

Luna Dance Institute to Receive \$20,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Berkeley, CA—National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Chairman Jane Chu announced more than \$80 million in grants awarded as part of the NEA's second major funding for 2018. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$20,000 to support Luna Dance Institute's (LDI) Dance Teaching and Learning Studies Professional Development. The Art Works category is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

Luna Dance Institute's Professional Learning has a proven 17-year track record of increasing capacity for dance as core curricula, improving instruction, and supporting teaching artists to stay in and further the field of dance education. Through dance teaching and learning studies, LDI brings teaching artists, specialists, dancers, classroom teachers and other practitioners from around the nation to improve their knowledge, skills, and understanding of how to engage students, preK-12, in standards-based dance learning. The NEA Art Works grant will support Luna's 7-day Summer Institute held July 2018 in Oakland, CA with follow-up, and sustained coaching throughout the year. Summer Institute alumni receive advising from LDI faculty as they hone their skills as mentors and leaders, plus the opportunity to participate in advanced professional development keeping them engaged as life-long learners and significant contributors to the field.

"The variety and quality of these projects speaks to the wealth of creativity and diversity in our country," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Through the work of organizations such as Luna Dance Institute in Berkeley, CA, NEA funding invests in local communities, helping people celebrate the arts wherever they are."

LDI's professional learning manager Jochelle Pereña states, "After witnessing the final presentations of our 2017-18 Summer Institute cohort, which addressed dance in early childhood, culturally relevant dance, advocacy, and bringing dance into the classroom, I am reminded of the importance of this work in supporting dance educators, and pushing them to the next level of their practice. They return to their schools, studios, and organizations recharged and inspired, and with the confidence to continue advocating for our field as leaders."

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

About Luna Dance Institute

Luna Dance Institute, a 501(c) (3), was founded in 1992 and brings dance and creativity to children, adults, and families throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, and United States. Dance educators around the nation look to Luna's programs, workshops, and resources as a model for the possibilities and potential of dance education. lunadanceinstitute.org    