



TWENTY-FIVE BLACK-LED DANCE COMPANIES AWARDED QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS

The International Association of Blacks in Dance distributes a second round of MOVE (Managing Organizational Vitality and Endurance) grants to dance companies in 12 States across the U.S. with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(September 19, 2018) Washington, DC - The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) has awarded \$250,000 to 25 Black-led member companies throughout the United States. Each company has received an unrestricted INFLUENCERS grant of \$10,000 for general operating expenses. IABD awarded the grants as part of its inaugural financial and organizational health program, *MOVE: Managing Organizational Vitality and Endurance*, which was generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

“This round of grants penetrates to the very root of our communities, where these companies thrive, create, and provide much needed services to their constituencies. These organizations are critical and serve as a lifeline in many communities across the U.S. They are literally saving lives,” said Denise Saunders Thompson, President and CEO of IABD. “IABD is awarding general operating support grants to offer just a bit of relief and funding capital to address any challenges they might be facing. The companies include:

African American Dance Ensemble, Durham, NC
Atlanta Dance Connection, Atlanta, GA
Ballethnic Dance Company, Atlanta, GA
Collage Dance Collective, Memphis, TN
Dance Iquail!, Philadelphia, PA
Danse4Nia Repertory Ensemble, Philadelphia, PA
Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre, Chicago, IL
Diamano Coura West African Dance Co, Oakland, CA
Dimensions Dance Theatre, Oakland, CA
Elisa Monte Dance Company, New York, NY
Eleone Dance Theatre, Philadelphia, PA
Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, Brooklyn, NY
Garth Fagan Dance, Rochester, NY

Hayiya Dance Theatre, Macon, GA
libada Dance Company, Indianapolis, IN
Kaleidoscope Dance Theatre, Auburn, NY
KanKouran West African Dance Co, Washington, DC
Muntu Dance Theatre, Chicago, IL
Robert Moses’ KIN, San Francisco, CA
Spectrum Dance Theatre, Seattle, WA
Step Afrika, Washington, DC
Threads Dance Project, Golden Valley, MN
TU Dance, St. Paul, MN
Urban Bush Women, Brooklyn, NY
Washington Reflections Dance Co, Washington, DC

The COLLECTIVE Cohort, as they are recognized, is participating in a peer-to-peer online learning community that includes technical assistance, financial planning, organizational development strategies and training with the Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF), as well as relevant and important discussions on issues facing these companies on a day-to-day basis with IABD. The COLLECTIVE kicked off its activities in July with an online webinar administered by IABD and NFF. The training includes access to information and tools that will support longevity and strengthen the capacity of these organizations to remain recognized artistic and thought leaders.



In March 2018, IABD received a \$2,636,000, multi-year grant award from The Mellon Foundation for Phase II of the organization's Comprehensive Organizational Health Initiative (COHI). In partnership with the Nonprofit Finance Fund, this phase of the COHI program offers capital deployment, financial consultation, and technical assistance to participating IABD member companies. Responding directly to many of the lessons learned from Phase I activities (i.e. site visits, financial diagnostics, educational workshops), it serves as recommended next steps to strengthen IABD, Inc., its member organizations, and by extension, the field of Black dance. The collaborative nature of this program aims to ensure the vitality of the Black dance sector by addressing historic barriers, building parity among Black dance organizations that support and create work with differing aesthetics, and developing new organizational processes and practices for nonprofit arts organizations.

For more information about the COHI program, please visit www.iabdassociation.org/COHI.

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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE: The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) preserves and promotes dance by people of African ancestry or origin, and assists and increases opportunities for artists in advocacy, audience development, education, funding, networking, performance, philosophical dialogue, and touring. IABD has become the Mecca for Blacks in Dance, such as administrators, artists, choreographers, dance companies, directors, educators, researchers and scholars, and those interested in artistry, Black dance issues, and performance presentations. The Association, founded in 1991, provides a network, formal newsletters, choreographer's directory, and published papers; it is the *raison d'être* for the annual conference and festival. The Association also responds to and initiates dialogue around issues that impact the Black Dance Community as well as the Dance community at large. IABD has developed national prominence and allowed the Black Dance Community to come together on important issues. For more information on IABD visit iabdassociation.org.



ABOUT THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION: Founded in 1969, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation endeavors to strengthen, promote, and, where necessary, defend the contributions of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse and democratic societies by supporting exemplary institutions of higher education and culture as they renew and provide access to an invaluable heritage of ambitious, path-breaking work. Additional information is available at mellon.org.



ABOUT NONPROFIT FINANCE FUND: Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF) advances missions and social progress in underserved communities through financing, consulting, partnerships, and knowledge-sharing that empower leaders, organizations, and ideas. A leading Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), NFF currently manages over \$310 million. Since 1980, we have provided almost \$700 million in financing and access to additional capital in support of over \$2.3 billion in projects for thousands of organizations nationwide. NFF is headquartered in New York City and serves clients from five offices across the country. For more information on NFF visit nff.org.