

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Dance Advance Awards \$901,000 in Grants to 22 Artists and Organizations

Philadelphia—January 25, 2008

Dance Advance today announced \$901,000 in grants to 22 artists, companies, and organizations for the 2008-2009 season. From a total of 66 applicants requesting project support from Dance Advance, two grants went to first-time grantees and one to a first-time applicant. Dance Advance is an artistic initiative of the Philadelphia Center for Arts and Heritage, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by The University of the Arts.

This year's Dance Advance awards range in size from \$10,000 to \$80,000. Four grants were awarded to individuals; eleven to dance companies; seven to presenters; and one to a project involving four collaborating organizations. The awards support all aspects of the dance discipline: critical scholarship, artistic research and development, rehearsal and creation, and production and presentation of new, acquired, or reconstructed choreographic works. A full list of award recipients is attached.

"Philadelphia's dance community is generating work of greater artistry than ever before," said Marian Godfrey, managing director of Culture and Civic Initiatives at The Pew Charitable Trusts. "We are proud to support this unusually diverse array of projects which will bring exciting dance to our region's audiences."

"The range of work represented in the applicant pool speaks to the continuing vitality of our region's dance culture," remarked Bill Bissell, director of Dance Advance. "This year The Pew Charitable Trusts increased the amount of project funds we were able to award, enabling us to expand our efforts to more fully meet the financial demands that individual artists and small to mid-size companies face in following their artistic interests creating adventurous dance programming."

Each year, Dance Advance convenes a discipline-specific Peer Review Panel to select projects of outstanding merit. Proposals are evaluated by the panel according to criteria of artistic excellence, project excellence, and project impact. Grants are awarded in all genres of dance without regard to an applicant's financial need or prior funding history; and applicants must reside in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, or Montgomery counties of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA CENTER FOR ARTS AND HERITAGE

Supporting creativity and excellence through Dance Advance, Heritage Philadelphia Program, Pew Fellowships in the Arts, Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, Philadelphia Music Project, Philadelphia Theatre Initiative and the Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative
Funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts | Administered by The University of the Arts

The Peer Review Panel consisted of seven nationally recognized dance professionals: Jeffery Bullock, associate professor of dance at Hollins University and director of the American Dance Festival's Young Dancers School, and former dancer with Hubbard Street Dance Company and Pacific Northwest Ballet; Jennifer Calienes, director of the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography in Tallahassee, Florida, and former director of the National Dance Project; Dawn Gibson-Brehon, executive director of Ronald K. Brown/Evidence, Brooklyn, NY, and former director, World Theater, California State University, Monterey, CA; Wayne Hazzard, executive director of Dancers' Group in San Francisco, CA; Susan Warden, independent choreographer, Lawrence, KS; Lan-Lan Wang, choreographer, Professor, Department of Dance, Connecticut College, New London, CT; Amy Ginsburg, a dance artist and educator, served as the nonvoting panel chair.

Panelists also used reports from several expert consultants who reviewed potential applicants throughout the year: Simon Dove, Chair, Department of Dance, Arizona State University and former director of Springdance festival, Utrecht, Netherlands; Brent Edwards, Professor of English, Columbia University; Rita Felciano, dance writer and critic, San Francisco; Ursula Payne, independent choreographer and associate professor in dance, Slippery Rock University; Nicole Plett, executive officer, Institute for Women & Art, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; Gus Solomons, Jr., choreographer and co-artistic director, Paradigm, New York City; Andrea E. Woods, artistic director of SOULOWORKS/Andrea E. Woods; Elizabeth Zimmer, Dance and theater critic at *Metro NY*, and freelance arts writer and teacher.

Since its inception in 1993, Dance Advance and its precursor, the Philadelphia Repertory Dance Initiative, have funded a total of 330 dance-specific projects. These awards represent a value of \$7,679,250 invested in the region's dance communities.

The Pew Charitable Trusts is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public and stimulate civic life.

Opened in November 2005, the Philadelphia Center for Arts & Heritage (PCAH) houses seven existing initiatives of The Pew Charitable Trusts. PCAH is the home of Dance Advance, Heritage Philadelphia Program, Pew Fellowships in the Arts, Philadelphia Cultural Management Initiative, Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, Philadelphia Music Project, and Philadelphia Theatre Initiative. Together these programs assist cultural organizations and artists in the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania region in developing high-quality public programs and effective management practices. For more information, visit www.pcah.us.

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Dance Advance 2008-2009 Grantees

BalletX (*Company \$40,000*)

Support to commission two female choreographers, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa and Helen Pickett, as part of an examination of gender issues in ballet culture.

Community Education Center (*Presenter \$40,000*)

Support for three dancers and/or ensembles to participate in a ten-month-long New Edge Performing Artists residency.

Nicole Cousineau (*Individual \$20,000*)

Support to collaborate with Jorge Cousineau and Geoff Sobelle on *Deleted*, a new interdisciplinary work.

Dancefusion (*Company \$40,000*)

Support for *Reconstructing the Past*, a retrospective of classic American modern dances that includes live music performance, in collaboration with Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance and The Curtis Institute of Music.

Brenda Dixon-Gottschild (*Individual \$10,000*)*

Support for research on a biohistory of art and race chronicling the life and dancing times of Joan Myers Brown.

Group Motion Multi Media Dance Theater (*Company \$40,000*)

Support to commission composer Phil Kline and choreographer Wally Cardona for the dance installation *REVIVAL*, to be presented at the old Metropolitan Opera House on North Broad Street.

Headlong Dance Theater (*Company \$40,000*)

Support for *Unbraiding*, a five-month-long research and choreographic project inspired by the company's association with choreographer Tere O'Connor.

Jeanne Ruddy Dance (*Company \$45,000*)

Support to commission choreographer and theatrical director Martha Clarke to create a new dance theater work for the 2009 season.

Roko Kawai (*Individual \$20,000*)

Support for Part 2 of the Izu House project in collaboration with Leah Stein, including travel to Japan to continue working with Tokyo artists and filmmakers.

Kulu Mele African American Dance Ensemble (*Company \$40,000*)

Support of travel to Guinea for engaging with traditional artists Marie Toure and M'Bemba Bangoura, leading to the creation of a new work inspired by the experience.

Leah Stein Dance Company (*Company \$40,000*)

Support for a second collaboration with the Mendelssohn Club Chorus to create a new dance with a commissioned musical score by Pauline Oliveros.

Dance Advance 2008-2009 Grantees (page two)

Nichole Canuso Dance Company (*Company \$40,000*)

Support for rehearsal and further development of *Wandering Alice*, a site-specific performance inspired by Lewis Carroll and Haruki Murakami.

Painted Bride Art Center (*Presenter \$55,000*)

Support for residencies and a performance involving three Caribbean dancer/choreographers: Cuban Marianela Boán and Tania Isaac from St. Lucia (who both now live in Philadelphia), and Gabri Christa from Curaçao.

Pennsylvania Ballet (*Company \$80,000*)

Support to acquire *Kazimir's Colors* by contemporary Italian choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti.

Philadelphia Dance Projects (*Presenter \$25,000*)

Support for *Philadelphia Dance Projects Presents...*, a collection of workshops, classes, and public programs at the Performance Garage.

Philadelphia Folklore Project (*Presenter \$40,000*)

Support for a new season of the Dance Happens Here Initiative, a project providing technical assistance that includes a professional development Dance Camp for Liberian and Cambodian dancers.

Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe (*Presenter \$80,000*)

Support to present two European choreographers for the first time in Philadelphia at the 2008 Live Arts Festival: Jerome Bel (France) and Jan Fabre (Belgium).

Susan Hess Modern Dance (*Presenter \$40,000*)

Support to expand the Choreographers Project and Masters Exchange mentoring project.

Tania Isaac Dance (*Company \$20,000*)**

Support to expand *stuporwoman*, a work about motherhood that includes three dancers, a playwright, an opera singer, and classical instrumentalists.

Team Office (*Project of Common Interest \$27,000*)

Support for a collaboration between Nichole Canuso Dance Company, PIMA Group, Subcircle, and Pasión y Arte, leading to the development of Team Office, a shared management system serving multiple companies and individual artists.

Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (*Company \$40,000*)

Support for production costs of *Steppes*, a home season program in Philadelphia at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, including new costumes from the Ukraine for one work, and live music by master violinist Vasyly Popadiuk and his band Papa Duke.

Kate Watson Wallace (*Individual \$15,000*)

Support of *Store*, the third installation of a trilogy of works to be performed in everyday spaces.

*First time applicant, first time grantee

**First time applicant (company)