



For immediate release
June 14, 2022

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Dancers' Group Announces Spring 2022 CA\$H Dance Grant Recipients



SAN FRANCISCO—[Dancers' Group](https://dancersgroup.org), a service and presenting organization in the San Francisco Bay Area, is pleased to announce it has awarded \$120,000 in grants to 24 Bay Area dance artists, artists working in a partnership, and organizations. Amid the rising costs of creating work in the Bay Area, the grant award amount has increased—each grantee will receive \$5,000 as part of the Spring 2022 round of CA\$H Dance.

The CA\$H Dance program has supported dancemakers since 1999 and was designed by artists for artists. The program seeks to support artists and organizations that represent the many diversities of Bay Area dance.

“CA\$H Dance feels like one of the most accessible grant opportunities in the Bay Area. It is responsive to the current needs of artists within the cultural landscape.”—Grantee

Dancers' Group received 107 applications for this round of funding—79 applications from individual artists and partnerships and 28 applications from organizations. This was the program's largest number of applications in 23 years. They were able to provide grants to 14 individual artists/partnerships and 10 organizations, featuring dance forms such as waacking, locking, Cuban, Mexican, Iranian, Japanese American Obon folk dance, Zimbabwean, African diasporic dances, krump, hip hop, El Salvadoran, Afro-Peruvian, butoh, contemporary flamenco, and more.

Awarded projects span research, dance films, stage productions, learning opportunities, and community-centered activities with many highlighting the experiences of BIPOC artists and communities. Notably, several works reveal a curiosity around history, and utilize both traditional and contemporary dance forms as a pathway for investigating and affirming identity.

"These grants are another way Dancers' Group makes visible our priority to help artists make work. By partnering with artists and organizations we create collective impact." —Wayne Hazzard, Executive Director

The CA\$H Dance program is funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, and additional support from Grants for the Arts.

The 24 Spring 2022 CA\$H Dance grantees are:

Links to artists and organizations and project descriptions follow the list of awardees

Organizations:

Arenas Dance Company
Cheza Nami Foundation
Chinyakare Ensemble
Cuicacalli
Dana Lawton Dances
Ensamble Folclórico Colibrí
KAMBARA+
Mix'd Ingrdnts
REYES Dance
Shahzad Dance Academy

Artists/Partnerships:

Alice Hur
Andrea Lee
Andreína Maldonado
Angela Arteritano
Antwan "Banks" Williams with Maurice Reed and the Artistic Ensemble at San Quentin Prison
Carmen Roman
Cora Yuqing Cliburn

Eric Garcia
Jessica Maria Recinos
Kelly Del Rosario
Octavia Rose Hingle
Parya Saberi
Silk Worm
Zoe Huey

Organization Projects:

[Arenas Dance Company](#)

Founded and directed by celebrated Cuban choreographer, Susana Arenas, Arenas Dance Company preserves and promotes the rich and diverse Cuban folkloric and popular (i.e. social) dance traditions - from Rumba to Palo, Salsa to Arará - making it accessible to wide audiences via performances, workshops, classes, and cultural exchange trips to Cuba.

CA\$H Dance will support: Upcoming projects, including the presentation of *Ada Ara*, which will premiere at Z Space in June, with an encore presentation at the Healdsburg Jazz Festival. *Ada Ara* is a new evening-length work by Pedroso that honors the resilience, strength, and vibrancy of Cuban women. CA\$H will also support research for *Cuba to Guinea*, a project created in collaboration with Duniya Dance and Drum Company and Dance Mission Theater that looks at the social/political/cultural connections between Cuba/Guinea.

[Cheza Nami Foundation](#) promotes African diaspora cultural education and diversity awareness to learning institutions, corporations and communities. Cheza Nami was born by the need to provide programming that was missing for immigrant communities and their families.

CA\$H Dance will support: the convening of partner artists to create a collaborative piece celebrating the power of African roots through drums, song, and dance. This project will explore the rich musical legacy and cultures across the African diaspora, including Brazil, Burkina Faso, Congo, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, and Senegal.

[Chinyakare Ensemble](#) preserves and shares traditional Zimbabwean cultural practices and promotes community building and education through music and dance. The music (played on mbira, ngoma, marimbas, makwa, and chipendani), songs, and dance weave colorful stories that show scenes from everyday life, while teaching important life lessons, such as goal-setting, perseverance, and gratitude.

CA\$H Dance will support: a return to in-person rehearsals, regular music, and dance workshops, and video captures of performance pieces they worked on pre-pandemic. Chinyakare Ensemble members will teach regular Zimbabwean Music & Dance focused Workshops for all ages starting this summer.

[Cuicacalli](#) is a youth dance educational institution serving the Mission District for over 14 years at Brava Theater. Under the direction of Jesus Cortés, a cultural bearer of Mexican Folkloric

dance, Cuicacalli focuses on Mexican folk and contemporary dance promoting inclusion and awareness of cultures reflective of the communities served.

CA\$H Dance will support: Cortés teaching and presenting *Los Matlachines*, an indigenous dance from Mexico. This dance will be taught to advanced level students at Cuicacalli. Students in this group have experience with indigenous, traditional Mexican folkloric, and contemporary dance. Cortes will commission a Mexican costume designer to create authentic regalia.

[Dana Lawton Dances](#) was founded in 2008 by Bay Area choreographer Dana Lawton with a mission to make dance that celebrates social diversity, challenges ageism, and engages in meaningful collaborations with other artists. DLD creates a wide range of works that resonate with people's personal experiences and inspire them to tap into their own creative spirit at any age or phase of life.

CA\$H Dance will support: the September premiere of *The Farallonites*, an evening-length, multi-disciplinary performance that's inspired by the experience of the lighthouse keepers and families who lived on the Farallon islands during the Gold Rush era. The work incorporates live music, lighting, set design, and a gallery exhibit that's an integral part of the event.

[Ensamble Folclórico Colibrí](#)

Under the directorship of Maestro Arturo Magaña, Ensamble Folclórico Colibrí's mission is to promote LGBTQ+ Latinx pride through the art of Mexican folklórico dance. EFC also seeks to preserve their customs and traditions through cultural and educational projects and staged performances.

CA\$H Dance will support: learning dances from different states of Mexico. Each state has a unique style of dance, costumes and music. A Maestro with expertise in that region will teach a dance to the group. Ensamble Folclórico Colibrí will continue to create meaningful suites, drawing from the day to day lives of their LGBTQ+ community.

[KAMBARA+](#) builds bridges between audiences and performance experiences. Founded in 2015 by Yayoi Kambara, KAMBARA+ was created as a vehicle to produce her choreography, focusing on creating performances that cultivate a sense of belonging. During the pandemic KAMBARA+ shifted to co-producing Anti-Racism programs with Hope Mohr Dance's Bridge Project and Dance Mission Theater.

CA\$H Dance will support: KAMBARA+ produces *SANKEI: a transplanted pilgrimage**, a dance project with two components. *IKKAI means once: a transplanted pilgrimage*, commissioned by Japanese American Citizens League San Jose Chapter, is an evening-length dance choreographed by Yayoi Kambara. It weaves together modern dance, a Japanese American (JA) Obon folk dance named "Ei Ja Nai Ka," and taiko drums, exploring the unjust incarceration of JAs, struggles for reparation and healing, and current solidarity with communities facing violence. *二度と(NI DO TO): an XR pilgrimage*, commissioned by Georgia Tech Arts, implores audiences to intimately encounter the creative process of live performance through 360° dance film, poetry machine, hologram Obon dance training, bystander intervention training, and Kintsugi reflections.

**Sankei* - to gather and participate in pilgrimage at a shrine or Buddhist temple.

[Mix'd Ingrdnts](#)

Established in 2010 the company exists to empower women to express themselves. Mix'd Ingrdnts is a multi-ethnic, multi-genre dance collective composed of women-identified artists, who work together using movement to impact social change.

CA\$H Dance will support: a collaboration with Bay Area filmmaker Ivy Chen to translate *Emerging in a Space of Resilience* to film. They will digitize a minimum of five pieces from the work, to share, preserve and make the work accessible for their community and beyond. Each piece will be filmed in a different part of Oakland, where Mix'd Ingrdnts was born and where their co-directors have deep roots.

[REYES Dance](#)

Founded in 2017 and led by Jocelyn Reyes, REYES Dance presents work in theater spaces, creates short dance films, and curates the Dance Thrill Fest (a dance film festival). The company's contemporary style is influenced by the pervasive Latin social dances in the Latinx immigrant community Reyes grew up in. The work investigates the intersection of religion, generational trauma, mortality, bodily autonomy and Latin culture.

CA\$H Dance will support: the presentation of *LASOS* at Joe Goode Annex in September and October. Reyes will collaborate with four Bay Area dance artists for the creation of this work. *LASOS*, Spanish for ties/ropes, will explore the link between childhood traumatic experiences and chronic pain conditions.

[Shahzad Dance Academy](#) was founded in 1996 by Shahzad Khorsandi, a native Iranian. The organization's focus is on Iranian dance, with the goal of staying rooted in Iranian culture by preserving traditional aesthetic elements in the movement vocabulary, while pushing the boundaries of tradition through exploration of contemporary ways of expression.

CA\$H Dance will support: the return of SDA's dance-theater piece titled, *The World of Rainbow*, inspired by Bahram Khaef's award-winning children's book by the same title. A profound story told simply through the use of color theory, theatrical movement and Iranian dance. Their work will become an interactive program for local elementary schools and museums and will include a live workshop.

Artist/Partnership Projects:

[Alice Hur](#) has performed, battled, and taught waacking, a street dance style, for almost nine years. Hur's passion centers on waacking community building and cultural preservation through event series, workshops, and open practices.

CA\$H Dance will support: the third edition of *Waack, Crackle, Lock!*—a collaboration between Hur and a Bay Area practitioner from the locking dance community. This event is a weekend-long celebration and exchange that offers workshops, dance battle and performance opportunities, and cyphers for waackers and lockers of all experience levels.

[Andrea Lee](#)'s dance career spans 25+ years as a performer, choreographer, dance pedagogy specialist, and global arts advocate. Her choreographic style fuses cultural and abstract modern

with African American vernacular aesthetics and focuses on the preservation of indigenous forms and sharing untold stories.

CA\$H Dance will support: travel to Belize and Honduras to further her research about the women freedom fighters of the Garifuna nation who are defending their land rights. This is related to Lee's ongoing work around resistance movements and creating change through dance.

[Andreína Maldonado](#) is a Venezuelan entrepreneur, multidisciplinary performing artist, cultural worker, community organizer, and registered Integral Yoga teacher who is inspired by her Community, Nature, Cosmology, Women's Empowerment, the Immigrant Experience, and Labor Justice for immigrant workers.

CA\$H Dance will support: an evening-length show that celebrates the lives and victories of local domestic workers and day laborers. The work will include original music with lyrics written by the workers, small theater sketches, dance, and visual projections, along with a call to action to defend the rights of immigrant low-wage workers in San Francisco.

[Angela Arteritano](#) is a Venezuelan American multidisciplinary artist, choreographer, and researcher, based in the San Francisco Bay Area. As a flamenco artist, her work deals with issues of migration and identity through an interdisciplinary choreographic practice.

CA\$H Dance will support: the development and stage adaptation of *Markme*, an immersive multidisciplinary project that facilitates a journey of reawakening and acceptance of the Latina identity within a contemporary flamenco setting. The project includes a dance film, a fiber art installation inspired by Venezuelan artisan techniques, and a series of paintings.

[Antwan "Banks" Williams](#) is a dancer, podcast host, and choreographer who, while serving a 15-year sentence in San Quentin State Prison, joined the Artistic Ensemble at San Quentin Prison (AESQ). The AESQ is a group of incarcerated artists and artists outside of prison that use dance/theater to explore systemic forces of racism and inequity.

CA\$H Dance will support: Williams and collaborator Maurice Reed to create a dance/theater film that focuses on a 'returned citizen.' Styles showcased in the film include Contemporary, Krump, Hip-Hop, spoken word, and poetry infused with socio-political commentary.

[Carmen Roman](#) is a Afro-Peruvian dance practitioner who was born in Peru and migrated to the US as a preteen. Her artistic practice lies at the intersection of strengthening Afro-Peruvian traditions and cultural identity and using the practice as an art form and vehicle for self-expression.

CA\$H Dance will support: a collaboration alongside Pierr Padilla Vasquez as they create a 45-minute dance, music, and theater piece inspired by the dance *Son de los Diablos*. The work highlights Afro-Peruvian rhythms – Festejo, Zapateo, and Landó – to connect to ancestral memory, and uses instruments unique to Afro-Peruvian culture such as the Cajón, Quijada, and Cajita.

[Cora Yuqing Cliburn](#) is a dance artist interested in human-environmental relationship and cross-cultural communication. Based in San Francisco, she is currently a company dancer and

Sustainability Ambassador with ODC/Dance, as well as a media collaborator with Robert Moses' Kin.

CA\$H Dance will support: mentorship and research for the development of a duet that reflects on the question: *What kind of ancestor do you want to be?* Cliburn will explore mobility and resilience as it relates to those with little immediate family history—specifically, Asian American adoptees.

[Eric Garcia](#)

As a queer, first-generation Latinx artist, Eric Garcia makes work informed by their lived experience. They are equal parts devised dance theater artist, dance filmmaker, drag queen, and community organizer, with performances straddling nostalgia, radical futurism, high theatrics, and prismatic possibility through the framework of queer maximalism.

CA\$H Dance will support: the creation of *beloved comet falling up*, a triptych of duets choreographed in collaboration with Maurya Kerr. The work is a study on duality, a creative provocation on harmony and dissonance, minimalism & maximalism, quietude & clamor, dance & dance-theater, the quotidian & drag.

[Jessica Maria Recinos](#) is a Latinx dancer, choreographer, costume designer and maker, musician, and dance company director from San Francisco. Her unique style draws from urban dance forms; Vogue, Hip Hop and Afro-Latin dance.

CA\$H Dance will support: the investigation of her family lineage as it traces back to El Salvador. This will include travel to El Salvador, interviews, folkloric dance classes, and the re-production of her grandfather's music and poems, all culminating in future dance film and theater production.

[Kelly Del Rosario](#) grew up in Hawaii and is a lifelong practitioner of martial arts, particularly Capoeira and Muay Thai Kickboxing. Since moving to San Francisco, he has worked with Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, ODC, and RAWdance among others, and is also a choreographer.

CA\$H Dance will support: the remounting and further development of Del Rosario's 2010 duet *Voice Merchant*, which brings dance and visual art together in an exploration of the gritty and secretive nature of graffiti, as well as its political and social commentaries.

[Octavia Rose Hingle](#) is a physically impaired choreographer and storyteller born and raised in Berkeley, California. Their performance work centers access as an aesthetic portal to visions of past and future ancestors that travel through the present moment.

CA\$H Dance will support: the development of *Crip Ecstasy*, a nightlife production where multiple forms of access intersect to conjure a new blueprint for what a club space can be. This immersive experience centers access and disability culture, and will feature a cast of disabled performance artists, DJs, ASL Interpreters, and Audio Describers.

[Parya Saberi](#) is an Iranian immigrant, dancer, choreographer, researcher, educator, and healthcare professional. Saberi began studying dance at age 6 in Iran where dance is a

punishable crime. She strives to fight this injustice by developing Iranian contemporary dance and transmitting cultural knowledge through dance.

CA\$H Dance will support: the development of *Dancing with Hafiz*, a site-specific work which draws inspiration from the poet Hafiz and highlights Iranian musicians and artists. With support from Saberi's dance mentor, Suhaila Salimpour, she continues the struggle to redefine, rediscover, and reclaim Iranian dance.

[Silk Worm](#)'s research-based and interdisciplinary work commingles with the worlds of drag, theater, and dance. She is known as a very good sport.

CA\$H Dance will support: ongoing training in butoh with mentor Hiroko Tamano and work showings at Paul Drescher Ensemble's space in Oakland and CounterPulse in San Francisco.

[Zoe Huey](#) is a non-binary artist born, raised, and currently based on Huchiun, unceded Lisjan territory, also known as Oakland, CA. Through painting, drawing, movement, and multi-media experimentation, they weave together curiosities around the intersections of mixed-race ancestry, childhood, and non-binary embodiment.

CA\$H Dance will support: the development of the next iteration of *Quietly You Call Me*, a piece crafted in response to grief, healing through play, and inquiries into girlhood. The work incorporates a sculptural fort that serves as a portal to childhood and child-like embodiment.

Photos (left to right): Artistic Ensemble at San Quentin Prison (photo by Peter Merts); KAMBARA+ (photo by Miles Lassi); Mix'd Ingrdnts (photo by Briana Gardner)