



Lighting Artists in Dance

Supporting the progress of lighting design for dance in the Bay Area

2019-20 Guidelines

OVERVIEW

Through the **Lighting Artists in Dance [LAD]** grant program, Dancers' Group is pleased to support lighting designers working in the field of dance.

Now in its 12th year, this program engages and supports the development of emerging, mid-career and established Bay Area lighting designers working in partnership with a choreographer or dance company towards the presentation of a public performance.

A total of \$12,000 in grants will be distributed through an open call for proposals. The awarded projects and amount of funding for each project will be determined from all eligible proposals by a panel comprised of Bay Area designers, choreographers and administrators.

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, February 27, 2019**

ELIGIBILITY

The **LAD grant** seeks to support projects that encourage an active interaction between designers and choreographers. Competitive proposals will discuss how these artists will work in new methods or partnerships. Proposed projects are submitted jointly and may be initiated by the lighting designer, individual choreographer or dance company.

- Both Lighting Designers and Dance Companies/Artists must **live and work** in the Bay Area. The Bay Area includes: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma.
- Recipients of a 2018 LAD Award *are eligible* to apply in the current round if their request will support a **new collaboration** between a Dance Artist and Lighting Designer. Someone either has not worked with previously. Award recipients of prior rounds (2008-2017) are also eligible to apply without restrictions, although new collaborations are encouraged. Visit dancersgroup.org/lad for information about past grant recipients.
- Lighting Designers and Dance Companies/Artists may be identified in only one proposal per round.
- Funded projects must culminate in a public performance and have a confirmed date and venue in the Bay Area.
- Performances can start no earlier than **September 1, 2019** and the panel will consider performances through a 16-month cycle ending **December 31, 2020**.
- Acceptable projects should engage career Lighting Designers not enrolled in (or on sabbatical from) a degree program during the time period of this project. Performances produced by educational institutions are not eligible.
- Funds may not be used to underwrite general production costs.
- Employees of Dancers' Group may not apply.



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GUIDELINES & CRITERIA

A total of \$12,000 will be awarded each round. The committee will look at the pool of applicant proposals and determine the number and value of grants based on their merit.

Decisions will be based primarily on the:

- Strength of the artistic collaboration and capacity for the collaboration to impact the creative growth of the people involved.
- Artistic potential or history of the Lighting Designer and Dance Artist.
- New collaborations between a Dance Artist and Lighting Designer are a funding priority.

SAMPLE PROJECTS

This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but to give you a guideline of typical eligible projects.

- A designer approaches a choreographer who they have not previously had the opportunity to work with. They agree that they are both interested in working on a project experimenting with new types of lighting equipment.
- An established choreographer is interested in working with a new lighting designer after seeing that designers work in other productions.
- A dance company wants to work with projected images on stage for the first time and is looking to engage with a lighting designer who is familiar with the use of video projection for the stage/dance.
- An emerging choreographer would like to increase the involvement of a designer with whom they have previously worked—engaging that designer as a full member of the creative team.
- Three dance companies are collaborating on a show together. They decide that they want to bring a lighting designer early on in the process to both support each choreographer's work and allow the production to have a cohesive design.

EVALUATION

Awarded grantees must provide a simple self-evaluation along with video of the work no later than two months after the end of the project period. The evaluation is to be completed jointly by the designer and choreographer. More information will be included in the award notice. Grantees also agree to include notice of this award in their promotional materials.



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APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Access the application form at dancersgroup.org/lad
2. Deadline for all submissions is **Wednesday, February 27, 2019**
Due to time constraints, incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
3. All applicants will receive an email confirmation including a copy of the submitted application.
4. Awards will be announced by May 1, 2019.

WORK SAMPLE GUIDELINES & FAQ

Work samples must be submitted online as high-quality videos on Vimeo or YouTube.

Personal website URL's are not accepted.

- We strongly recommend submitting samples that are not dark, grainy, heavily edited, and filmed from a perspective other than that of the audience. Wide shots of the full stage are best for seeing the lighting design.
- There is no time limit for work samples—include the amount of material you feel makes the best case for your proposal and that will help the panel understand your viewpoint. The panel will determine the length of viewing time for each work sample.
- Provide a note that explains where you want the panel to start viewing work.
- We recommend submitting work that is relevant to the proposed project. In your description, include your reasons for submitting this particular work sample.
- We recommend asking someone unfamiliar with your work to provide feedback on your work sample in advance.

Contact Dancers' Group if you have questions about your work sample.

OPTIONAL: SUPPORT MATERIALS

In addition to your application, the Lighting Designer is recommended to submit up to three pages of support materials. Items should help the panel understand more about the project and the designer's approach. **In particular, you are encouraged to submit sample light plots, artistic renderings or research materials.** Additionally, letters of support are accepted. Do not include reviews – the panel will not consider these.

All supplemental materials must be submitted as PDF's.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For other questions, please contact Michelle Lynch Reynolds at michelle@dancersgroup.org or 415-920-9181.

- 1. Can a lighting designer be a collaborating artist on multiple proposals?**
No, a lighting designer or dance artist can submit only one proposal per round.
- 2. What should I submit for a work sample?**
It is best to submit material that is most similar to the work described in the application. For dance artists, this could mean recent performance video or rehearsal footage for the proposed work. For lighting designers, we recommend submitting footage from your most recent design for dance. We strongly recommend submitting samples that aren't dark, grainy, heavily edited, or filmed from a perspective other than that of the audience.
- 3. Is it acceptable to not submit a video sample?**
Proposals without video samples for both the Dance Artist and the Lighting Designer will not be considered.
- 4. What is an appropriate amount of funding to request?**
There is no universally appropriate amount of funding to request. We recommend that the request be in proportion to your project budget. NOTE: In the most recent year of funding the panel awarded grants ranging from \$1,000-\$2,500. These amounts did not match the request from the project - in some cases the amount was close to the requested amount and in others it was half of what the project requested. Each panel is given the discretion to determine the award amount. You may consult with Dancers' Group staff if you would like additional support in determining an appropriate request amount.
- 5. Should I submit a detailed budget for the project?**
No, the panel will not review a detailed project budget.
- 6. Can the award be used for lighting equipment?**
Yes, up to 50% of the award may be used to purchase or rent lighting equipment and for other non-personnel lighting expenses.
- 7. My venue cannot confirm my dates before the deadline. Will this affect my proposal?**
No, this will not affect the panel's selection process. Yet, we suggest including any information you have at the time the proposal is submitted regarding the proposed dates and venue. NOTE: if awarded a grant, funds will not be disbursed until you have submitted confirmation of the venue and performance dates.
- 8. Can I submit my application in person or by mail?**
If you are unable to submit your application online, please contact michelle@dancersgroup.org or 415-920-9181 to discuss the best option for you.