NEW YORK CITY DANCE REHEARSAL SPACE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Administered by Dance/NYC and made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the purpose of the New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program is to make affordable rehearsal space available to dance makers whose dance work has been publicly presented and are in critical need of space for the creation and development of their work, while also fostering a more inclusive and fair dance field, with a focus on accessibility, geography, and the demographics of artists served. By addressing financial barriers to accessing artistic development space, this program aims to advance artistic development and delivery and contribute to the field’s overall diversity, sustainability, resilience, and health.

In January of 2019, Dance/NYC announced the following recipients of funding:

Abrons Arts Center/Henry Street Settlement
Ballet Hispánico
Baryshnikov Arts Center
Center for Performance Research
CUNY Dance Initiative
Green Space
Dancewave
Dance Theatre of Harlem
Fourth Arts Block
Gibney
Mark Morris Dance Center
Movement Research
New York Live Arts
RIOLUT Dance NY
Snug Harbor Cultural Center
Topaz Arts

Grantees received funding to subsidize rehearsal spaces from January 2019 through December 2021. Amounts range from $36,800 to $178,500. Each recipient will offer 650 to 2,000 hours of subsidized space annually to dance makers, collectively offering more than 65,000 hours over three years across all five boroughs. Following a series of site visits conducted by Carrie Blake of Webb Management Services at 42 facilities from May to July 2018, these 16 grantees were selected by an internal review process of an invitation-only application in Fall 2018. The cohort was chosen on their merits as leading contributors of rehearsal space for the creation and development of dance works, while prioritizing spaces that represent aesthetic and cultural diversity across all five boroughs, ADA compliance, and the demographics of artists served. Key evaluation criteria included quality of rehearsal space; ability to provide 1,000 hours of subsidized space annually with the majority of those hours taking place at peak times; expressed commitment to the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice; and commitment to subsidizing rehearsal space for small-budget dance groups (with budgets of less than $1 million).

Related Resources:
SpaceFinder NYC Dance Space Directory, powered by Fractured Atlas
Directory of New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program Grantees
Announcement of New York City Dance Rehearsal Space Subsidy Program Grantees (January 15, 2019)
Invitation Only, Request for Proposals (October 5, 2018)

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A once-struggling artist has become the dance community's benevolent landlord
Crain's New York Business, Aaron Elstein, February 4, 2019

Grant will mean affordable studio space for NYC dancers
Crain's New York Business, Aaron Elstein, January 15, 2019

More Rehearsal Space Subsidy in the News