DANCE ADVANCEMENT FUND

Made possible by the generous support of the Ford Foundation, the purpose of the Dance Advancement Fund is to address the inequitable distribution of resources in the dance field and advance resilience by supporting dance makers with budgets between $25,000 and $1 million. Dance/NYC believes the dance ecology must itself be just, equitable, and inclusive to meaningfully contribute to social progress and envisions a dance ecology wherein power, funding, opportunities, conduct, and impacts are fair for all artists, cultural workers, and audiences. Dance/NYC’s approach cuts across its public programs and all aspects of its operations, and it aims to advance economic justice through the Dance Advancement Fund, while recognizing that dance makers with operating budgets below $25,000 also need support.

In January 2020, Dance/NYC announced the following recipients of funding:

- Alpha Omega Theatrical Dance Company
  $14,000
- Arthur Aviles Typical Theatre/BAAD! Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance
  $20,000
- Ayazamana Ecuadorian Dance Group
  $16,000
- Big Dance Theater
  $16,000
- The Black Iris Project (fiscally sponsored by New York Live Arts and The Foundation for Independent Artists, Inc.)
  $11,000
- Bombazo Dance Co, Inc.
  $14,000
- Born Dancing
  $12,000
- Dances For A Variable Population
  $19,000
- Dancing in the Streets
  $16,000
- Davalois Fearon Dance (fiscally sponsored by The Foundation for Independent Artists, Inc.)
  $16,000
- Divine Rhythm Productions (fiscally sponsored by Fractured Atlas)
  $16,000
- Eglevsky Ballet Company of LI, Inc.
  $29,000
- Elisa Monte Dance
  $20,000
- Fist and Heel Performance Group
  $16,000
- Full Circle Souljahs
  $11,000
- Jaamil Olawale Kosoko (fiscally sponsored by New York Live Arts)
  $16,000
- Jiva Performing Arts
  $16,000
- Kyle Marshall Choreography (fiscally sponsored by The Foundation for Independent Artists, Inc.)
  $11,000
- LEIMAY
  $16,000
- MBDance (fiscally sponsored by Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance [BAAD!])
  $11,000
- Miguel Gutierrez (fiscally sponsored by UNIQUE PROJECTS, INC.)
  $16,000
- Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company
  $20,000
- Nimbus Dance
Grantees were awarded two-year general support grants of $5,000–$15,000 annually, from January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021, based on organizational budget size. The 25 grantees were selected by a review panel and were among a competitive pool of over 100 metropolitan New York City area dance groups who submitted applications in response to an open call. Key evaluation criteria included: clear artistic vision and excellence; a dedication to sustaining practice beyond the two-year grant period, with a well-articulated narrative for how the funds will help advance the organization, and a willingness to share learning with the field; commitments and measurable actions in alignment with stated values of diversity, justice, equity, and inclusion; a commitment to paying artists and arts workers a living wage; and a diversity of dance perspectives.

Related Resources:
- Call for Proposals (August 23, 2019)
- Review Panel, Panel Charter, and Panelist Guide

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In October 2017, Dance/NYC announced the following recipients of the inaugural Dance Advancement Fund:

- Angela’s Pulse (fiscally sponsored by Brooklyn Arts Exchange)
- Arthur Aviles Typical Dance Theatre
- Asase Yaa African American Dance Theater
- Callouli Mexican Dance Company
- Camille A. Brown & Dancers (fiscally sponsored by Fractured Atlas)
- Claudia Schreier Choreography Inc.
- Diversity in Arts and Nations for Cultural Education, Inc. (DANCE)
- Divine Rhythm Productions (fiscally sponsored by Fractured Atlas)
- Donna Uchizono Company
- Eko & Koma
- Ephrat Asherie Dance (fiscally sponsored by New York Live Arts)
- Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana
- Gamelan Dharma Swara
- Heidi Latsky Dance
- Jessica Lang Dance, Inc.
- Jua Performing Arts
- Kate Weare Company (fiscally sponsored by Fractured Atlas)
- Liz Gerring Dance Company
- Reggie Wilson/Fist and Heel Performance Group
- Sidra Bell Dance New York
- The People Movers (fiscally sponsored by Fractured Atlas)
- Topaz Arts Dance Productions
- Yaa Samar! Dance Theatre
- ZviDance

Grantees were awarded two-year general support grants of $5,000–$15,000 annually, from October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2019, based on organizational budget size, as well as pro bono marketing support and convening opportunities. The 25 grantees were selected by a review panel and were among a competitive pool of approximately 150 metropolitan New York City area dance groups who submitted applications in response to an open call. Key evaluation criteria included: artistic excellence and clear artistic vision; a well-articulated narrative for how the funds will help advance the organization; a commitment to the values of equity and inclusion; demonstrated organizational and financial health, regardless of budget size; and a commitment to paying artists; and a diversity of organizational types and perspectives.

Related Resources:
- Announcement of Dance Advancement Fund Grantees (October 31, 2017)
- Announcement of Dance Advancement Fund (May 16, 2017)
- Call for Proposals (May 31, 2017)
- Review Panel and Review Panel Charter

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DANCE ADVANCEMENT FUND IN THE NEWS

Ford Foundation to grant $400K to 25 NYC-based dancers; application deadline near
Staten Island Advance, Victoria Priola, September 10, 2019

Small and minority-led dance companies get access to new funds
Crain's New York Business, Miriam Souccar, May 18, 2017