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Where Does the Money Go? Dance Funding In New York City: A Report

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Dance/NYC commissioned this report to answer the question, "Where does the money go?" It wanted to better understand the giving climate in which New York City's dance organizations, companies, and choreographers are operating. This survey was undertaken to determine to what degree the private and public sectors (exclusive of earned income and individual donors) are supporting dance in New York City.

Public sector analysis included federal, state and city government funding sources, not just the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, but also federal appropriations and New York State legislative awards provided by the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. We also tracked awards provided in New York City by the Offices of the Borough Presidents and contracts provided by the New York City Departments of Education and Youth & Community Development.

The private sector's role in supporting dance organizations was uncovered by tabulating data from a pool of 30 foundations, 11 corporations, and 8 nonprofit service organizations that regrant funds from these private, as well as public, sources.

While this study supplies information for fiscal years 2000 through 2002, fiscal year 2001 serves as the benchmark year, offering a snapshot of funding still benefiting from the strong economy of the late 1990s, prior to the events of September 11th and the ensuing economic downturn further exacerbated by war in Iraq. The benchmark year of 2001 provides an opportunity to understand more clearly who is funding dance in New York City, without the increase of post-9/11 emergency relief funds and the consequent decrease in endowments and stock portfolios.

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