



For immediate release  
July 2, 2024

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### **Dancers' Group Announces 2024 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 \$100,000 in grants to 20 Bay Area dance artists/partnerships/collectives and organizations. Each grantee will receive \$5,000 as part of the 2024 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.

Dancers' Group received 101 applications for this round of funding—52 applications from individual artists/partnerships/collectives, and 49 applications from organizations. After 25 years of grantmaking, this was the third-highest number of applications received.

They were able to provide grants to 10 individual artists/partnerships/collectives and 10 organizations, highlighting dance forms including African and African diasporic, aerial/vertical, acrobatic, Bharatanatyam, classical Chinese, contemporary ballet, freestyle, improvisation, jazz funk, kathak, street styles, and more. This year, a number of grantees also described their practices as “hybrid” or multi-genre, drawing from multiple dance styles as well as additional artistic disciplines and cultural influences.

Two panels (one for each application category) of working artists and artist administrators reviewed applications this round. The panelists were Carmen Roman, Eric Garcia, Kim Requesto, Jocelyn Reyes, and Wayne Hazzard.

The CA\$H Dance program is funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation with additional support from Grants for the Arts, Fleishhacker Foundation, and the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation.

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**The 20 Spring 2024 CA\$H Dance grantees are:**

*Links to artists/partnerships/collectives and organizations as well as project descriptions follow the list of awardees*

Artists/Partnerships/Collectives

Be Movement Collective  
Becca Dean  
Belinda He & Karla Quintero  
Chafin Seymour  
Diana Lara  
Jacob Walse-Dominguez  
Jess Bozzo  
Labonee Mohanta  
Laksha Dantran  
Shruti Abhishek

Organizations

Bay Area Independent Chinese Dancers  
Dancing Cy(i)phers  
Fua Dia Kongo  
Helen Wicks Works  
Kiandanda Dance Theater  
Monsoon Dance Company  
Samudra Dance Creations  
Snowflake Calvert  
Xochipilli Dance Company  
Zoë Klein Productions

**Artist/Partnership/Collective Projects:**

**Be Movement Collective** is an inclusive dance community that offers opportunities for its members to connect, reflect, and grow. Their movement style is fused with different forms and backgrounds in dance, with a shared practice rooted in Black social dance and street styles, ethnic dances, contemporary, and freestyle movement.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** Be Movement Collective generally, as well as a series of monthly panel talks in San Francisco and San Jose that focus on sharing stories and educating dancers on local dance history and lineage. They hope to help nourish dispositions toward research, honoring history and dance lineages, and reflection and process in the dance community. Panel talks are planned for September through November 2024.

**Instagram:** [@bemovementcollective](https://www.instagram.com/bemovementcollective)

**Becca Dean** is a global expert in vertical dance with 12 years of experience as a performer and facilitator of the form. Becca uses storytelling and a community praxis of belonging to imagine expansive new worlds, employing the power of vertical dance to queer space via suspension of time, rotating the familiar, and lofting the non-linear nature of personal narratives.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** the continued development of *Trans Marsh*, an installation originally shared in June 2023 in conjunction with a work-in-progress solo. This iteration will include

additional trans artists to create an immersive installation, rewilding the public space. Research and development will draw from theories of queer ecology and look at how transness exists in nature while both are being legislated out of existence. The immersive installation will be in process at BANDALOO Studios in West Oakland and include community class offerings through November 2024.

**Instagram:** [@goodnightsusan](#)

**Belinda He and Karla Quintero** are *alloyed mettles*, a collaborative duo that convenes multigenerational & cross-cultural communities of practice to support longevity in dance. Their collaboration formed in response to a vacuum they experienced as 40+ year old women seeking to continue dancing dynamically. Their practice draws from their shared and individual histories in improvisation, partnering, and somatics across genres to grow their capacity to listen beyond the auditory realm. They embrace their differences in physique, dance training, personalities, and culture as alloyed strengths that support their drive for a resilient future, allowing them and their community to age as they dream together, in dance.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** *alloyed mettles* to develop Futures of Aging in Dance (FAD), a performance and community engagement initiative dedicated to surfacing and responding to pertinent questions around aging in our field. What is aging in dance? Who gets to age in dance? How can we support our dance community to remain active in the field as we age? FAD will culminate in a festival, a durational performance, and interactive installation.

**Instagram:** [@alloyedmettles](#) / [@belindahe](#) / [@karlajohannaquintero](#)

**Facebook:** [Belinda He](#) / [Karla Quintero](#)

**Chafin Seymour**, a native of Brooklyn, NY, is a performer, choreographer, and teacher currently working at San Jose State University. As a Black-mixed race dance artist, he continually reimagines the decolonization of artistic production and presentation as a way to model similar possibilities in society.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** the next iteration of *BRIAR*, a hyperphysical dance theater piece exploring theoretical notions of Blackness. Employing a diverse movement vocabulary derived from the collaborating dance artists, *BRIAR* works to traverse the performative and liminal space of racial identity in contemporary culture. The work premieres Nov 1-2 at ODC Theater in San Francisco.

**Instagram:** [@chafinsey](#)

**Diana Lara** is a choreographer, dancer, and somatic educator from Honduras. Her work is based on a profound desire to explore movement with a somatic approach, influenced by her migration experience and culture background, and a feminist perspective.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** a free community-centered event and educational activity (anticipated October 2024) in Spanish with the Central American immigrant population in the San Francisco Bay Area focused on indigenous ancestry and nature. This event draws on the performance *Savia~Sap Flow: Embodied Connection with Ancestry and Nature*, which is part of

a larger project that aims to foster conversations about water, nature, Lenca ancestry and migration in San Francisco, Honduras, and Berlin.

**Instagram:** [@diana.lara.somatics](#)

**Jacob Walse-Dominguez** is a Tagalog-Kapampangan, queer migrant and diasporic traditional Southeast Asian performing artist bridging transnational histories through cultural work. Currently they are the Acting Artistic Director of a Sining Kapuluan; a cultural-practitioner Parangal Dance Company; as well as an ensemble dancer for Gamelan Sekar Jaya.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** fieldwork for a project that dives into Indigenous Tagalog and Visayan ritual, focusing on endangered dances with traditional gong-chime and percussion. Via dance and music workshops plus contextualized public archives of video, audio, and written material, these ritual practices that Filipinx colonized ancestors have safeguarded will have found ways of preservation: by material and through human archives.

**Instagram:** [@riverandcaiman](#)

**Facebook:** [Jacob Walse-Domínguez](#)

**Jess Bozzo**, originally from Sacramento, is a choreographer, teacher, and performing artist based in the SF/Bay Area. Jess is currently teaching biweekly on Wednesdays at Full Out Studios and regularly teaches vertical dance workshops at BANDALOOP Studios.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** *Magic Dyke* (working title) which showcases a sensuous queer choreography, extending to audiences an evolved representation of queer and dyke embodied joy. *Magic Dyke's*(wt) artistic process seeks to reclaim the aesthetics of 1990s and Y2K pop cultural references and restructure the highly gendered choreographic tendencies of industry dance. The premiere of this work will be at CounterPulse in November 2024, with plans for further production cycles in 2025.

**Instagram:** [@jesssybooo](#)

**Labonee Mohanta**, a disciple of Kathak maestro Pt. Chitresh Das, is a prominent and dynamic solo artist who regularly performs throughout the US, Canada, India and Europe, and collaborates with various art forms. She is the Artistic Director of Lavanya Academy of Indian Arts, where she trains her dance company and teaches 60 students in the Bay Area.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** the development of *Milana*, which is the collaboration between North Indian Classical Kathak dance (Labonee Mohanta), South Indian Carnatic + Jazz Drum Kit percussion (Rohan Krishnamurthy), and American Jazz piano (Colin Hogan). Through *Milana*, they expand both artists' and audiences' ways of thinking of how live music and dance can relate, pushing out of the comfort zone of how to play and how to move, as well as deepening their knowledge and ability to collaborate across cultures and art forms.

**Instagram:** [@labonee\\_mohanta](#)

**Facebook:** [Labonee Mohanta](#)

[Laksha Dantran](#) is a San Francisco-based emerging trans artist with over 30 years of experience in Indian classical Dance and mixed media visual artwork. Laksha uses her dance skills (Bharathanatyam) to challenge conventional and oppressive gender roles often upheld in the form. She works at the YMCA San Francisco as a Group Dance and Yoga based exercise instructor. Her work is not only positively impacting many participants to tone their minds and bodies but also to elevate their thoughts that art and workouts have beyond the gender binary addiction.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** a cultural performance event at the YMCA San Francisco in collaboration with non-binary artists Siam Phusri and Miraaaj. Her work aims to challenge the traditional gender binary obsession by documenting a new unisexual dance vocabulary that melds majestic (male) and graceful (female) movements and disrupts standardized rhythms, sequence flows, and narrative contexts.

**Instagram:** [@nrithyathma](#)

**Facebook:** [Laksha Dantran](#)

**Shruti Abhishek** is an Indian dancer, choreographer, and teacher practicing Bharatanatyam. Her organization, Shruti Abhishek Dance, is dedicated to reclaiming and recontextualizing the Bharatanatyam tradition while exploring intersections between postmodern Western art forms and media.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** the development of a new solo dance-theater work that explores a woman's journey through childhood, discovering solace and strength in her imagined relationship with a divine mother figure amidst revelations about her own identity. The work will premiere on Oct 19 at Z Below in San Francisco.

**Instagram:** [@shruti\\_abhishek](#)

### Organization Projects:

[Bay Area Independent Chinese Dancers](#) is a collective of Chinese dancers, choreographers and allies who use traditional arts to tell original stories firmly rooted in their own experiences of the Bay Area and throughout the world.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** the creation of dance films and live performances for a selection of the original choreographic works they made in the 2024-2025 season. In the winter 2024, they will host the "Full of Thanks/Full of Laughter" showcase which will be a celebration of all their work in the past year and a look forward to their new season, with an emphasis on dances that have been inspired by their experiences living in the Bay Area and in 2025 will host their second live show, 喜 *Delight: Rediscovering Laughter in Tradition*.

**Instagram:** [@independentchinesedancers](#)

**Facebook:** [Bay Area Independent Chinese Dancers](#)

Founded in 2019, **Dancing Cy(i)phers** is a deeply embodied cultural experience that evolved out of 30 years of research on African dance presence in African American dance forms, and

serves as a space for practitioners and scholars to examine, decode and recode, engage and embody what it means to attain African Diasporic dance literacy.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** *5th-Quarter Bantaba*, a new choreographic work interweaving dance/percussion from the Mali Empire and the African American marching bands of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). A work-in-progress showing, panel discussion with the collaborators, and community workshop will take place July 14 at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts in Oakland.

**Instagram:** [@dancing\\_cyphers](https://www.instagram.com/dancing_cyphers)

Founded by Malonga Casquelourd in 1977, [Fua Dia Kongo](https://www.fuadiakongo.com)'s mission is to honor and celebrate the cultural heritage of Congolese culture in America by preserving, presenting, and promoting the music, dance & cultural arts of this region. They are dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Congolese culture while bridging cultural divides and nurturing the growth of African arts in the diaspora.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** a new multi-year socially-engaged dance performance project exploring the ongoing atrocities in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to the mining of cobalt. Utilizing dance and music as a vehicle for change, they're connecting with the world's leading activists on this issue and aim to raise awareness and inspire paths towards a more sustainable and humane future. A work-in-progress showing will take place Nov 10 at Malonga Casquelourd Center in Oakland.

**Instagram:** [@fuadiakongo](https://www.instagram.com/fuadiakongo)

[Helen Wicks Works](https://www.helenwicksworks.com) combines dance and socio-political perspectives in circus-informed aerial performance. HWW presents exhilarating, research-driven performance that demonstrates how perseverance and imagination can captivate diverse and multigenerational audiences.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** *Power Plays*, a series of dances that use physical theater, aerial dance, and drag performance to co-create choreography inspired by themes of pleasure, power, and play. Helen Wicks/Baby Lady and Alex Locust/Glamputee will co-create new generative performance that re-imagines accessibility in aerial dance through their emerging partnership, Project AeriALL. The premier of Project AeriALL's new work will be presented as part of *Power Plays*, a public showing on July 26-27 at SPACE 124 in San Francisco.

**Instagram:** [@helenwicksworks](https://www.instagram.com/helenwicksworks)

Founded in 2008 in the Republic of Congo by Byb Chanel Bibene, [Kiandanda Dance Theater](https://www.kiandanda.com) is an international movement art company based in San Francisco. They use the body to raise awareness on social justice issues exploring themes that range from colonization, tribalism, racism, armed conflicts, and more.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** *Ngunza Bantu Project*, a work which attempts to reinforce the connection between Africans and African Americans through a performative spiritual culture experience. The ritualistic installation will consist of elements that characterize the Nguza culture such as traditional bells, hand clapping and chanting, masks and statues, and a series of



codified gestures and trance states that form the essence of the Nguza. The project premieres Oct 18-19 at The Milkbar in Richmond.

**Instagram:** [@kiandandadt](#)

**Facebook:** [Kiandanda Dance Theater](#)

**[Monsoon Dance Company](#)** develops contemporary Kathak performances and explores the expansive possibilities and increased relevancy of Kathak through its contemporary practices. Founded by Karishma Sharma, their work empowers innovation, challenges traditional approaches, and explores the storytelling capacity of Kathak from a modern perspective.

**CASH Dance will support:** *Finding My Dha*, the company's second full-length performance to be presented in November 2024 at the Joe Goode Annex. The work is a deep dive into and subsequent deconstruction of classic Kathak compositions and concepts as a way to engage with a wider range of movement vocabulary and narrative.

**Instagram:** [@monsoon.dance.company](#)

**Facebook:** [Monsoon Dance Company](#)

**Samudra Dance Creations** was founded by Bharatanatyam choreographer/dancer Jyotsna Vaidee. Samudra is a Sanskrit term literally meaning the "gathering together of waters." As the name implies they enable collaborations among freelance/professional artists in the San Francisco Bay Area and create awareness around cultural/social issues.

**CASH Dance will support:** *Bhakti Rising*, a new work based on music and poetry from the Bhakti Movement in India. During this period, Indian society entered a new phase of growth and evolution as a result of a pan-Indian uprising of a people's culture against feudalism. They plan to present small community events starting in July 2024 culminating in a work-in-progress premiere on Sep 14 at the Starbright Theatre in Campbell.

**Instagram:** [@samudradance](#)

**Facebook:** [Samudra Dance](#)

**[Snowflake Calvert](#)**, a Yaqui and Tzotzil Two-Spirit artist, is celebrated as a dancer, drag performer, event host, entrepreneur, and filmmaker. Her artistry serves as a platform for political, social, and cultural activism, notably within the LGBTQ+ community.

**CASH Dance will support:** the development of *Neanderthal Land Acknowledgement*, a Queer satirical dance-performance piece which challenges conventional land acknowledgments, urging us to rethink and recommit to our connection with land and ancestors. The project explores the potential and troubles of land acknowledgments from an Indigenous viewpoint, emphasizing the significance of acknowledging ancestral memory spanning millennia.

Work-in-progress showings in mid-October and performances are planned for November 14-16 at CounterPulse.

**Instagram:** [@arizmendi](#)

**Facebook:** [Snowflake Calvert](#)

Founded by Héctor Jaime in 2022, **Xochipilli Dance Company** is a contemporary ballet-based dance company in the Bay Area representing the Queer and Latinx community. The company draws inspiration from Mexican history, pictography, sculptures, folklore, music, and poetry to create choreographic compositions.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** the development of XDC's first full-length evening dance production *Vinculo Nahual*, which explores the mysticism of Nahuales. In ancient Mesoamerican culture, Nahuales are a type of shaman or curandero with the ability to shapeshift into an animal. The work is anticipated to premiere in November 2025 at Dance Mission Theater in San Francisco.

**Instagram:** [@xochipilli\\_dance\\_company](https://www.instagram.com/xochipilli_dance_company)

Founded in 2014, [Zoë Klein Productions](https://www.zoekleinproductions.com) makes acrobatic dance creations using strong visual imagery and often interactive gallery installations to identify the complexity of adoption, and the ethics of family making. In reclaiming her own native identity, and inviting conversation around loss, race, immigration, and the importance of origin, Artistic Director Zoë Klein aims to shift the mainstream narrative of adoption.

**CA\$H Dance will support:** the development of an artistic collaboration between two Colombian adoptee multidisciplinary artists: Zoë Klein and MasPaz, a pre-Columbian art-inspired muralist and multimedia artist. Inspired by the mola art of the Kuna natives of Colombia, they will weave their life experiences together and create an environment where they sew, carve, paint, move, dance, connect, contradict, oppress, heal, and liberate.

**Facebook:** [Zoë Klein Productions](https://www.facebook.com/zoekleinproductions)

*Photos (left to right): Zoë Klein Productions - photo by Andy Mogg; Laksha Dantran - photo by @alxmmphoto; Kiandanda Dance Theater - photo by Kaveri Seth*