Dance/USA

Fellowships to Artists
Three Related Components

• Artist Fellowships

• Peer Cohort and Resource Network

• Fellowship Initiatives
About DFA

• Direct support to individual artists

• Intended for artists who have developed a sustained and intentional practice of working through dance and movement-based modalities to address social change.

• 30 fellows to be selected, funding a minimum of $30,000 per awarded artist.

• Unrestricted award: awarded fellows are not required to complete a project with the financial award.

• DFA covers access and/or related travel expenses during cohort convenings.
About Art for Social Change

Intentionally affects and respectfully engages communities and audiences.

• Integral to the ideas, beliefs, and goals of the artist’s process.
• Has a vision and an intentional analysis.
• May operate in traditional or nontraditional forms or settings.
Impacts

• Create space for expression and build a sense of community
• Preserve or reclaim traditional cultural practices
• Alter or question how we think about ourselves, our society, or our culture
• Create a vision of a more just world
• Be a tool or strategy for organizing and movement building
• Challenge racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, ageism, ableism, or other oppressions
• Question dominant culture beliefs
• Shift or transform the perception of power and/or privilege and the dynamics associated with justice, equity, and/or accountability
Examples

• For specific examples of artists that DFA seeks to support, see Dance/USA’s series of 11 published articles that shares the voices of 31 artists who received the fellowship in the previous round.

• List of artists:

https://www.danceusa.org/dfa-fellows

• Articles:

https://www.danceusa.org/dfa-article-series
Fellowship Amounts

• 30 one-year fellowships of a minimum of $30,000 per awarded artist.
• Total allocation of at least $1,000,000.
Eligibility

- Have dedicated your practice to directly and meaningfully addressing the needs of one or more community(s).

- Have respectful, ethical, and committed relationships with the communities with which your work is in dialogue.

- Have an artistic practice in dance and/or movement-based modalities.

- Have not received major six-figure funding, such as MacArthur Foundation “Genius” awards and Doris Duke Artist Awards.

- Be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident.
Not Competitive

• Artists whose practice takes place solely in higher education settings, such as college professors who create work only for their students

• Artists whose work is not rooted with intention in community-based practice

• Artists who wish to explore a social justice issue for a new work, but who have no prior experience with the community(s) it affects.
Review Criteria

• **Commitment**
  The artist demonstrates sustained commitment to a population, issue, and/or place and shows accountability for how their work contributes to change

• **Clarity**
  Clarity in artistry and articulation of how the artist’s work uplifts visions of justice, dismantles systems of oppression, facilitates care and healing, or more

• **Cultural integrity**
  The artist’s work is governed by ethical practice that shows awareness of power, privilege, and cultural context

• **Disruption**
  The artist’s work questions norms, disrupts dominant culture, shifts perception and power dynamics, models new forms of action, or more
2. Peer Cohort and Resource Network

• Provide fellows with occasional opportunities to connect in person as a peer community during the fellowship

• Fellows required to attend two meetings, virtually or in-person: August/September 2022 and June 2023.
3. Fellowship Initiatives

• Fellows will have the option to help design and/or participate in fellowship initiatives that explore the collective potential of the fellowship cohort.
Letter of Inquiry Submission

LOI Due Date:
6pm EST, Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Complete Three Steps:
1. Register to a Submittable account
2. Complete the online LOI form
3. Submit the form by the due date

• Option to complete the LOI in WORD doc is available.

Late submissions will not be considered.

Start your upload early
– not on the last day.
How to Apply and What Happens to Your LOI

Letter of Inquiry
• Reviewed for their eligibility and completeness
• Answer questions about practice
• Short work sample
• Review by peer readers and panel
• 60 Invited to apply

Application
• Additional questions about you and your practice
• Long work samples
• Community references
• Short informal video statement
To Get Help or Ask Questions

• Video or audio submissions
• Webinar
• Technical assistance calls
• Proposal coaching

• Translation, Interpretation, and Accessibility
Questions?

Visit the guidelines page here:
https://danceusa.org/danceusa-fellowships-to-artists

• Contact me at fellowships@danceusa.org or call (202) 725-4028.

• ASL and spoken language interpretation services are available upon request.