

CHICAGO
DANCE MAKERS
FORUM

2021-2024

The Revv Campaign



Photo : Nejla Yatkin by Lois Greenfield



Meet Chicago Dancemakers Forum

Chicago Dancemakers Forum welcomes you.

Sprung from a demonstration project in 2003, we are now [Chicago's largest open call source of support for dancemaking](#), providing over \$1.25M in direct funding for artists to date. We advance new dance creation by dancemakers representing nearly every area of the city and elevate the recognition of Chicago as a thriving and diverse center of dance innovation. Our bold five-year vision is to be the Heart of Dance Innovation- Strong and Everywhere.

We are proud that our investment in the creative support, health and wellbeing of the dancemaking community was recently described as work that "... deserves ... credit for the boom in groundbreaking dance in Chicago over the last several years. Chicago is fortunate to have [CDF] and could use a dozen more organizations just like it." Sharon Hoyer, Newcity Magazine 2021

The Revv Campaign – Accelerating Chicago Dance Now

We are eager to share that Chicago Dancemakers Forum

- Transitioned gracefully from an unincorporated project to a fully-fledged organization whose work is amplified by a committed consortium of 9 dynamic dance incubating and presenting organizations.
- Has a track record of raising over \$250,000 annually for programs and operations to catalyze new dance creation, led by a staff of three and broadly diverse board of nine.
- Continues its commitment to building and learning by listening to changes within and outside of a dance community that represents all of Chicago, and to responsively activate an agile and innovative approach to supporting artists.
- Is expanding its Fund for artists and the next generation of dancemakers.
- Is thoughtfully planning leadership succession from its founding dynamic Executive Director Ginger Farley to new leadership that will be equitably compensated .
- Is building a strong and adaptive organization that enriches Chicago's cultural identity, stimulating dancemakers to experiment and create new work that defines their individual artistic growth and success.
- **Is raising \$1M to fund direct grants to artists and program costs, and support staff compensation and growth.**

At 18 years, Chicago Dancemakers Forum is at an exciting and critical inflection point and is poised to expand grants for artists and programs that offer opportunities for Chicago dancemakers to grow their generative practice, and to hire its first paid executive director - a visionary new leader to support dancemakers and their creative process.

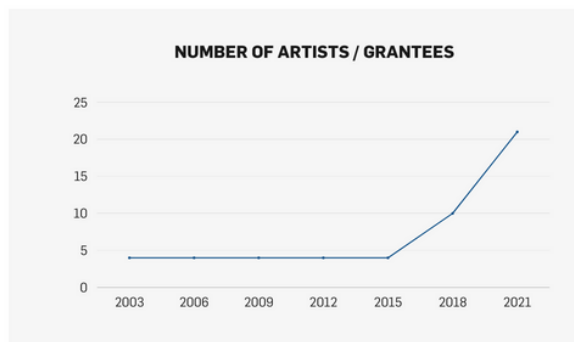
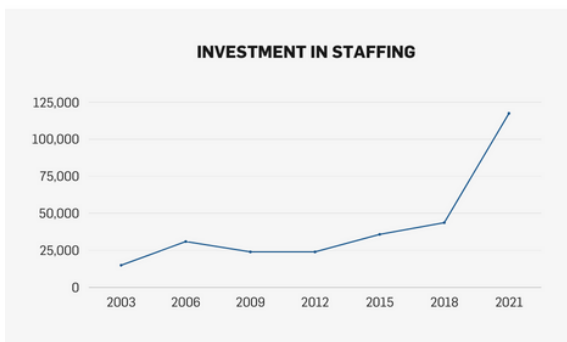


The Revv Numbers: Investing in CDF = Investing in Artists

To prepare for expanded funding for artists and the transition to paid leadership, CDF has launched the Revv Campaign to raise **\$1,000,000**, which will include

- **\$625,000** for direct artist and program support; and,
- **\$375,000** annually for three years to fund the new executive director, health care account contributions, and adjustment/expansion of staff roles.

The funds raised through the three-year Revv Campaign will fully realize the vision and goals outlined in CDF's comprehensive [2020-2025 strategic plan](#). CDF's average annual budget of \$500,000 serves about 2,000 dancemakers a year through grants, public programs, and resource sharing. Always in the black and committed to impact, Chicago Dancemakers Forum invested 77% of its operating fund into program and artist support in 2020. Its direct grants and public programs have now provided thousands of choreographers with the financial infusion, network building, and artistic dialogue they need to reflect, refuel, and develop works of greater depth and scale. Building on the foundation of the successful 2015 Breakout Campaign, The Revv campaign will infuse this work with new possibilities and scale.



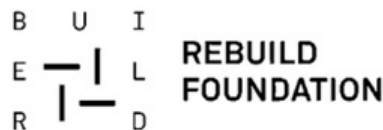
Ginger Farley, CDF's first and current executive director, waives her salary and her in-kind contribution has made it possible for CDF to deliver and enhance its essential programs while planning for sustainability, succession, and fundraising growth. As announced in September 2021, Ginger will be stepping down and CDF's board has begun a [search for a new executive director](#). A primary goal of the Revv Campaign is to provide the financial foundation for the new leader to take on this key role without having to raise their own salary (estimated at \$75k-\$80k based on director salaries at comparable organizations) within the first three years. It will secure CDF's transition and transfer of institutional memory, while providing space for new perspectives. Revv will ensure the success of the new team and continue CDF's work to integrate principles of equity and inclusion into all aspects of the organization. The campaign will have ways for all to engage in supporting this effort and encourage wide scale community-based participation as it unfolds in 2022.



Our History, Mission and Impact

CDF was founded on two significant ways of working which are at the root of and what we are and do today – collaboration and responsiveness. Begun in 2003 by a consortium of three key Chicago contemporary dance incubators and presenters – Columbia College Dance Center, Links Hall and the Museum of Contemporary Art, it has evolved into a vibrant 501c3 organization whose work is amplified by the active partnership of nine consortium organizations and many other community partners.

Current Consortium Members





CDF Program Support and Impact for Artists

CDF supports Chicago's aesthetically and culturally diverse dancemakers in their pursuit of excellence through programs that stimulate artistic innovation, increase dynamic interaction among makers, and build awareness of dance in Chicago.

CDF actively invites and celebrates artists working in all forms of dance and aspires to build diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels of activity. It supports artistically and culturally diverse makers who push artistic boundaries in a wide array of dance forms, including Bharatanatyam, Butoh, Chicago footwork, dance on film, Hip Hop, burlesque, West African, Afro-contemporary, tap, Krump, Jingle Dress, Acrodance, Salsa, and other Latin social dances. CDF programs are city-wide and do not target particular demographic groups, but it has successfully encouraged more diverse participation in its programs through partnerships and programming in underserved areas. For many dancemakers working independently, CDF is their only institutional connection. It fills the gap in support for these talented artists with programs that create opportunities and professional connections not otherwise available to many dancemakers from Chicago's diverse communities.

DIRECT CASH SUPPORT TO ARTISTS

2003 - 2021





	Lab Artists Program	Greenhouse Program	Digital Dance Grants	Production Residencies
 Numbers of Years Offered	16	3	1	2
 Grant Size to Artists	\$15-20K	\$5K	\$10K	\$6K
 Total Number of Grantees	72	13	10	7
 Total Amount Granted	\$1.1m	\$65K	\$100K	\$42K

Photo: Silvita Diaz Brown, 2021 Digital Dance Grantee, in "Visita a Nuestros Muertos"



CDF Program Support and Impact for Artists

According to one observer, "Either CDF is particularly adept at knowing which choreographers are poised on the cusp of breakthrough, or the [funding] itself provides the fuel ... to jet toward thrilling creations."

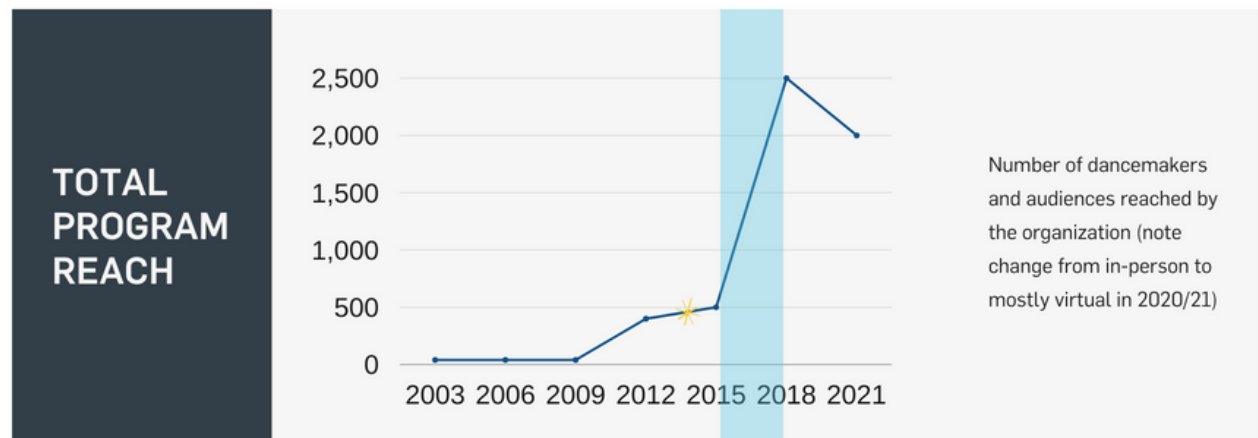
- **Lab Artists Program:** This program supports six choreographers in a year-long period of research, artistic process, and experimentation with \$20,000 grants (increased by \$5,000 in 2020), mentorship, and creation of new networks of support. Close to 90% of Lab Artists are still living and working in Chicago, demonstrating the value of the program in retaining talent for the city.
- **Presenting Opportunities:** CDF is playing an increasing role in raising the visibility of Chicago dancemakers with presenters and cultivating opportunities for Chicago dancemakers to present their work on the national/international stage. Its Elevate Chicago Dance festivals, for example, have raised the visibility of Chicago dance and cultivated opportunities for Chicago dancemakers by showcasing their work for audiences and presenters from across the globe.
- **Innovating in Response to the Pandemic:** CDF created the Digital Dance Grant Program and awarded \$10,000 grants to 10 Chicago dancemakers for their development of new dance works that use digital, online, mobile, and/or virtual technologies. In addition, CDF launched a new Production Residency program, which has created new possibilities for dancemakers to present their work virtually and new ways to work in theatrical venues when doors are closed. CDF is partnering with Chicago venues to provide dancemakers with access to theater space and personnel, who offer creative ideas and problem solving as dancemakers experiment and integrate technical elements (light, sound, projections, film, and video) to fully realize their work. Works developed through these residencies have been livestreamed by venues, such as the Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, attracting the attention of audiences and critics.



SHOWCASES AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

2003 - 2021

	Elevate Chicago Dance	Anniversary Events	Natural Encounters and Digital Dance	Workshops and Summits
# of Paid Artists Participating	450	110	25	100
Years	2017, 2018	2013, 2018	2019, 2021	2003-2021
Total Attendance	3600	2750	700	3000
Partner Organizations	NEFA's National Dance Project, DCASE, Rebuild, Chicago Park District	Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, City of Chicago, DCASE	The Nature Conservancy, Chicago Park District, Audubon Great Lakes	American Dance Abroad, High Concept Labs, Self Help Credit Union, and more



Blue highlight indicates the Regional Dance Development Initiative (RDDI) Chicago 2015-2017.

★ indicates 501(c)3 incorporation.



Getting Involved

CDF has been called “the most powerful force for the creation of groundbreaking dance in the city” (Newcity Stage 2019).

The Revv Campaign will provide CDF with the strength and sustainability it needs to continue this important work.

With your help, we can achieve our vision of being

- Chicago's foremost funder for dancemakers, offering substantial dollars to stimulate research and development by artists that represent Chicago's diverse citizenry and inspiring others to invest in dance;
- known as the heart of experimentation and creation of new work in every form of dance in Chicago, providing timely support to dancemakers at pivotal moments in their artistic lives and careers
- a leader in creating partnerships with aligned community, cultural, and professional entities, who collectively cultivate an appetite for dance in the city and a curiosity about new work and new dance forms;
- an advocate whose work results in Chicago dance and dancemakers being known and respected locally, nationally, and internationally;
- a gateway to a network of accessible spaces throughout Chicago neighborhoods that are gathering places where any form dance may be created, practiced, taught, shared, and performed;
- a strong and flexible organization with strategic approaches, robust financial resources, responsive and visionary leadership, and a resilient infrastructure that anchors and advances vital work.

The next chapter for Chicago Dancemakers Forum builds the essential capacity to support team leadership and artistic development for a vibrant and sustainable future for dance in Chicago. Our campaign embraces all forms of support, and directly strengthens dancemaking innovation with our vision to be Strong and Everywhere.

Given your connection and perspective on Chicago Dancemakers Forum and the Chicago community, your valued advice, feedback and insight regarding the Revv Campaign are welcome.

*Photo: Cast of "Natural Encounters 2019: CYCLE" directed by Erin Kilmurray at Big Marsh, photos by John Gutierrez
Artist Snapshots Photos: Jumaane Taylor by Kristie Kahns | Joanna Furnans by Christine Wallers | Nejla Yatkin by Enki Andrews |
Mandala Arts by William Frederking | Others: Courtesy of the Artists*



Artists 2003-2022

2022 LAB ARTISTS

Star Dixon
 Diamond Hardiman
 Fabulous Freddie Prodigy
 Kia S. Smith
 Marcela E Torres
 Kinnari Vora

2021 DIGITAL DANCE GRANTS

Antibody Corporation
 B'Rael Ali Thunder
 Ashwaty Chennat
 Silvita Diaz Brown
 Annie Franklin
 Yoshinojo Fujima aka Rika Lin
 Alyssa Gregory
 Maria Luisa
 Zachary Nicol
 ReinventAbility

2021 PRODUCTION RESIDENCIES

BraveSoul Movement
 Ivelisse Diaz
 La Vuelta Ensemble
 Rigo Saura
 Yoshinojo Fujima aka Rika Lin

2020 LAB ARTISTS

Bril Barrett
 Irene Hsiao
 Erin Kilmurray
 Christopher Knowlton
 Sterling "Steelo" Lofton, Jr.
 Christopher "Mad Dog" Thomas

2019 LAB ARTISTS

Anjal Chande
 Jane Jerardi
 Mitsu Salmon
 Vershawn Sanders-Ward
 Darling Shear
 Nejla Yatkin

2018 LAB ARTISTS

Jenn Freeman aka Po'Chop
 Joanna Furnans
 Ayesha Jaco
 Nico Rubio
 Rob Welcher
 Anna Martine Whitehead

2017 LAB ARTISTS

Victoria Bradford Styrbicki
 Brittany Harlin
 Daniel "Bravemonk" Haywood
 Joshua L. Ishmon
 Yoshinojo Fujima aka Rika Lin
 Jumaane Taylor

2016 LAB ARTISTS

Pranita Jain
 Carole McCurdy
 Onye Ozuzu
 Catherine Sullivan

2015 LAB ARTISTS

Barak adé Soleil
 Jamal "Litebulb" Oliver
 Benjamin Wardell
 Sara Zalek

2014 LAB ARTISTS

J'Sun Howard
 Ginger Krebs
 Adam Rose
 Ahmad Simmons

2012 LAB ARTISTS

Victor Alexander
 Paige Cunningham Caldarella
 Kristina Isabelle
 Mark Jefferey

2010 LAB ARTISTS

Rachel Bunting
 Rachel Damon
 Meida Teresa McNeal
 Erica Mott

2009 LAB ARTISTS

Julia Antonick
 Lin Hixson
 Kevin Iega Jeff
 Atalee Judy

2008 LAB ARTISTS

Jan Bartoszek
 Peter Carpenter
 Jonathan Meyer
 Nadia Oussenko

2007 LAB ARTISTS

Matthew Hollis
 Ayako Kato
 Nicole Legette
 Julia Mayer

2006 LAB ARTISTS

Darrell Jones
 Michelle Kranicke
 Margaret Morris
 Molly Shanahan

2005 LAB ARTISTS

Asimina Chremos
 Margi Cole
 Carrie Hanson
 Julia Rhoads

2004 LAB ARTISTS

Lane Alexander
 Shirley Mordine
 Hema Rajagopalan
 Eduardo Vilaro

2003 LAB ARTISTS

Ginger Farley
 Jimmy Payne, Jr.
 Sheldon Smith
 Erica Wilson-Perkins

*Photo: Christopher Knowlton, 2020 Lab Artist,
 in 'Kjell Theory' by ATOM-r (Mark Jeffery,
 2012 Lab Artist), by Grace Duval*

Artist Snapshots



JUMAANE TAYLOR

LAB ARTISTS PROGRAM MENTOR 2019

MCA CDF SHAREOUT! 2018

CHICAGO DANCEMAKER-IN-RESIDENCE AT REBUILD 2017

ELEVATE CHICAGO DANCE 2017

LAB ARTIST 2017

Jumaane Taylor, a Chicago native, has been tap dancing since the age of 7 and made his professional debut in 2001 with the tap company M.A.D.D. Rhythms. Taylor has performed with Chicago Human Rhythm Project; with Rasta Thomas's Tap Stars in Germany (2011); with Tap in2 Peace by Sarah Savelli and Ayodele Casel (2009); with Imagine Tap! by Derick Grant (2006), and at the Jazz Institute of Chicago. In 2014, he created Supreme Love—an evening length tap performance honoring John Coltrane's A Love Supreme which was presented at jazz music and dance festivals including Jacob's Pillow in 2017. Taylor is acutely interested in the musicality of tap and its intertwined history with jazz. Taylor was named Artistic Director of the Rhythm World festival in 2021.

During his Lab Artist year in 2017-18, Taylor went “back to school” working in the studio on improvisational ideas for new dance scores with masters in tap Savion Glover and Sarah Petronio and musicians Marlene Rosenberg (bass), Justin Dillard (piano), and Makaya McCraven (drums). Jumaane developed and presented The Jazz Hoofing Quartet, an ensemble performance using improvisation as an expressive exploration of tap and live jazz music. It was presented by the Museum of Contemporary Art as part of Chicago Dancemakers Forum SHareOUT! in 2018.

JOANNA FURNANS

LAB ARTISTS PROGRAM MENTOR 2020

LAB ARTIST 2018

ELEVATE CHICAGO DANCE 2018

ELEVATE CHICAGO DANCE 2017

Joanna Furnans is an independent dance artist. Her work has been supported by a Schonberg Fellowship at the Yard, a MANCC Forward Dialogs Residency, an Incubator Sponsorship at High Concept Labs, a Chicago Dancemaker's Forum Lab Artist award, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Links Hall, the Chicago Moving Company, and the Walker Art Center's Choreographer's Evening. Furnans is the co-founder and managing editor of the Performance Response Journal.

During her Lab Artist year in 2018-19, Furnans created an evening-length solo in collaboration with seven artists: Lu Yim (Portland, OR), Deborah Goffe (Northampton, MA), Morgan Thorson (Minneapolis, MN), Molly Shanahan (Chicago/ Philadelphia), Erica Ricketts (NY, NY), Barrie Jean Borich (Chicago, IL), and Christine Wallers (Chicago, IL).

Artist Snapshots



PRANITA NAYAR

ELEVATE CHICAGO DANCE 2018

LAB ARTIST 2016

Pranita Nayar is an Indian classical dancer, choreographer, company director, curator and producer. Nayar has received many accolades in the United States and India. Skilled in the story telling component of Bharata Natyam—where the dancer uses hand gestures and facial expressions to describe the symbolism and mythology of Hindu myths—she has been increasingly drawn to and motivated by the art and symbolisms of other faiths and cultures



During her Lab Artist year in 2016-17, Nayar applied contemporary techniques to Bharata Natyam movement and created "Unwinding" which "truly illuminated the complexity of the form / keeping a thread of timelessness or formal beauty or heritage, while stretching into fresh modes of expression, breathing new life into old forms and keeping them relevant.." (Sharon Hoyer - Newcity)



NEJLA YATKIN

PRODUCTION RESIDENCY 2020

LAB ARTIST 2019

NATURAL ENCOUNTERS 2019

ELEVATE CHICAGO DANCE 2018

ELEVATE CHICAGO DANCE 2017

Nejla Yatkin creates award winning and critically acclaimed dance works inspired by issues of feminism, identity, memory and history. She brings an incandescent trans-cultural perspective to her creations. Her recent dances have been traveling around the world, empowering and inspiring local communities to re-imagine themselves in public spaces anew, by incorporating an interactive participatory dance practice. She is a past 3Arts Awardee and a Princess Grace Choreography Fellow. During her 2020 Production Residency at The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, Yatkin created "The Other Witch," a multi-media and multi-lingual dance performance / film inspired by and references Mary Wigman's 1914 dance piece Hexentanz. Yatkin's new work began to tour in 2021.



REINVENTABILITY

2021 DIGITAL DANCE GRANT

Ginger Lane, Ladonna Freidheim (ReinventAbility), and Jon Satrom (studiothread) explored the intersections of inclusive dance, disability culture, and digital art."The team examined the false promises of digital art and bringing imperfection and distortion forward as they explored the change of stage. They have created a virtual performance piece and a digital dance creation tool that finds its home as a software and is open to the community for participation.



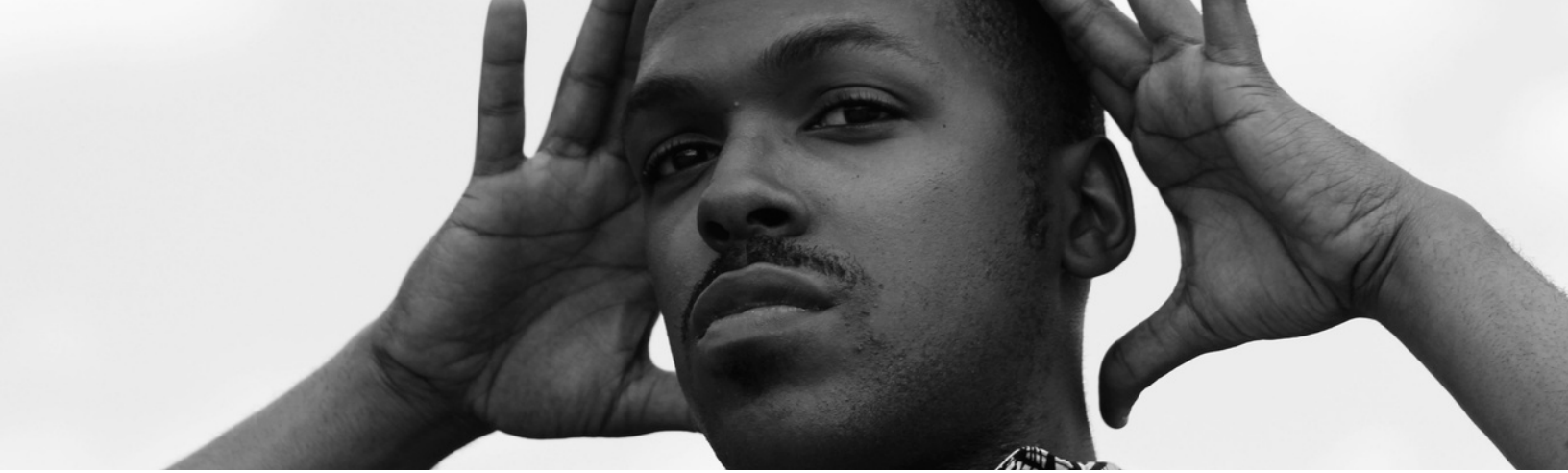


Testimonials

Following BRAVEMONK's Soul Power Cypher, the artists reflected, "We heard great feedback from the folks who attended. Most had never been to the [Stony Island] Arts Bank and many live just a couple blocks away. It was awesome to have dancers from the open-styles, breaking and footwork communities all in one space. The cross-fertilization was palpable. Lastly, most battles of this type happen on the North side. It was significant, important and beautiful to do this in a South Side community, and in a Black space."

Roya Amirsoleymani, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA): "I hope to make it to Chicago again soon. You are all doing such great work out there. By the way, we presented NIC Kay at TBA [Time-Based Arts Festival] last year, and I first saw their performance as part of Elevate Chicago Dance in 2017. They've gone on to present at several of PICA's peer organizations as well. Such a great connection!"

Molly Shanahan: "This [Lab Artist] award prompted a profound shift in my work that kept giving back for 12 years. I applied twice before being selected as a Lab Artist...and I was soooo sad about those rejections. But/and I can tell you that a) the third go-round was the right time, and b) I would've done the project even if I didn't get the grant, so I used the application process for me, first. The grant was meaningful, and more so the connection with artists and consortium members...but above all I got clear about my deepest dance desires and even clearer that external validation was only a small part of the equation. I know this sounds idealistic because financial support is real. But it's all true. I encourage dancemakers to apply. And make it for you."



CDF Leadership

THE REVV CAMPAIGN: ACCELERATE CHICAGO DANCE

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Kim D. Ricardo, Co-Chair

La Mar Brown

Pam Crutchfield

Kipa Davis

Patti Eylar

Ginger Farley

Gail Kalver

Maggie Kast

Shawn Lent

Lizzie Leopold

Christopher Barrett Politan

Baronica Roberson

Mario Treto, Jr.

Angel Ysaguirre

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Shawn Lent, Programs and Communications Director

Resources:

<https://www.newcitystage.com/2021/02/16/a-new-movement-despite-diminishing-funding-that-threatens-its-future-dance-in-chicago-soars-and-now-is-the-time-for-equity-to-take-wing/>

<https://www.newcitystage.com/2019/01/02/players-2019/5/>