

For Immediate Release
May 14, 2012



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Dancers' Group announces the recipients of the 2012 Lighting Artists in Dance Award

Supporting the progress of lighting design for dance in the San Francisco Bay Area.

SAN FRANCISCO—Dancers' Group, San Francisco's leading dance service organization, announces their fifth annual grant awards to support lighting designers working in the field of dance. The **Lighting Artists in Dance (LAD) Award** is the only program of its kind in the Bay Area that provides lighting designers, working with choreographers and dance companies, access to funds that will support their artistic collaborations, which culminate in the creation of dance performances taking place in the Bay Area.

"This annual grant program engages and supports emerging, mid-career and established Bay Area lighting designers," says Executive Director Wayne Hazzard. "These much deserved grants will allow each project the opportunity to deepen their creative partnership. We anticipate that there will be an additional impact from these awards – the benefit to audiences who will experience a dynamic movement and light collaboration."

The 2012 grantees are:

Lighting designer **Alexander V. Nichols** with **ODC Dance**;
Lighting designer **Allen Willner** with **Laura Arrington**;
Lighting designer **Amy M. Ho** with **Pythia Arts Foundation**;
Lighting designer **Heather Basarab** with **AXIS Dance Company**;
Lighting designer **Ian Winters** with **Mary Armentrout Dance Theater**;
Lighting designer **Jim French** with **LEVYdance**;
Lighting designer **Kevin Connaughton** with **Tanya Bello's Project B**;
Lighting designer **Sean Riley** with **Flyaway Productions**;

A panel of regional specialists in the dance field reviewed the proposals and selected the grant recipients. The panel consisted of **Jose Maria Francos**, technical director, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; **Matthew Royce**, lighting designer and production manager; and **Nina Haft**, artistic director, Nina Haft & Company and faculty at Cal State University East Bay.

The LAD Award is not intended to underwrite general production costs, but rather to support projects that encourage an active interaction between lighting designers and their dance partners.

A total of \$12,000 was awarded to the following lighting/dance projects:

2012 Recipients

Alexander V. Nichols with ODC Dance

Lifesaving Maneuvers (Awarded: \$2,500)

March 2013 * Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

"Lifesaving Maneuvers" will be an exploration of the things we do to survive, personally and professionally, from the sly and invisible to the sensational. The creative team will include ODC artistic director and choreographer Brenda Way, dramaturge/librettist Marc Bamuthi Joseph, video artist and light designer Alexander V. Nichols, and composer Jay Clويد.

Allen Willner with Laura Arrington

Theater Theater (Awarded: \$1,500)

Fall 2013 * CounterPULSE, San Francisco

"Theater Theater" is a work for three performers collectively experiencing an odd group amnesia. A fourth character, the "Director," will function as an extension of Willner's lighting design, framing how action is seen; calling attention to light by creating a literal character with potential to create meaning, shift perspective, and direct gaze. The stage will consist of a 10' x10' cage on a raised platform and multiple small, isolated worlds that the "Director" will inhabit.

Amy M. Ho with Pythia Arts Foundation

Paper Boat (Awarded: \$1,000)

September 2012 * Oak Tree Arts Center, Oakland

"Paper Boat", is a series of dance explorations in streets of East Oakland, that will be eventually grown into a festival, These artists from a variety of cultures will participate in a presentation of of their dance forms in relation to their culture. Amy Ho will be an integral part in shifting the reality perception of the audience to be perceptually more aligned with the dancers' cultures.

Heather Basarab with AXIS Dance Company

Contingencies (Awarded: \$1,000)

March 2013 * Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

Contingencies is a 30-35 minute physically integrated dancework, which will be created by Victoria Marks for proscenium stage and alternative venues set as a trilogy. Beth Custer will compose an original music score. Contingencies will highlight AXIS' 25th Anniversary.

Ian Winters with Mary Armentrout Dance Theater

Reveries and Elegies (Awarded: \$1,000)

November 2012 * Various Locations

"Reveries and Elegies" is a site specific performance installation exploring dislocation, flux, and change through live performance/dance, video and sensor technology, as it travels through four different performance spaces in the Bay Area.

Jim French with LEVYdance

Home Season (Awarded: \$2,000)

May 2013 * Heron Alley, San Francisco

In celebration of its 10th anniversary season, LEVYdance is presenting a site specific Spring Home Season on Heron alley in SOMA. The company will close down the alley to construct several custom stages, connected by catwalks, that will surround the audience with dance. During the performance week, the stages will be shared with other artists to create an outdoor community festival.

Kevin Connaughton with Tanya Bello's Project B.

Site Lines (Awarded: \$1,000)

May 2013 * Tres Sabores Winery, Rutherford

Project. B., in collaboration with Kevin Connaughton, will be performing Site Lines.

Bringing together the natural setting of Tres Sabores Winery, the objective of this collaboration is to interpret the migration of light in this landscape from natural to man-made, and the migration of dancers and audience from one site specific location to another. In its entirety, Site Lines allows for a continuous flow of the evening as we take in the beauty of the landscape and the dance.

Sean Riley with Flyaway Productions

Give A Woman A Lift (Awarded: \$2,000)

Fall 2013 * Joe Goode Annex, San Francisco

Combining non traditional lights, repurposed steel, and a risk-based physical abandon, "Give A Woman A Lift," features moving light sources that expand the role of suspension in cultivating a vertical stage. The working process is rooted in Flyaway's 8-year life and death rigging relationship with Riley, and is inspired by Artistic Director Jo Kreiter's current CHIME residency with Elizabeth Streb.

About Dancers' Group

Dancers' Group promotes the visibility and viability of dance. Founded in 1982, we serve San Francisco Bay Area artists, the dance community and audiences through programs and services that are as collaborative and innovative as the creative process.

As the primary dance service organization in the Bay Area, we help artists produce work, build audiences, and connect with their peers and community through artist-focused programs and services including presenting opportunities, funding resources, fiscal sponsorship and *In Dance* publication. **dancersgroup.org**

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