

# ADVANCING FISCALLY SPONSORED DANCE ARTISTS & PROJECTS

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



## What is fiscal sponsorship?

**Fiscal sponsorship is a formal arrangement in which a 501(c)(3) public charity provides financial and legal oversight to an entity that does not have its own 501(c)(3) status. Sponsored artists and arts projects are eligible to solicit and receive grants and tax-deductible contributions that are normally available only to 501(c)(3) organizations.**

- With at least 460 active projects, sponsored dance represents 15% of all sponsored arts activity in NYC.
- Sponsored dance projects have small annual budgets, approximately \$18,400 on average.
- The sponsored dance workforce studied is working in multiple creative disciplines (with an average of 2.73 disciplines per artist) to achieve new horizons and impact.
- The majority (52–53%) of the sponsored dance artists and projects is based outside of Manhattan, especially in Brooklyn (39–40%).
- Nearly all (98%) of the sponsored dance workforce identifies as artists.
- Approximately a third (32%) of the sponsored dance workforce reports going unpaid for its labor.
- With 67% of respondents identifying as white non-Hispanic, the sponsored dance sample is less ethnically and racially homogeneous than the wider sponsored arts workforce, but out of step with the makeup of the city's population, which is 33% white non-Hispanic.
- Only 17% of respondents indicates a nation of birth outside of the United States, compared to 37% of the city's population.

- 10% of the sponsored dance workforce identifies as disabled, matching the percentage of New Yorkers who identify as disabled and suggesting the growing movement of disability arts may be finding a home in the fiscal sponsorship arena.
- The sponsored dance workforce skews young, with 85% of dance respondents born on or after 1965, compared to 70% of the city's population.
- 77% of the sponsored dance workforce identifies as female, significantly outpacing both the wider fiscally sponsored arts workforce and the city's overall population, which is 52% female according to US Census data.
- The percentage of the sponsored dance workforce identifying as LGBTQ is substantial at 28%.
- The sponsored dance workforce studied ranks artistic development space as its highest need, followed by living wages, affordable presentation space, affordable healthcare, affordable living space, supplies and materials, and affordable training.
- Only a slim percentage of the sponsored dance workforce (8%) reports being able to access all the resources necessary to fulfill its needs.
- A chief hurdle for sponsored dance groups is access to funding sources, particularly to foundation and government funding programs that exclude sponsored groups despite their tax-exempt status. (While 93% of the sample receives funding from individuals, 52% receives foundation grants, and only 28% receives government income.)
- All charitable revenue sources (individual, foundation, and government) disproportionately serve sponsored dance artists who identify as white non-Hispanic and/or nondisabled.

*Analyses commissioned by Dance/NYC and prepared by Webb Management Services Incorporated, in partnership with Fractured Atlas. These findings are based on sample of 151 sponsored dance workers. Visit [Dance.NYC/FiscalSponsors2017](https://Dance.NYC/FiscalSponsors2017) for artswide findings.*

