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## Dancers' Group Announces Fall 2017 CA\$H Dance Grant Recipients

SAN FRANCISCO—Dancers' Group, a service and presenting organization in the San Francisco Bay Area, announces the Fall 2017 awardees of its CA\$H granting program. The bi-annual awards support Bay Area dance artists and small organizations.

\$42,000 in grants are being awarded to seven individual artists and seven dance organizations in support of artistic projects—each grant award is \$3,000. Dancers' Group is committed to supporting the many “diversities” that represent the Bay Area dance community. In the Fall 2017 CA\$H Dance round, 64% of the grantees are artists of color, 43% identify as LGBTQ, and 64% are female or non-binary/Genderqueer. Additionally, nine of the recipients are first-time CA\$H grantees.

The CA\$H program, which has been supporting dance-makers for the past 18 years, is funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Grants for the Arts.

A peer panel of Bay Area artists met over two days to review 46 applications. The panelists that reviewed and awarded grants are: Hien Huynh, performer and choreographer; Randee Paufve, director, Paufve | Dance; Jenny Stulberg, co-director, Simpson Stulberg Collaborations; Alyssandra Wu, director, Alyssandra Katherine Dance Project; Carmen Roman, director, Cunamacué.

### **The 14 Fall 2017 Dance grantees are:**

#### Individual Artists

Byb Chanel Bibene  
Gerald Casel  
Sammay Dizon  
Ledoh  
Tara Pilbrow  
Dazaun Soleyn  
Vidhya Subramanian

#### Organizations

Afro Urban Society  
Funsch Dance Experience  
Grown Women Dance Collective  
James Graham Dance Theatre  
Megan Nicely/Dance  
tinypistol  
Wax Poet(s)

### **Project Descriptions:**

#### INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Byb Chanel Bibene – San Francisco

*Nkisi Nkondi* is a project that revisits pre- and post-colonial times and the current cultural and political status via the performance-study of the minkisi mikondi sacred sculptures of the Kongo People in central Africa.

CA\$H grant for: artist fees

Gerald Casel – San Francisco

To mark Casel's 20th year producing work, he will present the world premiere of *Cover Your Mouth When You Smile*, an exploration of the bi-cultural identities of three Asian choreographers. Casel and his collaborators will also preview *Not About Race Dance*, an examination of hierarchical structures in choreography and dance presentation and the realities of systemic racism and oppression while referencing Neil Greenberg's seminal work, *Not About AIDS Dance* (1994).

CA\$H grant for: artist fees

Sammy Dizon – San Francisco

*H.O.L.Y. (Hate Often Loves You) CITY* is an investigation of how we cultivate and co-opt the idea of "sanctuary" in San Francisco/Yelamu. Through workshops and rehearsals leading up to a multimedia dance theatre performance, Dizon will explore ideals of safety and sacredness in the Sanctuary City - centered in and around the injustices against people of color.

CA\$H grant for: artist fees

Ledoh – San Francisco

A large-scale project, *POOLREADY!* explores the complexities of climate change through a series of site-specific installations around the Bay Area in at-risk waterfront communities. The first phase will be in collaboration with videographer Perry Hallinan and dancer Monique Goldwater at the Luggage Store Annex.

CA\$H grant for: artist fees

Tara Pilbrow – Berkeley

Supporting the revival, rehearsal, and performance of *2+1*, a 30 minute dance theatre piece about the roller coaster ride of early parenthood. The work will premiere at Shawl-Anderson Dance Center.

CA\$H grant for: artist fees, facility rental, costume, transportation

Dazaun Soleyn – San Francisco

*metaphoric existence* is an evening-length work exploring code-switching and the experiences of minorities seeking success in today's society.

CA\$H grant for: artist fees, facility rental

Vidhya Subramanian – Fremont

*Still I Rise* is a solo Bharatanatyam dance-theatre piece exploring the parallels and connection between the life and triumphs of Draupadi, a mythological heroine from the epic *Mahabharata* and women today.

CA\$H grant for: artist fees

## ORGANIZATIONS

Afro Urban Society – San Francisco and Oakland

*Wey You Dey?* (working title) is an interdisciplinary performance of urban African culture created from narratives prompted by the question, "Wey you dey?" (Pidgin English for "Where were you?") directed by Nkeiruka Oruche and Tossie Long, and part of the biennial festival Bacchanal de Afrique.

CA\$H grant for: artist fees and facility rental

Funsch Dance Experience – San Francisco

For Funsch Dance Experience's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, director Christy Funsch creates *Mother Sister Daughter*, a work for ten dancers over 40 paying tribute to the California Dance Girls, a 1910s San Francisco dance company.

CA\$H grant for: artist fees

Grown Women Dance Collective – Oakland

The 9th annual *Fallen Heroes, Rising Stars: A Juneteenth Celebration through Dance* celebrates African American liberation from slavery and honors the lives of cultural icons through dance and multi-media.

CA\$H grant for: facility rental

James Graham Dance Theatre – San Francisco

*Mother Son* is a duet between James Graham and his mother, Sheila Graham Price, exploring their relationship, memories and psychic soul connections. The work will be presented in DANCE LOVERS 7 at CounterPulse, February 8-10, 2018.

CA\$H grant for: artist fees and facility rental

Megan Nicely/Dance – San Francisco

Megan Nicely/Dance will present an evening of solo/small group works by SF Community Butoh Teachers Molly Barrons, Shoshana Green, Megan Nicely, and Paige Sorvillo, inspired by butoh practices/methodologies studied over the past 20 years.

CA\$H grant for: facility rental and artist fees

tinypistol – San Francisco

Director Maurya Kerr creates *kosmos*, a work that queries internal and external cosmoses. "As we gaze skyward in a collective search for futurity, the cosmos becomes steward of a utopian vision. For people of color, long denied potentiality or recognition that we too are born of stardust, kinship with a starry sky is decidedly political. *kosmos* boldly imagines the new territory of hope, equal access to wishing upon a star, and saying yes to the future."

CA\$H grant for: artist fees

Wax Poet(s) – San Francisco

*Swivel:Hinge:Return* will investigate through movement bodies weathered by the deluge of "emergency" and "breaking development" news stories. The dance work asks: How is a body most effective at performing resistance in this time?

CA\$H grant for: marketing

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