



Next Steps for Boston Dance

A Partnership of the Boston Foundation and the Aliad Fund

Next Steps for Boston Dance

- Provides multi-layered support for Greater Boston’s choreographers. This grant program aims to support Greater Boston choreographers creating original work in any dance genre or at any career levels to move forward and take a “next step” in their careers
- Who can apply: **Choreographers making original work**
- Application Opened: September 7, 2017
- Deadline: October 31, 2017**

Note: *Eligible applicants may apply to both the Next Steps and Live Arts Boston grant programs in the same cycle, and be eligible to receive both awards.*

Program Guidelines

Open to independent choreographers, collaborating choreographers, and company directors at all stages of a professional career and to artists working in any dance genre.

Next Steps provides an artist with:

250 hours of rehearsal space over 18 months;

6 consulting meetings with expert advisors in chosen areas of need and/or interest to the artist, including artistic, organizational, technical, marketing and communication, or strategic/business planning;

\$5,000 in implementation funds to create or complete a project or take a “next step” in his or her work or career; and

A series of cohort meetings to connect choreographers, build relationships, and allow for co-learning.

Eligibility Requirements

Applying artists must:

Be creating original work in any genre of dance;

Have choreographed and presented work for an audience in a public setting within the last 24 months. (The event could have been ticketed or free for a specific or general audience, but cannot have been work created or presented while the artist was an undergraduate or post-secondary student.);

Have a primary residence within the Boston Foundation's catchment area; Check the TBF website for our list of covered cities and towns;

NOT currently be enrolled in an undergraduate or post-secondary program in dance or a related field, as post-secondary students currently seeking and working toward dance and related fields are ineligible to apply;

NOTE: We will accept joint applications from artistic collaborators.

Grant Focus

What will lead to a successful application?

Before starting to answer the narrative questions, really think about where you want to be in two years.

As a working artist we know you want a viable career and for your work to be seen.

How do you want to make that happen? What is the path that you want to take? Given your vision and style of work what “next step” will help propel you? It will be different for each artist, depending upon where you are in your career and what goals you wish to achieve.

Possible Next Steps Examples

Your work has primarily been performed in festivals and group concerts and you are now ready to produce a concert solely containing your work.

You have been moving towards working with film as an integral part of your presentations and need the time, expert input, and better film quality to take your work to a “next step.”

You are very interested in working in settings outside of traditional theatres and expanding your community outreach. To take this “next step” you want support while you determine which dances are best suited, create new work for these settings, and help in reaching out to new communities

You have produced many concerts locally and now want to go on tour. Do you want to have a wide range of repertory or focus on one work? Do you want to learn how to work with a presenter?

Rehearsal Space Options

As a component of Next Steps, awardees will be able to select a rehearsal space venue within which to work over the 18 month grant period, paid for by the granting organizations.

Next Steps welcomes the following studios/venues as site partners:

Arts at The Armory

Mass Motion Dance

BDA – Lyric Stage

The Boston Ballet [primarily the Newton Studio]

Brookline Ballet

The Dance Complex

Deborah Mason School of Dance

Tony Williams Dance Center

Green Street Studios

Urbanity Dance

Jose Matéo Ballet Theatre

NOTE: If you currently work in a space not listed above, we will gladly speak with the directors of the space to work out a partnership.

How to Apply

Go to:

www.tbf.org/investing-in-non-profits/funding-opportunities/other-support/next-steps-for-boston-dance

for an overview of the program and a link to the online Submittable application.

Application Tips:

- Draft your narrative responses in a separate document and then cut and paste answers into the application.
- Ensure application is accurate and complete before submitting.
- You may save information as you work on it and return as often as you would like; but once you have submitted, you cannot make changes
- You you will need to submit an artist resume and work sample(s).

What will panelists look for?

All sections of the application should reflect the “next step” you are seeking to achieve.

For example – if your goal is to do more site specific work in non-traditional settings then your artist resume should include performances in a variety of spaces.

Be realistic and specific. If your resume clearly shows that you have never toured, then do not state that you will be touring to five cities in the next year. Think about what you can really achieve and how you want to get there.

Make sure to turn in video that connects with your stated goals. If you are wanting to go in a different direction – then make that clear in the video description section.

When answering questions about what help and expertise you are seeking, it should tie in with the “next step” you want to take. Be very clear with type of help you want, whether it is technical or artistic support, or something all together different.

Additional Questions?

- Do not wait until the day before the application is due!!
- Contact **Ruth Birnberg** and she will be happy to speak with you and help you to put forward an application that best reflects your goals.
- Email Ruth at: ruthmbirnberg@gmail.com