



SPECIAL AWARDS IN THE ARTS - GUIDELINES

2021 CHOREOGRAPHY AWARDS

With generous support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Special Awards in the Arts Program Overview

The Gerbode Foundation is pleased to announce a \$300,000 fund for the creation and development of new dance and movement-based projects by California choreographers. The new works will be commissioned and produced by Bay Area nonprofit arts presenting organizations that can apply for grants of \$50,000 each.

Program Goals

1. Highlight the creative excellence of innovative choreographers, dance-artists, folk and traditional arts practitioners, and movement-based performers.
2. To recognize and support Bay Area nonprofit arts presenting organizations in their commitment to commission, develop, and produce new works by California choreographers.
3. To encourage and deepen the engagement between the choreographer(s) and the producing organization.
4. To support projects that represent the Bay Area's diverse communities and neighborhoods.
5. To support organizations that are deeply rooted in culturally-specific communities and have a positive impact within these communities.

Application Deadline

Emailed application materials must be received by the Gerbode Foundation by **4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 20, 2021**. Late or incomplete submissions will not be eligible. Hardcopy applications will not be accepted.

Applications must be emailed to: special.awards@gerbode.org

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION AND CHOREOGRAPHER ELIGIBILITY

Individual artists may not apply directly but must be commissioned by an eligible applicant organization.

Eligible applicant organizations:

- Dance presenters
- Dance ensembles and dance companies
- Interdisciplinary arts presenters
- Community-based arts organizations
- Organizations with a history of working with choreographers and dance-artists

Please note: Fiscal sponsors are eligible to apply for a commission on behalf of a presenting organization on a case-by-case basis. Please contact staff at the Gerbode Foundation at 510-915-8048 or special.awards@gerbode.org to ensure eligibility.

The applicant organization must:

1. Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been in operation for at least 2 years.
2. Be located in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, or Sonoma County.
3. Have a strong proven track record of producing and/or presenting dance or movement-based work.
4. Demonstrate a history of working with dance-artists and choreographers.
5. Pay a minimum fee of \$12,500 to the commissioned choreographer(s).
6. Have a demonstrated commitment to supporting and/or paying its artists.
7. Not be a current recipient of a Hewlett 50 Commissions or a Creative Work Fund award for the same project or lead artist.
8. Submit only one application.

The proposed choreographer(s) must:

1. Meet one of the following criteria: (1) be a current California resident **or** (2) be a California resident during the last 24 months. (If a composer has had significant California-based artist residencies for the development of their work in the last 3 years, and they live out of State, they may be eligible. Please discuss with Gerbode staff.)
2. Have a recent history of producing or creating their work in California before the time of the application.
3. Have a demonstrated artistic track record and their creative voice is rooted in dance or movement.
4. Have creative leadership or be a key co-creator of the proposed work.
5. Consider a project that will have significant impact on the organization if they are a managing or artistic director of the applicant organization or ensemble.
6. Have experience commensurate with the design and goals of the proposed work.
7. Have had at least **two** new dance works produced and given public performances, including online experiences.
8. Not have received a choreography or dance commissioning grant from the Gerbode Foundation. (Unfortunately, past individual artist recipients of Special Awards in the Arts commissioning grants are not eligible.)
9. Be nominated for one commission by only one organization.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Proposed projects must meet the following criteria:

1. Commissioned works must be original, new dance works commissioned and produced by the presenting organization.
 - Co-produced works are eligible on a case-by-case basis. Please discuss with Gerbode staff.
2. Commissioned works will result in public performances, virtual presentations, or film releases.
3. The presentation or premiere must take place **between July 2022 and December 2024**.
4. Project budgets must include a minimum choreographer commission fee of \$12,500.
 - For collaborative processes or projects that include two or more choreographers, please discuss minimum fee with Gerbode staff.

The following projects and final presentations are eligible (this list is suggestive but not exhaustive):

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| • Indoor or outdoor performances | • Dance theater |
| • Live performance at a dance festival | • Musicals with a dance component |
| • Dance films | • Music videos |

ALL dance genres and movement-based forms are eligible.

The following projects are ineligible:

- Revisions of previously released work, unless substantially revised.
- Works-in-progress currently in rehearsal.
- Commissions solely for students and student ensembles.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Deadline: Application materials must be received by **Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 4pm (PST)**. Application materials must be emailed to special.awards@gerbode.org. Late or incomplete submissions will not be eligible. Hardcopy applications will not be accepted.

Required: All applicants must speak to Olivia Malabuyo Tablante, Special Awards in the Arts Program Director at the Gerbode Foundation, before submitting an application. Olivia can also answer any questions about the program. She can be reached at 510-915-8048 or special.awards@gerbode.org. You can schedule a phone call [here](#). Please make sure to read through the Program Guidelines and FAQs prior to contacting the Foundation.

What to submit as separate attachments in a single email (labeled numerically as listed):

1. Application pages 1–7 **and**, if applicable, a detailed project budget.
2. IRS determination letter establishing the applicant organization's nonprofit 501c3 status.
 - *If a fiscal sponsor is the applicant, in addition to its IRS letter, please include a short description of the partnership with the fiscal sponsor as it relates to the commissioned work.*
3. Staff list and/or brief bios of the key artistic and administrative team involved in the proposed project.
4. Balance sheet and profit & loss statement for the 2020 fiscal year.
5. Current fiscal year budget.

Work samples to submit in separate emails to special.awards@gerbode.org:

For the proposed choreographer(s):

1. (Required) Work samples. In the body of the email, send links for up to three samples that best represent the choreographer's past work and vision for the proposed new work. All video streaming sites are accepted. Video files or other media may be attached to the email.
 - Please note the following for each:
 - Name of production, year of production, brief summary of the work, and mention any key collaborators
 - Cue notes, if applicable
2. (Optional) Links to website, blogs, online reviews, YouTube channels, or other online media that panelists may include in their review.

For the presenting organization:

2. (Optional) Video samples that are **significant** to the proposed commission may be considered. Please discuss proposed video samples or questions regarding organization video samples with Gerbode staff. If you choose to submit video samples for the organization, provide a link to the video sample in the body of the email.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A national advisory panel of dance practitioners and dance presenters will review the applications and work samples in June 2021. The Gerbode Foundation will conduct the final review of applications and make the final selection of grantees. Recipients of the 2021 Choreography Awards will be announced in August 2021.

Considering the program goals listed on page 1 of the application, the advisory panel will be asked to consider the following criteria in their evaluation:

1. Choreographer's Artistic Achievements & Creative Process
The choreographer's approach, style, and creative process is articulated clearly. The themes presented are original and relevant. The work samples are a key component for this scoring criteria.
2. Partnership
There is an evident partnership between the producing organization and the choreographer(s). The partnership may be a new, first time collaboration or a project involving a founding artistic director of a dance ensemble. The choreographer has creative leadership in the project and their vision and process will be supported by the presenting organization.
3. Cultural Perspective and Impact on Community
The choreographer and/or organization is deeply rooted in a culturally specific community. The project represents a folk or traditional expression. The choreographer demonstrates intimate knowledge of the dance form.
4. Impact on the Choreographer and Organization
The proposed work has the potential to have a positive impact on the choreographer(s) and presenting organization, including the immediate and long-term artistic and organizational goals.
5. Project Feasibility
This criterion includes the applicant organization's ability to finance, rehearse, produce, and present or record the commissioned piece, and the composer's ability to complete the commission within the stated timeframe.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Recipients of the 2021 Choreography Awards must produce and premiere the commissioned piece in one of the eleven San Francisco Bay Area counties for public performances, virtual presentations or film releases.

An interim report specifying production plans must be received by the Gerbode Foundation before all funds will disbursed. If the production plan or schedule changes from what is proposed at the time of application, the Gerbode Foundation must be notified, and the changes must be approved in writing.

Recipients must also submit final narrative and financial reports and acknowledge this grant in printed materials and other forms of recognition with the following language:

[Project] was made possible by the Gerbode Foundation's Special Awards in the Arts program.

GERBODE FOUNDATION CONTACT

This program is administered by the Gerbode Foundation. All applicants are required to contact Olivia Tablante before submitting an application. Olivia will also be available to answer questions regarding the application:

Olivia Malabuyo Tablante
Special Awards in the Arts Program Director
The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation
1791 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94704

Phone: 510-915-8048

Email: olivia@gerbode.org

Schedule phone call: <https://Gerbode2021ChoreographyAwards.as.me/>