

## **Luna Dance Institute Awarded California Arts Council "Local Impact", "Artists in Schools", and "Arts Integration" Grants**

*State funds support dance education programs in local underserved populations*

Berkeley, CA – The California Arts Council (CAC) announced a total of \$44,000 in grant awards to Luna Dance Institute for the 20-21 school year. CAC grants support the School Community & Alliances (SCA), Moving Parents & Children Together (MPACT), and Professional Learning Programs.

California Arts Council's Arts Education - Artists in Schools Grant supports LDI's SCA program, which builds partnerships of artists, teachers, and public schools to implement comprehensive PK-5 standards-based dance education programs. The Local Impact grant provides project and partnership support for the MPACT program, which offers relationship-based dance for residential and community centers that serve families in the process of reunification.

CAC's Arts Integration grant will help provide arts integration training via LDI's SCA program in the Oakland Unified School district at four school sites. Teaching artists will partner with classroom teachers in a side-by-side professional development (PD) model that includes weekly model dance classes, on-site in-services, and off-site PD workshops, and coaching.

The California Arts Council is prioritizing flexibility to address grantees' needs due to current state and local public health guidelines. Despite Shelter-in-Place orders, LDI faculty continues to be creative in their response to provide dance education to their students and clients, including posting resources for teachers on the online support for dance educators [COVID-19 page](#), creating and sharing dance storytime and self-care movement videos with school and MPACT partners, and leading dance zoom classes for Oakland students and moms and children living at the Lifelong Medical/East Bay Community Recovery Project Pride Center.

"Creativity sits at the very heart of our identity as Californians and as a people. In this unprecedented moment, the need to understand, endure, and transcend our lived experiences through arts and culture is all the more relevant for each of us," said Nashormeh Lindo, Chair of the California Arts Council. "The California Arts Council is proud to be able to offer more support through our grant programs than ever before, at a time when our communities' need is perhaps greater than ever before. These grants will support immediate and lasting community impact by investing in arts businesses and cultural workers across the state."

Luna Dance Executive Directors share, "The CAC's flexibility at this time respects artists' ability to respond to community needs as they arise. Since COVID-19 Shelter in Place, Luna artists have been able to pivot. They are listening to our community and addressing needs as they arise. This 2020-21 funding allows us to continue doing so."

A larger announcement from the California Arts Council of more than 1,500 grants awarded to nonprofit organizations and units of government throughout the state features Luna Dance Institute. [Click here to read more.](#)

## **About Luna Dance Institute**

Luna Dance Institute (LDI) is the most comprehensive dance education organization on the west coast. We serve children, families, dance artists, educators, schools, and organizations through a variety of programs aimed at increasing access to dance for all. LDI's programs include Professional Learning, providing education and support to all who teach dance; Studio Laboratory, the Bay Area's only choreography-based program for children and teens; School and Community Alliances (SCA), supporting schools in our community to build standards-based dance programs; Moving Parents and Children Together (MPACT), providing parent-child dance classes to families in the child welfare system. As an established institution with a national reputation for expertise and training in dance education, Luna's Building Cultures of Dance initiative offers program planning, implementation, consultation, and evaluation to schools, districts, and arts organizations throughout the country. For more information visit: [lunadanceinstitute.org](http://lunadanceinstitute.org)