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**Overview and Guidelines**

We are at a point in history where our society is grappling with unprecedented challenges and increasingly recognizing the inequity and injustice of our systems. With this in mind, Dance/USA is reaffirmed that the work of supporting artists who engage in art for social change is pivotal and overdue.

As a national program, Dance/USA Fellowships to Artists (DFA) recognizes the richness and wide-ranging perspectives of change-based artistic practices in dance and places its values in alignment with artists in this work. The overarching goals of DFA are:

1. Center artists who engage in art for social change and offer fellowship support
2. Build peer cohort and resource network among fellows
3. Facilitate initiatives that are responsive and uplift the artists’ voices

Dance/USA operates with inclusion and justice at our core, and places Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+ individuals, and people with disabilities at the center of our decision-making.

We strive towards disability justice, language justice, and tech access justice in our work. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying to DFA please reach out to Haowen Wang, Director of Regranting, at fellowships@danceusa.org or call (202) 725-4028. ASL and spoken language interpretation services are available upon request.

DFA is made possible with generous support from the [Doris](http://www.ddcf.org/) [Duke Charitable Foundation.](http://www.ddcf.org/) Read how the program structure was developed [here.](https://danceusa.org/development-danceusa-fellowships-artists) Read how the program aligns with Dance/USA’s Strategic Plan [here](https://www.danceusa.org/new-strategic-plan). Read about the round one DFA fellows [here](https://www.danceusa.org/dfa-fellows).

### I. DFA Fellowships

### DFA offers direct support to individual artists who have developed a sustained and intentional practice of working through dance and movement-based modalities to address social change.

In this current round, DFA will fund thirty one-year fellowships of a minimum of $30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) per awarded artist.

Fellowship funds can be used at the artist’s discretion. Awarded fellows are not required to complete a project with the financial award.

DFA will cover expenses for access and/or related travel during cohort convenings.

### About Art for Social Change

*The following language is adapted, with permission, from the* [*Leeway Foundation*](https://www.leeway.org/)*.*

Art for social change intentionally affects and respectfully engages communities and audiences.Creating social change must be integral to the ideas, beliefs, and goals that are woven throughout an artist’s process of creating and sharing the art. Art for social change is art with a vision and an intentional analysis. It is an artistic or creative cultural practice that may operate in traditional or nontraditional forms or settings. Art with this vision impacts people and communities in many ways. It can:

* 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

### For specific examples of artists that DFA seeks to support, see Dance/USA’s series of [11](https://www.danceusa.org/dfa-article-series) (eleven) [published articles](https://www.danceusa.org/dfa-article-series) that shares the voices of [31 (thirty one) artists](https://www.danceusa.org/dfa-fellows) who received the fellowship in the previous round.

### Eligibility

As an applicant, you must:

* 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

### Applicants that fit the item(s) below are not competitive in this program:

* 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**

A peer panel will be charged with constructing a fellowship cohort that reflects a range of artists, practices, and communities, using the following 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

### Application Process and Assistance

All artists may apply to DFAregardless of Dance/USA membership status.Applicants first submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI). The due date for the LOI is Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6 p.m. Eastern Time. By April 14, 2022, up to 60 applicants will be invited to submit full applications. Fellows will be notified in August 2022.

For more information, refer to the How to Apply and Translation and Accessibility sections below. In addition, Dance/USA encourages applicants to contact us with questions; to set up a time to speak with either Haowen or a proposal coach, see the To Get Help or Ask Questions section below.

# II. Peer Cohort and Resource Network

# Dance/USA strives to be a catalytic network enlivened by connection, community, and collaboration. To that end, DFA offers fellows opportunities to connect in person and/or online as a peer cohort during the fellowship period (2022-2023). This includes open spaces for sharing among the fellows, dialogues with industry professionals, and professional development opportunities.

Fellows will be required to attend two meetings: one in August 2022 and one in June 2023 (in-person and/or virtually, TBD).Travel and access costs will be covered by Dance/USA.

DFA fellows will be offered a free, one-year [Independent Artist/Choreographer membership](https://www.danceusa.org/independentartistsandchoreographers) during the fellowship period.

**III. Fellowship Initiatives**

Taking place throughout the fellowship period (2022-2023), fellows will have the option to help design and/or participate in fellowship initiatives (e.g. working groups, study groups, cohort facilitated trainings, or more) that explore the collective potential of the fellowship cohort.

**Schedule Overview**

**Letter of Inquiry Due Date**

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6 p.m. Eastern Time

**Notification of Invitation to Apply**

By April 14, 2022

**Full Proposal Due Date**

Friday, May 13, 2022 at 6 p.m. Eastern Time

**Notification of Funding Decisions**

August 2022

**Fellowship Period**

September 2022 – September 2023

**Fellows 1st In-Person Meeting (required)**

August 2022, TBA (DFA covers access and travel costs).

**First Payment**

Upon attendance at the first fellows meeting

**Fellows 2nd In-Person Meeting (required)**

June 2023, prior to Dance/USA conference, TBA (DFA covers access and travel costs).

**Final Report**

Due No later than October 30, 2023

**Final Payment**

November 2023

# How To Apply

# There are two phases to the DFA application process:

1. Letter of Inquiry.All applicants must submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) by Wednesday, December 8 (eight), 2021. Applicants must complete an LOI form to provide basic information, document your experience, answer questions about your artistic practice, and submit brief samples of your work.

## The LOI will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness. After the initial panel review, up to 60 (sixty) applicant artists will be invited to submit Full Applications by April 14, 2022.

1. Full Application.The due date for full applications is Friday, May 13, 2022, at 6 p.m. Eastern Time. The full application guidelines will be distributed by April 14, 2022.

## The full application will require each artist to:

* + Answer some additional questions about their artistic practice and how it addresses social change.
	+ As relevant to the artistic practice, submit work samples, which can take a variety of forms. Samples may be videos (taken formally or informally), photos, documents, or other materials. Dance/USA and the peer panel understand that the quality of work samples can vary. Samples will represent only one piece of information considered by the panel.
	+ Submit references of community members and leaders who can speak to your relationships with the community(s) you partner with.
	+ Submit a short, informal video statement (e.g., using a phone or other camera) of up to five minutes answering a few questions about your artistic practice.

## Both LOIs and full applications will be reviewed by a peer panel comprised of artists, educators, and administrators who specialize in areas including choreography, social justice, presenting, and reflective of a range of demographics and dance forms.

**Translation, Interpretation, and Accessibility**

Dance/USA is committed to accessibility. We are happy to offer alternative formats and translation/interpretation services necessary so that all individuals can participate in DFA.

If you need translation to access DFA guidelines and applications in your preferred language, please reach out to Dance/USA as soon as possible. Upon request, Dance/USA will take the following steps:

1. Contact our language services company
2. Email application to the applicant in their preferred language
3. The applicant would then answer the application questions in their preferred language and email them back to Dance/USA before the application due date
4. Lastly, Dance/USA will have the application translated into English for panel review

Download a PDF document of the LOI application questions [here](https://danceusa.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/03120336/DFA-R2-LOI-Form-reference-only.pdf).

If you have limited internet access, you may submit the LOI in Microsoft Word. Download the LOI form in Microsoft Word format [here](https://danceusa.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/03183544/DFA-R2-LOI-Form-non-wifi.docx). Email the completed LOI form to fellowships@danceusa.org by December 8, 2021.

In addition, guidelines and applications in large print are also available. Download the guidelines in large print [here](https://danceusa.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/03182900/DFA-R2-Overview-and-Guidelines-VI-Accessible-Final-1.docx). Download the LOI form in large print [here](https://danceusa.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/03182858/DFA-R2-LOI-Form-non-wifi-VI-Accessible.docx). Email the completed large print LOI form to fellowships@danceusa.org by December 8, 2021.

For all language and accessibility requests, please reach out to Haowen at fellowships@danceusa.org or call (202) 725-4028. ASL and spoken language interpretation services are available upon request.

# To Get Help or Ask Questions

## Dance/USA shares the belief that proposal writing should not be a barrier to artists accessing funding. With this in mind, we offer DFA applicants, regardless of membership status, several options of support during the application period. The following options are open to all applicants:

## **Video or Audio Submissions**

You can submit your narrative questions of the LOI and/or Full Application in video or audio formats, rather than a written one. Follow the instructions provided in the submission forms to submit the video/audio files. Applications with video or audio answer formats will be judged by the same criteria as fully written proposals.

**Webinar**

Dance/USA offers a recorded DFA program webinar that covers DFA program requirements and the selection process. Access the webinar [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a12ZdnjD6qk).

## Please contact us if you will need additional language services.

**Technical Assistance Calls**

Technical assistance calls are specifically dedicated for applicants to ask questions about the program requirements and selection process. Call will be conducted via Zoom. Haowen, Dance/USA’s Director of Regranting, will facilitate the sessions.

Dates:

* Monday, November 8, 2021, 2-3PM EST/11AM-12PM PST. RSVP [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpduGgqDkrE9x6t7CXmu0nvFBL8K5G5O0X).
* Sunday, November 14, 2021, 7-8PM EST/4-5PM PST. RSVP [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZItc-2hrDsuHtBMrdImtyX6Mx3iFpDyLx8k).
* Wednesday, November 24, 2021, 6-7PM EST/3-4PM PST. RSVP [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEudOyvqz0qG9KtBU6w7jui5f49CcyaHspy).

Each session is limited to thirty participants. Additional sessions may be added per demand.

## ASL and captioning services are available in all sessions. Spoken language Interpretation is available upon request.

**Proposal Coaching**

Dance/USA offers free proposal coaching to applicants who are interested in this optional service. Coaching sessions are thirty-minute calls for the applicant to talk through their draft application with a proposal coach.

Proposal coaches are hired consultants, experts in the field who can help you gain insight into connecting your proposal relevance to the program goals and objectives. Proposal coaches cannot advise if your project will be selected. The [DFA proposal coaches](https://www.danceusa.org/dfa-advisors-and-coaches) are:

* Lily Kharrazi
* Yvonne Montoya
* Kevin Seaman
* Krista Smith

[Schedule a thirty-minute call with a coach now.](https://calendly.com/dfa-proposal-coaching-signup/dfa-proposal-coaching?month=2021-10)

This coaching is intended to increase applicants' skills at submitting LOIs but does not guarantee funding by DFA. Applicants must read the guidelines before their session.

Coaching sessions are only offereduntil December 1, 2021.After that time, applicants can still email or call Dance/USA with general questions but will not receive thirty-minute coaching sessions.

To schedule a thirty-minute session with a proposal coach, click [**here**](https://calendly.com/dfa-proposal-coaching-signup/dfa-proposal-coaching). You may also set up coaching sessions by reaching out to Dance/USA. Contact information is below.

**Reach Out to Dance/USA**

Contact Dance/USA’s Director of Regranting, Haowen Wang, at fellowships@danceusa.org or call (202) 725-4028. ASL and spoken language interpretation services are available upon request.