would provide for a reinstatement of the employee retention tax credit through Q4 2021. Learn more about ERTC and its effect on nonprofit organizations.

Nonprofit Organizations
The Work Opportunities and Resources to Keep Nonprofit Organizations Well Act (WORK NOW Act; H.R. 1987/S. 740) would help charitable nonprofit organizations provide pandemic-related services, preserve and create jobs in the nonprofit sector, reduce unemployment, and promote economic recovery.

The bipartisan Universal Giving Pandemic Response and Recovery Act (S. 618 / H.R. 1704) would raise the $300/$600 cap on the non itemized charitable deduction to roughly $4,000 for individuals and $8,000 for couples. The Charitable Giving Coalition circulated a sign on letter to Congressional leaders in early December urging Congress to pass this legislation.

The Accelerating Charitable Efforts Act (ACE Act; S. 1981) is bipartisan federal legislation that seeks to reform tax laws that cover charitable donations, specifically focusing on reporting and payout rules for Donor Advised Funds. Learn more about the ACE Act, its progress through the legislative process, and sign on to support.

Arts Education
The Arts Education for All Act (H.R. 5581) is the broadest arts education policy bill ever introduced in Congress. It includes key provisions to support and encourage the offering of arts education and programming experiences to the nation’s youngest learners, K-12 students, and youth impacted by the juvenile justice system.

- Review the bill summary
- Sign on to endorse the legislation as an organization
- Contact your representatives using this one-click tool
- Check out an arts in education advocacy toolkit from the National Arts Educators Association.

Disability
Sign on to support the Better Care Better Jobs Act (S.2217 / HR4131) a historic and long-overdue investment in the disability service system as part of a COVID-19 economic recovery to support care for Medicaid recipients and create more and better jobs for the workforce that provides that care. Learn more about the Better Care Better Jobs Act and review the fact sheet.

The Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act of 2021 (S.2065) proposes to boost incomes for seniors and disabled people by raising a low, outdated income floor. The SSI Restoration Act would pull more than 3 million Americans out of poverty and support home- and community-based services for Medicare and Medicaid recipients. Learn more about the SSI Restoration Act and the crisis in disability care infrastructure.

The Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (H.R.2373 / S.3238) supports disabled people in finding, retaining competitive integrated employment, services, and technical assistance and prohibits the payment of subminimum wages. Learn more about the proposal and the transition to competitive integrative employment.

State
Arts Organizations
Support nonprofit advocacy: Int. 2148 (NYC) and A.6943 / S.6398 (NY State) would raise the City’s "lobbying threshold" to $10,000. Nonprofit New York and coalition partners have been advocating to raise the threshold as a part of the A Place at the Table campaign. The campaign seeks to reduce barriers for nonprofits to engage in legislative advocacy. Sign on to support and review the recording of a recent legislative briefing on this proposal.

Freelance Workers
State legislators have introduced a statewide version of the Freelance Isn’t Free Act (S. 8369) which was enacted in New York in 2017. The State’s proposal includes a provision that mandates contracts for freelance work worth $250 or more.

- Review data on NYC freelancers in the Freelancing in NY report
- Download a copy of the NYC freelance laws and rules
- Learn more and explore resources from the Freelancers Union
- Refer to the Freelance Isn’t Free advocacy toolkit
- Review a recent op-ed by Rafael Espinal of the Freelancers Union: Making the case for a “Freelance isn’t free” law in New York
Healthcare

Coverage For All (A880 / S1572) would expand health care coverage to New York residents regardless of their immigration status. The measure would create a state-funded health coverage option for New York state residents who earn up to 200% of the federal poverty line and include undocumented residents. Learn more about Coverage For All.

The New York Health Act (A6058 / S6474) will provide comprehensive health coverage for every resident or full-time worker in New York. Learn more and take action to support the Campaign for New York Health.

Disability & Equity

Learn more about a bill before the State legislature that would extend remote access to public hearings A08591 / S07623A to allow any public body to hold meetings remotely and without in-person access during the COVID-19 state disaster emergency.

New York State Assembly bill A3103 eliminates provisions exempting employees with disabilities from the minimum wage law and provides that laws or minimum wage orders that authorize an employer to pay a wage that is less than the minimum wage are valid provided that under such laws or orders an employee with a disability is paid the same wage as an employee in a comparable position that does not have a disability. Learn more about the bill.

Learn more about New York State Assembly Bill A6642, which prohibits the imposition of different premium rates for disability insurance based on gender.

Arts Workforce

Join Be An #ArtsHero to support A Percent for the Arts to set aside a determined percentage of the total project budgets for municipal capital improvement projects for public art. These policies also address how the money is to be spent on the acquisition and commissioning of public artworks. Review example policies and NYC’s Percent for Art Program.

Arts Organizations

Support the creation of an Office of Nonprofit Services through Int. 1784. This local law would require the Mayor to establish an Office of Not-For-Profit Services to assist and be a resource to not-for-profit organizations in New York City.

Join the NYC Artist Coalition to advocate for commercial rent stabilization to prevent small business closure and cultural displacement. Find more information about the bill (Int 0093-2022) to learn more about the bill’s proposals and sign on to support #FairRentNYC.

Nonprofit Organizations


- Review a letter from the Task Force Co-chairs
- Learn more about the impact of proposed changes
- Visit the Mayor’s Office of Nonprofits

Disability Justice

Reexperience the recording of the Hyp-ACCESS February 23 press conference: All Issues Are Disability Issues and review the associated policy guidance sheet.

Racial Justice

The New York City Racial Justice Commission has submitted three ballot proposals for the November 2022 general election. Review the Commission’s final report and the proposals outlined below:

1. Amend the City Charter with a preamble that includes a statement of values and vision aspiring toward "a just and equitable city for all" New Yorkers
2. Create an Office of Racial Equity, require Racial Equity Plans, and form a Commission on Racial Equity
3. Amend the City Charter to require the City to create a True Cost of Living measure to track the actual cost in New York City of meeting essential needs

Civic Engagement

Review the State Comptroller’s report on the challenges facing the restaurant, retail, and recreation sectors.

Review Mayor Eric Adams’ Reviving the Heart of the Arts Plan, which includes a message from the Mayor and a list of initiatives to address the recovery and long-term survival of the arts and cultural sector in New York City.
News Items

March 18: Mayer Adams Appoints Laurie Cumbo as Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner

November 20: Democratize the Arts in NYC: Learn about the origin and pressing consequences of inequity in the arts and culture sector.

November 3: Let's Make Open Culture Permanent: Why we must codify in law the pandemic-era program that has brought art, music, and dance to our streets. Op-ed co-authored by New York City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and Dance/NYC Executive Director Alejandra Duque Cifuentes.

List of Coalition Partners

Dance/NYC works with local coalitions and members of the sector to advocate for the needs of dance workers, artists, and organizations, as well as arts and culture at large. Advocacy collaborators include:

Be An Arts Hero
Coalition for Advancing Nonprofits
Costume Industry Coalition
Creative States Coalition
[Email protected]
Dance Artists’ National Collective
Dance Rising
Dance Studio Alliance
Dance/USA
League of Independent Theaters
Music Workers Alliance
National Cohort for Artist Support
New Yorkers for Culture and Arts
Nonprofits Make New York
Nonprofit New York
Put Creative Workers to Work
Stonewall 50 Consortium

Alejandra Duque Cifuentes, Executive Director of Dance/NYC, also sits on the boards of New Yorkers for Culture and Arts and Nonprofit New York.

Previous Advocacy

June 22, 2022
Testimony to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations: Oversight - Cultural Institutions and Access for Individuals with Disabilities
Submitted to City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations on June 22, 2022...
Prepared by Dance/NYC...
Presented by Ariel Herrera, Research and Advocacy Manager...

May 25, 2022
Testimony to City Council Committee on Finance Executive Budget Hearing
Submitted to City Council Committee on Finance on May 25, 2022...
Prepared by Dance/NYC...
Presented by Ariel Herrera, Research and Advocacy Manager...

March 11, 2022
Testimony to the City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations preliminary budget hearing
Submitted to City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations on March 8, 2022...
Prepared by Dance/NYC...
Presented by Alejandra Duque Cifuentes, Executive Director...
February 24, 2022
Testimony to the City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations
hearing on Expanding Access to Cultural Institutions for Underserved BIPOC Youth and the BIPOC Community At Large
Submitted to City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations...
Prepared by Dance/NYC...
Presented by Alejandra Duque Cifuentes, Executive Director...

February 16, 2022
Testimony to New York State Assembly Ways & Means Committee and New York State Senate Finance Committee Joint Legislative Budget hearing on Economic Development
Submitted to New York State Assembly Ways & Means Committee Chair Assemblywoman Helene E. Weinstein and New York State Senate Finance Committee Chair Senator Liz Krueger on February 16, 2022...
Prepared by Dance/NYC...

January 31, 2022
Testimony to the U.S. House Small Business Committee
Submitted to U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez, Vice-Chair Kweisi Mfume, and Ranking Member Blaine Luetkemeyer on January 31, 2022
Prepared by Dance/NYC...

December 6, 2021
Testimony to City Council Committee on Education
Testimony to City Council Committee on Education: Oversight - Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Arts Instruction, Extracurriculars, and School-Related Social Activities...
Presented by Sarah Cecilia Bukowski, Research & Advocacy Assistant...
...

November 15, 2021
Testimony to City Council Committee on Economic Development and Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations
Submitted to City Council Committee on Economic Development and the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations on November 15, 2021...
Presented by Sarah Cecilia Bukowski, Research & Advocacy Assistant...