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Dancers' Group Announces Spring/Summer 2020 CA\$H Dance Grant Recipients

SAN FRANCISCO—Dancers' Group, a service and presenting organization announces the Spring/Summer 2020 awardees of its **CA\$H** Dance granting program. The bi-annual awards support Bay Area dance artists and organizations.

\$49,000 in grants are being awarded to seven artists and seven dance organizations—each grant award is **\$3,500**.

Given the unprecedented nature of this time, when artists and dance organizations are navigating significant unknowns during a pandemic and shelter-in-place, Dancers' Group is awarding these grants that acknowledge and value the work of these artists and organizations. Therefore, each awardee can allocate the grant funds towards the project they applied with —knowing that presentation plans for creative activity will evolve—and the grant award can be used for living/general operating support for the artist or organization.

CA\$H Dance is proud to continue to support artists and organizations from diverse cultural backgrounds and creative practices. Projects this round feature Argentine Tango, Bharatanatyam, dance theater, hip hop and African American social dance, a Festival of Latin American Contemporary Choreographers, dancers of color creating BIPOC-centered conscious dance spaces, and the creation of dances that honor the vibrant culture of México.

The CA\$H program, which has been supporting dance-makers for the past 21 years, is funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Grants for the Arts.

In this round of CA\$H Dance, Dancers' Group received **68 applications, 46 from artists and 21 from organizations**. Based on sheltering in place mandates Dancers' Group staff (a group of artist administrators) remotely reviewed applications this round.

The 14 Spring/Summer 2020 Dance grantees are:

Artists

[Bhumi Patel](#)

[Chelsea Eng](#)

[Cherie Hill](#)

[Heather Stockton](#)

[Hien Huynh](#)

Latanya d. Tigner

[Nitya Narasimhan](#)

More.... Spring/Summer 2020 CA\$H Dance Grant Recipients Continued

Dance Organizations

[Bahiya Movement](#)

[Cuicacalli](#)

[David Herrera Performance Company](#)

[Festival of Latin American Contemporary Choreographers](#)

[Funsch Dance Experience](#)

[KAMBARA+DANCERS](#)

[Movement Liberation](#)

Artist Project Descriptions:

Bhumi Patel's work considers colonization and the impacts of white supremacy that live in her body to tell the history of her family, working within Western form, Gujarati folk dance, and improvisational practice.

The project: Research that includes recording sounds and interviewing elders and communities who have lived through the impacts of the violent forced migration during the 1947 South Asian Partition, for an immersive dance theatre work "*divisions the empire has sown.*"

Chelsea Eng is a longtime professional in the Argentine Tango world community. Training in ballet, modern dance and theatrical jazz grounds her work.

The project: A tango-based project that will develop the first section of a longer performance about three transgressive couples with connections to Argentina - in modern times, the 1970s, and the 1830s. The first section takes place in a queer tango club in San Francisco and focuses on an interracial lesbian couple.

Cherie Hill's aesthetic includes set dance phrases, improvisational structures, and choreography derived from their background primarily in African Diaspora and contemporary dance.

The project: *Earth Echoes* is a dance piece featuring choreography, improvisation, and video at the David Brower Center in Berkeley, a center based on environmental justice. The work highlights black and indigenous female artists' response to the oppression of minorities and the domination of the environment. The performance includes segments from the documentary, *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai*.

Heather Stockton is a choreographer, dancer, educator, and multi-disciplinary collaborator with a passion for collective, creative growth and systemic change. They believe the intersection of identity and equity to be of paramount importance in every artistic venture and exploration.

The project: Dance and movement workshop centering fat-bodied movers, as part of the Queering Dance Festival.

Hien Huynh's movement practices stem from break dancing, somatics, and modern dance.

The project: 'Waves' is a film project that encapsulates Hien Huynh's family's perilous journey post Vietnam War and will include a family-performed range of dance, culinary art, cinematography, survival skills, traditional dating tips, group exercise, and homemade family dance moves.

Latanya d. Tigner's Dancing Cy(i)phers brings together dance communities interested in hip hop and other African American social dance, delving into hip hop dance's history, culture, and the scholarship around its global impact and ancestral connections to specific African dance traditions.

The project: "How is it that people subjected to the inhumane, backbreaking work forced upon them during the transatlantic slave trade managed to not only worship, honor, mourn, and rejoice through dance, but to articulate their spines and pelvises in ways that appear other worldly at times?" *Back to the Root* will answer this question through the sharing of scholarly research and embodied practice as a virtual symposium and workshop offering.

Nitya Narasimhan is a bharatanatyam dancer. Indian classical dance has two aspects, the physical and the emotional both deeply rooted in a common spiritual pursuit. The way in which we practice this 2000 year old dance form today in many ways is contemporary, with western sensibilities; modern ideas overlaid on top of a very traditional foundation and history. As a modern practitioner and choreographer, Nitya aspires to retain the history and essence of the form while engaging with it to tell relevant stories.

The project: Bhagavati- Advaita philosophy says "Aham Brahmasmi" - I am the absolute, a yoga of the soul to the self, hindered only by ego. Bhagavati, takes the idea of brahman and ego, in this increasingly violent world, to tell a story of harmony, peace and love. Indian mythology and bharatanatyam come together to portray the catastrophic effects of imbalance within the self and how it can lead to universal destruction.

Organization Project Descriptions:

Bahiya Movement works from a traditional West African modern jazz, hip-hop, and freestyle movement platform to become an African Fusion Dance Company.

The project: "Mami Wata," a new work, explores the power and deep Diasporic roots of embodying both genders in one's person. Mami Wata is the sacred female/male deity that shifts between dual genders from the Traditional West, Central and Southern African and Haitian history.

Cuicacalli is a year-round youth training program, building communities through dance by expanding, exploring and celebrating the cultural traditions of the Americas.

The project: "México Lindo y Querido" celebrates Cuicacalli's twelfth anniversary that showcases and honors the vibrant culture of México in celebration of Latinx heritage month.

David Herrera Performance Company is a San Francisco based modern dance company dedicated to providing visibility, agency, opportunity, and voice to intersectional Latinx/POC experiences.

The project: *The Tip of My Tongue* explores how non-English or mixed-English communities use language and communication practices as tools for cultural visibility and perseverance in the face of a dominant English speaking culture in the United States; challenging the "This is America, Speak English!" position.

Festival of Latin American Contemporary Choreographers features resistant, queer, indigenous, and hybrid choreographers of the Latinx diaspora who cross cultural, physical, and aesthetic borders of tradition to abstraction.

The project: 7th annual Festival of Latin American Contemporary Choreographers/ FLACC 2020: El Grito will host 7 choreographers and create 6 site-specific public art interventions in various San Francisco locations as well as virtual arts symposia.

Funsch Dance Experience makes intergenerational dances that question representation, narrative, and conventional depictions of women through experimental vocabularies and structures.

The project: *EPOCH* unfolds over 12 hours, with 20 performers spanning four generations, to celebrate “ongoingness” as a marker for success. *EPOCH* features an all-women lead artist team including Funsch, composer Cheryl Leonard, and lighting designer Danielle Ferguson.

KAMBARA+DANCERS is rooted in abstract contemporary concert dance and creates new storytelling by fusing alternate dance forms, such as Japanese folk dance, to create new movement languages and articulate what verbal language cannot.

The project: *The Intimacy of Nostalgia* is a new concert collaboration between KAMBARA+DANCERS and Vita Yee’s Me and My Friends Orchestra. This collaboration will reflect on nostalgia, loss, and evolution.

Movement Liberation was born out of a desire to serve dancers of color by creating BIPOC-centered conscious dance spaces.

The project: Workshops that facilitate a healing process and an organically co-created experience, using movement and dance, mindfulness, social and racial justice education, somatic therapy, and ceremonial practices to cultivate well-being and resiliency within a supportive community.

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