

Dance in the Districts

A pilot program to support Los Angeles dance artists and amplify Council Districts



Our organization is invested in providing relief to the dance community in every Council District in the City. Each district will help support dancers with \$2,000 awards.

In return, each recipient will be commissioned to create an online dance performance to assist in and promote the revitalization of your district. **Dance in the Districts** in about civic pride, resurgence, resilience and a leap in the right direction.

Photo courtesy of Heidi Duckler Dance. Photographer Anastasia Velloescu

Let's see what we can do together ->

Why Dance?



Courtesy of homeLA. Photographer Andrew Mandinach

When we take a deep look into the sector, we see that the events of the past year along with the precarity of dancer employment opportunities could be devastating to dance in Los Angeles.

With dance as one of the last industries to reopen, dancers are continuing to suffer financially, especially when we consider the lasting effects of other Pandemic-related losses:

Funding: Current relief and recovery funding trends have money pouring into organizations. The LA dance ecosystem is largely made up of independent artists, which means most of this organizational relief will not make its way to individual dancers. Until November 2021, there had only been one minimal dance-specific funding opportunity for dancers since the pandemic while being one of the top cities where dancers live and work.

Organizations, not artists, are the recipients of ongoing NEA grants, and, thus the American Rescue Plan Act.

Loss of work and income: For many, a career in dance was already unsustainable before the pandemic, and AB5 only compounded this.

According to the NEA, dancers and choreographers are the lowest paid artists in the US and now work is returning with smaller casts and shorter performances- equating to less opportunities and less income for dancers. (Center for NonProfit Management Report 2020)

Dance studio and community space closures: We've experienced a huge loss of Community Spaces due to COVID-related closures. With the loss of dance spaces and studios, professionals lose places to work, educate, train, and make work.

Dancers leaving the city: Dancers are leaving the field in droves, forced out due to structural inequity and lack of resources. One studio in Culver City, had a roster of about 50 teachers, and half have returned to their hometowns. That's just one studio in a city with over 350 dance companies. (LA Times)

Considering these current conditions for dancers in LA, we stand to lose an entire generation of dance artists, especially those from marginalized backgrounds who lack generational wealth and privilege.



We are a grassroots volunteer-based group of art leaders, from across dance and art disciplines, who came together at the beginning of 2021 to advocate for relief and recovery for the dance sector. We are looking at the city and county to see where we can make a difference.

Our core purpose is to support dance in LA by reaching the most vulnerable people in this field:

the dancer.

Impact in Los Angeles

According to independent research we estimate that there are 400+ dance companies and organizations impacting the economic, social, and cultural fabric of our city.

We want to co-explore solutions with your district and understand how these programs can align with your office's plans for recovery, and how they can be steps in the right direction for revitalization and sustainability for our city and creative sector.