

NPN

2018-2019

Annual Report



Photo Right (opposite page): Latin Standards Marga Gomez Credit: Faban Echevarria

Photo Front Cover: In a Rhythm Bebe Miller Company Credit: Julietta Cervantes

National Performance Network 2018-2019 Annual Report

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Design & Production: Big Tada Inc. Editors: Amanda Bankston & Kathie deNobriga

For additional copies of this publication, please contact:
National Performance Network
PO Box 56698
New Orleans, LA 70156
504.595.8008 // telephone
504.595.8006 // fax
info@npnweb.org

This publication is available online at: www.npnweb.org



Dear NPN Friends

Over the past two years, NPN has undertaken a holistic process of transformation, believing that courageous programming, solid operations and financial resiliency go hand in hand. We designed an iterative, ongoing process — not only for strategic planning but also as organizational practice, to commit to active learning and adaptation.

In the face of significant, long-standing financial challenges, we have taken on the work of restructuring with openness and humility, examining NPN's internal practices, our outward-facing programs and the systems in which we are rooted.

At the center of this work is a renewed commitment to build a more just and equitable arts field. Decades of data and stories, interpreted through honest analysis, have guided us as we acknowledge myths and examine our shortcomings. We resisted the impatience for early answers and dug deeply into questions with critical implications for both our structures and our vision.

As we move forward with a reimagined NPN, we will align all our programs, practices, and policies to ensure that our work builds and shifts power for artists, advances racial and cultural equity, builds relationships and reciprocity, and works toward systems change.



Caitlin Strokosch President & CEO

We believe systemic disruption calls on us to engage in inclusive, spirited movement-building that recognizes there is no one-size-fits-all approach and challenges each of us to find our role in building a more just and equitable field.

We enter this work with both love and fury, honoring the extraordinary legacy NPN has built and knowing how much more we have to do together. As we traveled this journey of reflection and transformation over the past year, we are humbled by the generous wisdom of those who have long-championed liberation in our field and who challenge us to respond with urgency.

Onward!

Caitlin Strokosch President & CEO

NPN

Board of Directors



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Photo Above: 2018 Spring Board Meeting in New Orleans Credit: Amanda Bankston

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The Theater Offensive
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Artistic Director // CARPA San Diego (San Diego, CA)

NPN

Staff

OPERATIONS / ADMINISTRATIVE

Caitlin Strokosch

President & CEO Contact for cultural policy issues, NPN's vision and strategic direction caitlin@npnweb.org 504-595-8008

Steve Bailey

Chief Operating Officer
Contact for operations or financial
issues
steve@npnweb.org
504-595-8008 ext 707

Amanda Bankston

Communications + Development
Manager
Contact with updates and
announcements or to make a
donation
amanda@npnweb.org
504-595-8008 ext 712

Addam Garrett

Operations Manager Contact for operations and general information addam@npnweb.org 504-595-8008 ext 701

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

Stanlyn Brevé

Director of National Programs

Contact for contracts, agreements, and program detail
stanlyn@npnweb.org
504-595-8008 ext 704

Alec De León

Program Specialist – Visual Artists Network & National Programs Contact for program and general information about NPN programs and national Partners alec@npnweb.org 504-595-8008 ext 709

Orchid Robinson

Convenings Program Manager Contact for information on convenings orchid@npnweb.org 504-595-8008 ext 714

Sage Crump

Program Manager – LANE

Contact for information on LANE –

Leveraging a Network for Equity

sage@npnweb.org

504-595-8008 ext 706

Monica Tyran

Program Assistant – LANE
Contact for information on LANE
Partner relations
monica@npnweb.org
504-595-8008 ext 710

LOCAL PROGRAM

Stephanie Atkins

Director of Local Programs

Contact for information about the
Local Program, including fiscal
sponsorship
stephanie@npnweb.org
504-595-8008 ext 702



Photo Above: NPN staff welcomes attendees to the 2018 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA



National Programs

In 2018, NPN re-committed itself to a more equitable vision for the future, using our values to guide financial decision-making. We carefully looked at who benefits from our funding structures and then intentionally reframed and streamlined programs. NPN is moving away from former program 'silos' — Local / National / International, and Visual / Performing — in favor of a more global, cross-discipline approach, focusing on activity that allows us to best achieve our evolving vision.

The Creation & Development Fund (CDF) and Artist Engagement Fund (AEF) have been adapted to incorporate more flexibility. Both Funds are now open to all disciplines, as long as the project results in a live, experiential exchange between artists and community (public presentations, performances, gallery exhibitions or community activities).

Turn the page for more information on CDF and AEF, including program guidelines and a full listing of projects supported over the past year.

PROJECTS

DIRECT SUBSIDIES

\$2,770,000 N MATCHES





2017 Annual Conference // San Francisco

NPN co-hosted its Annual Conference with Youth Speaks, La Peña Cultural Center, MACLA and Yerba Buena Center, with the support of dozens of Bay Area community members on December 14-17, 2017.

The San Francisco Conference deepened connections with the local community by featuring local artists and companies in "Live & On Stage" performances, making visits to various Bay Area art spaces and exploring the area's vibrancy, challenges and resilience through the lens of art and activism. Over 350 participants shared work and strategies, exchanged ideas and inspiration and further developed relationships.

Photo Above: 2017 Annual Conference in San Francisco

Photo Left (opposite page):
Bellowing Sun
Mind Over Mirrors
Credit: Nathan Keay

Cultural Policy

What is Cultural Policy at NPN?

NPN defines "cultural policy" as a system of arrangements (policies, practices, trends, etc.), both public and private, that govern and influence the arts and cultural sector. Our intention is to participate in, learn from and influence cultural policy toward a more just and equitable world by:

- building and shifting power for artists
- advancing racial and cultural equity
- fostering relationship-building and reciprocity between individuals, institutions, and communities
- working towards systems change in arts and philanthropy

Our work is driven by the needs of our direct constituents — our Partner organizations, artists and our local community in New Orleans — as well as opportunities to learn and/or influence throughout the arts sector, the arts philanthropy field and broader social justice movements.

How NPN's Cultural Policy Work is Enacted

NPN's cultural policy work is embedded within every department and across a range of platforms and approaches — public speaking, crafting of policy statements, participating in funding panels and boards, attending gatherings of field leaders, writing and publications, organizing convenings and more. It is the purview of all staff and Board members and we work to be more deeply informed and skilled to practice this work. We seek opportunities to lead change as well as learn from others who are better informed or experienced than we are, and to allow this understanding to embed itself into our programming and operations.



Cultural Policy Activities

December 2017 – November 2018

Convenings

Winter

- ENARTES (Encuentro de las Artes Escénicas de Mexico) arts encounter (Mexico City // Dec.)
- APAP conference (NYC // Jan.)
- APAP Emerging Leadership Institute (NYC // Jan.)
- Burning Man Project Board event (New Orleans // Jan.)
- American Academy in Berlin Artist talk with Raven Chacon (Berlin // Jan.)
- Tokyo Performing Arts Meeting (Yokohama, Japan // Feb.)
- Transcultural Exchange conference, with panel session "Reciprocity in International Exchange" (Quebec City // Feb.)

Spring

- Edge Funders Alliance Conference, with panel session "Racial Equity in Philanthropic Practice" (New Orleans // Apr.)
- Southern Prize Awards Ceremony, SouthArts (New Orleans // Apr.)
- ArtPlace America Conference (Louisville, KY // May)

Summer

- First People's Fund Native Artist Professional Development Training (Albuquerque // Jun.)
- City of Austin Cultural Trust Panel (Austin // Jun.)
- Association of Performing Arts Intermediaries (APASO)
 Conference (Austin // Jul.)
- Alternate ROOTS ROOTS Week 2018 (Arden, NC // Aug.)
- Facebook Community Boost Training (New Orleans // Aug.)

Fall

- Grantmakers in the Arts Conference, with panel sessions "Transformation in Action: Embodying Emergent Strategies" and "More than Access: What funders can do to make a big difference in disability arts" (Oakland // Oct.)
- Alliance of Artists Communities Conference (Philadelphia // Oct.)
- Creative Placemaking Knowledge Exchange NEA and Kresge Foundation (DC // Nov.)
- Facing Race Conference, with panel session "Battle for our Imaginations" (Detroit // Nov.)
- Thriving Cultures Convening, Surdna Foundation (NYC // Nov.)
- National Service Organizations Convening, Doris Duke Foundation (NYC // Nov.)

Photo Left (opposite page): NPN at the Ricca Ricca Festa in Naha, Okinawa

Ongoing Partnerships

We are proud to participate in partnerships and initiatives designed to advance our mission and enrich our network. Current collaborations include:

Art x Culture x Social Justice Network

This network brings together artists, activists, cultural bearers and philanthropists to advance social justice across identities, issues, sectors, geographies and power imbalances.

First People's Fund Performing Arts Fellowship Program

We have partnered with FPF to develop a performing arts mentorship program for emerging indigenous artists.

Grantmakers in the Arts | Racial Equity Committee

This committee guides GIA's ongoing work in racial equity, including internal organizational assessment, programmatic priorities, research, advocacy and policies and practices for arts funders.

Grantmakers in the Arts | Support for Individual Artists

A committee that has been working to promote and improve funding for individual artists for over 20 years.

Grantmakers United for Trans Communities

An initiative of Funders for LGBTQ Issues, aims to inspire a philanthropic culture that is inclusive and supportive of trans people through grantmaking and decision-making.

National Arts Action Summit

An annual gathering of arts advocates from around the country who receive training before engaging congressional leaders in conversations about policies impacting the cultural sector.

National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response (NCAPER)

A national partnership that regularly gathers data on recent natural disasters and disseminates resources and information to funders, artists and arts organizations.

National Network of Fiscal Sponsors

A support network that promotes the understanding and professional practice of fiscal sponsorship.

Nonprofit Finance Fund

An organization that helps nonprofits connect money to mission. Through NFF and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we're able to provide Partner organizations access to short-term, zero-interest bridge loans of up to \$150,000.

On the Move

A cultural mobility information network, including resources for cross-border cooperation and connection.

Performing Arts Readiness (PAR) Project Cohort

A national initiative of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to improve preparedness in the performing arts, led by Lyrasis Group.

Transcultural Exchange

An organization with the mission to foster a greater understanding of world cultures through high-quality art projects, cultural exchanges and educational programming.

Western Arts Alliance's Advancing Indigenous Performance Initiative

An informal partnership program pairing Launchpad Artists, NPN and opportunities to advance indigenous cultures through the performing arts.

Photo Right (opposite page): a duet on the side of the Westin Portland Harborview Hotel BANDALOOP Credit: Sarah Prak



LANE

NPN recognizes that there are significant racial and geographic barriers to the organizational health of many of our Partners. Leveraging a Network for Equity (LANE) addresses this inequity by amplifying the leadership of organizations of color and rural organizations through a four-year journey that builds their capacity to thrive.

The fourth year of LANE has seen a shift in the overall work of the NPN staff and Cohort members. Cohort members are working on their organizational infrastructure. They have developed scopes of work, received Change Capital, acquired monitoring tools and identified support through consultants and advisors. While we continue to make the road by walking it, at this stage, all Cohort members have identified goals and are moving toward them.

With individual organizational work on clear footing, we have turned our attention to building mechanisms to share what we have learned and strategizing on the collective impact we'd like to see LANE have on the Network and the field. As an initiative born out of the ramifications of White supremacy, racial inequities and systemic oppressions, we know healthy organizations cannot work inside an unhealthy arts ecosystem in a sustainable way. We must change the conditions under which we work to truly build equity in the field in ways that makes us all better.

LANE has been embraced and generously supported by:



Carpetbag Theatre (Knoxville, TN)
Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas (Seattle, WA)
Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana / MACLA (San Jose, CA)
Myrna Loy Center (Helena, MT)
Junebug Productions (New Orleans, LA)
Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center (Denver, CO)

ALPHA Cohort

Two major milestones marked the culmination of the second year of the Alpha Cohort. As of June 2018, Apha Cohort members have received over \$4 million in Change Capital through direct support from The Mellon Foundation. The organizations are in the midst of transformation, which includes finding and hiring new staff, building new infrastructural systems, engaging current staff in adaptation and deploying new economic models.

The Cohort gathered for their second mid-year meeting at MACLA in San Jose, California, April 10-12, 2018. The bulk of the gathering was focused on cohort members sharing their journeys and learnings with each other. Content included collective problem solving, a section on adaptive change and a session on technology led by Aryana Alexis Anderson, Senior Associate of Education, Media and Technology for Carnegie Hall.



Coleman Center for the Arts (York, AL)
Hayti Heritage Center (Durham, NC)
La Peña Cultural Center (Berkeley, CA)
Pangea World Theater (Minneapolis, MN)
Native American Community Development Institute / All My Relations Arts (Minneapolis, MN)
The Theater Offensive (Boston, MA).

BETA Cohort

The Beta Cohort met for their first mid-year meeting May 9-11, 2018 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. With the completion of site visits and receipt of \$665,000 in Recovery Capital amongst the organizations, the Beta Cohort is turning a collective eye towards change and the courage required for change. Informational sessions during the meeting included a panel with Twin City arts leaders on leveraging the local arts infrastructure and a video conference on the acquisition and activation of space. Both of these rich discussions spurred the imagination of what is possible during change moments

To embody LANE's tagline, "See Leaders Make Change," we have entered national and international conversations. LANE has participated in conference panels at the 2018 Edge Funders Alliance, Grantmakers in the Arts and Facing Race. There is a continued intention to include LANE in non-arts environments that center racial and social justice. The arts and culture sector is largely disconnected from institutional movementbuilding that addresses oppressions on a systemic level. By reinserting ourselves into these conversations, we right-size our role in changing the world and open new spaces of support for arts organizations. LANE will also be featured in a 2019 issue of Nonprofit Quarterly. Cohort members are at every opportunity to share their wisdom in their own voices. Many have also leveraged their involvement with LANE to generate local excitement and increase their presence in local media coverage.



New Orleans

Program

NPN's mission, values and visions are manifest in all its programs, including those carried out at home in New Orleans. In a place filled with both traditional and contemporary art practices, NPN's programming shows up as grassroots activities led by artists dedicated to the preservation of community. Our local engagement is carried out through a Local Network, fiscal sponsorship service and community placekeeping program.

The Local Network is a cohort of artists who participate in quarterly peer-to-peer exchanges, discussing their challenges around creative practices and sharing new strategies for success. Our fiscal sponsorship service provides a much-needed mechanism for the individual artist to access grants and accept private contributions. NPN's community placekeeping program offers professional development workshops and support for artists at all career stages looking to shape and strengthen their individual practices and careers.

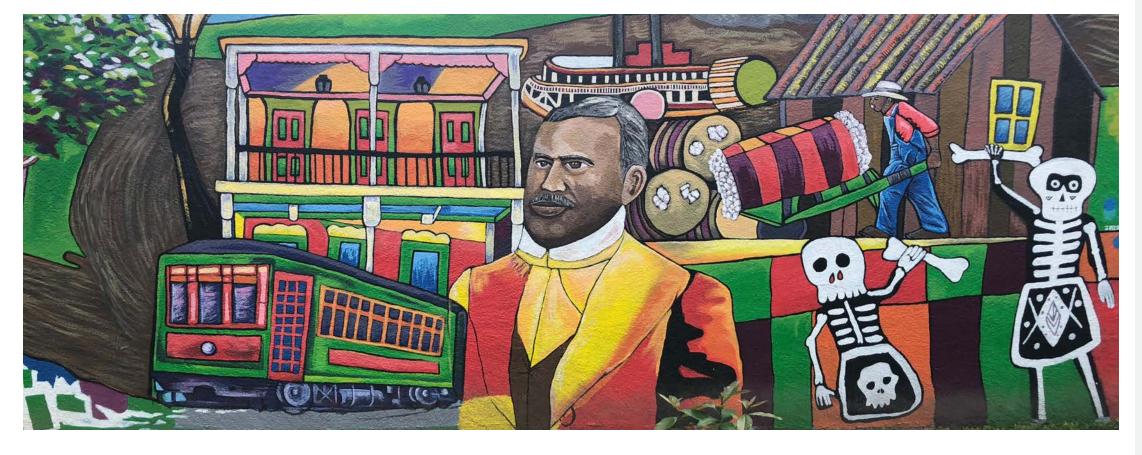
Last year NPN reached a milestone by assisting 32 fiscally sponsored, artistic projects – a goal set in the 2015 strategic plan. While a majority of these artists are New Orleans-based, NPN also assists our awarded Creation & Development Fund artists working in other states.

Collectively, our sponsored projects secured \$421,000 in funding, directly supported 270 artists and saw audiences grow to 30,000.

Photo Top/Right: Bywater Art Garden

Credit: Bart Everson

New Orleans International Muralists, LLC



NPN aims to nurture relationships between Louisiana and New Orleans-based artists and the National Partners, by providing access to our services and programs. Last year Creation & Development Funds were awarded to Rebecca Mwase's Vessels' (commissioner: Junebug Productions) and Last Call': Alleged Lesbian Activities (co-commissioners: The Theater Offensive, Mondo Bizzaro, and Clear Creek Festival). Five New Orleans-based artists were subsidized for conference registration and travel to the 2018 Annual Conference in Pittsburgh.

Funders







- * Last Call was recently announced as a 2018 NEFA recipient for New Works in Ensemble & Devised Theater.
- ** Rebecca Mwase's Vessels is a recipient of 2017 NEFA's National Theater Project Creation & Touring Grant

Local Network

A&A CoLab

Africa NOLA

Artist Corps New Orleans

Astralis Duo

Climbing PoeTree

The Cocoon: Youth Empowerment Program

Crescent City Creative Carnival

D. Lammie-Hanson Projects

Dawn DeDeaux's Projects

Deltaworkers

Faces of Culture

In Good Company

Jaime Fennelly's Mind Over Mirrors

L9 Center For the Arts

Last Call*

Life Celebration Project

Lisa Shattuck and Jeff Becker's Projects

Mardi Gras Indian Hall of Fame

Mel Chin's Fundred Dollar Bill Project

Mirror Images: Revolutionary Reflections

Music Inside Out with Gwen Thompkins

New Orleans Accordion Festival

New Orleans Community Printshop & Darkroom

New Orleans International Muralists

New Orleans Poetry Festival

nienteForte

No Dream Deferred NOLA

Postcards From Over the Edge

Rebecca Mwase's Vessels**

Ron Ragin's Cultural Projects

Sally Heller's Project Series

Schola Cantorum of New Orleans





National

Partners

NPN supports 74 Partners across 31 states and 48 communities, including representation across ethnic, cultural, geographic and economic communities.

Organizations are invited to join periodically after a rigorous application process. The number of Partners in the Network is intentionally limited in order to encourage participation, share resources equitably and create robust and sustainable relationships.



National Partners A–Z

516 ARTS (Albuquerque, NM)

651 ARTS (Brooklyn, NY)

7 Stages (Atlanta, GA)

Arab American National Museum (Dearborn, MI)

Art2Action, Inc. (New York, NY)

ArtPower At UC San Diego (La Jolla, CA)

Ashé Cultural Center/Efforts of Grace, Inc. (New Orleans, LA)

Asian Arts Initiative (Philadelphia, PA)

Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston, ME)

Bunnell Street Arts Center (Homer, AK)

Carpetbag Theatre, Inc. (Knoxville, TN)

Carver Community Cultural Center (San Antonio, TX)

Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas (Seattle, WA)

Coleman Center for the Arts (York, AL)

Contemporary Arts Center (New Orleans, LA)

Contemporary Arts Center Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH)

Contemporary Dance Theater, Inc. (Cincinnati, OH)

Dance Place (Washington, DC)

Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (Miami, FL)

DiverseWorks (Houston, TX)

Florida Dance Association (Tampa, Fl)

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT)

Fusebox (Austin, TX)

GALA Hispanic Theatre (Washington, DC)

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center (San Antonio, TX)

Hammonds House Museum (Atlanta, GA)

Hayti Heritage Center/St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc. (Durham, NC)

Highways Performance Space & Gallery (Santa Monica, CA)

Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art (Indianapolis, IN)

International Sonoran Desert Alliance (Ajo, AZ)

John Michael Kohler Arts Center (Sheboygan, WI)

Junebug Productions (New Orleans, LA)

Kelly Strayhorn Theater (Pittsburgh, PA)

King Arts Complex (Columbus, OH)

La Peña Cultural Center (Berkeley, CA)

LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions) (Los Angeles, CA)

Legion Arts (Cedar Rapids, IA)

Links Hall (Chicago, IL)

Living Arts of Tulsa (Tulsa, OK)

MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (San Jose, CA)

Maui Arts & Cultural Center (Kahului, HI)

McColl Center for Art + Innovation (Charlotte, NC)

MDC Live Arts - Miami Dade College (Miami, FL)

Meca { Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts} (Houston, TX)

Miami Light Project (Miami Shores, FL)

Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts (Brooklyn, NY)

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (Chicago, IL)

Myrna Loy Center/Helena Presents (Helena, MT)

NACDI and All My Relations Arts (Minneapolis, MN)

New York Live Arts (New York, NY)

On the Boards (Seattle, WA)

Outpost Productions, Inc. (Albuquerque, NM)

Painted Bride Art Center (Philadelphia, PA)

Pangea World Theater (Minneapolis, MN)

Performance Space New York (New York, NY)

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (Portland, OR)

Portland Ovations (Portland, ME)

Pregones Puerto Rican Traveling Theater (Bronx, NY)

Project Row Houses (Houston, TX)

Real Art Ways (Hartford, CT)

REDCAT, Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

(Los Angeles, CA)

RedLine (Denver, CO)

Sandglass Theater (Putney, VT)

Skirball Cultural Center (Los Angeles, CA)

South Dallas Cultural Center (Dallas, TX)

Space One Eleven (Birmingham, AL)

Straz Center for the Performing Arts (Tampa, FL)

Su Teatro (Denver, CO)

The Theater Offensive (Boston, MA)

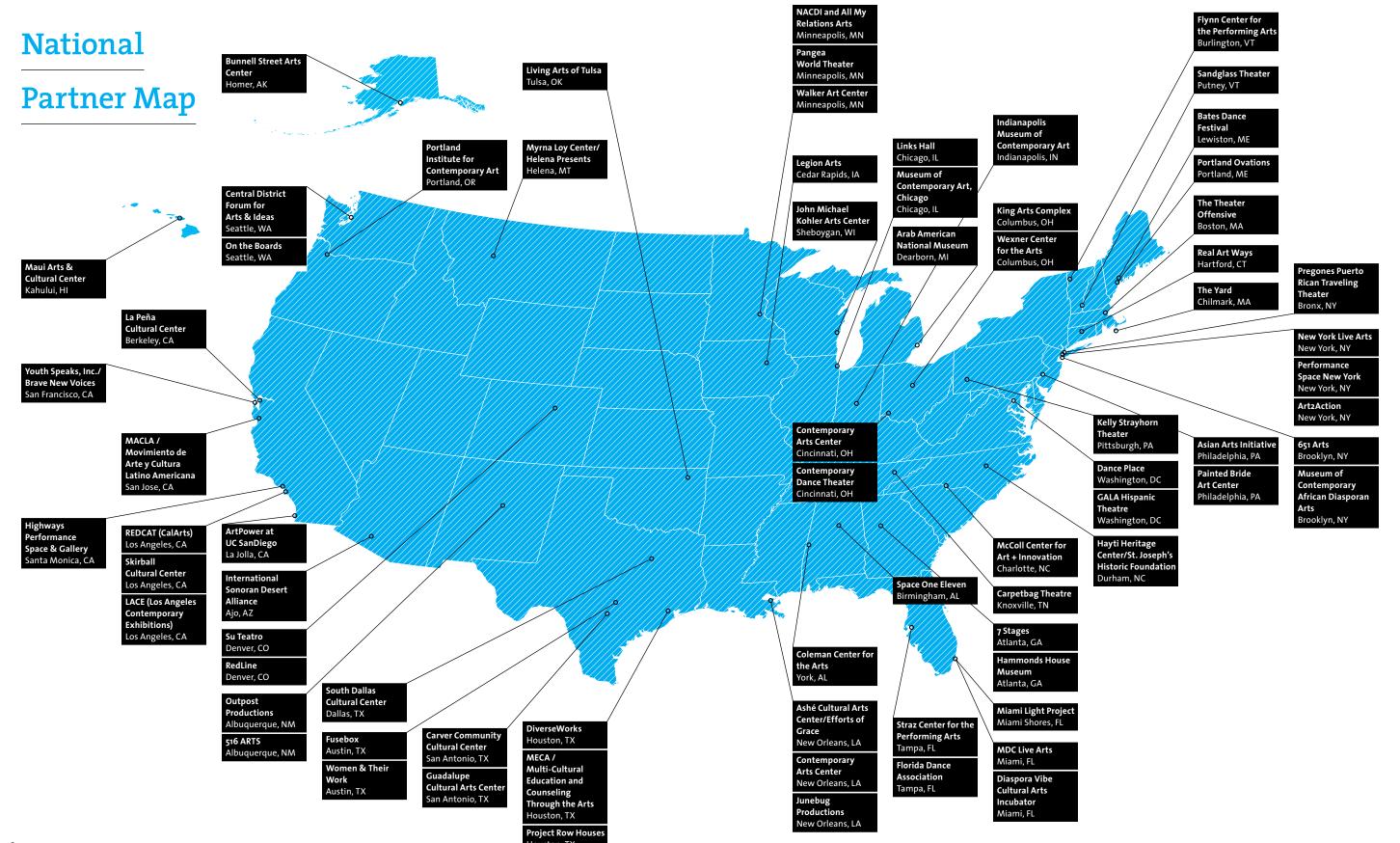
The Yard (Chilmark, MA)

Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN)

Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus, OH)

Women & Their Work (Austin, TX)

Youth Speaks, Inc./Brave New Voices (San Francisco, CA)



Houston, TX

Navigating Change

Our strategic plan was born in a time of disruption, not just at NPN, but all around us —

in our country, our communities and throughout our world. Over the last two years, this spirit has carried us through a holistic process of transforming the way we work. We're excited to share some of the major changes and lessons from our planning process as well as what to expect from NPN moving forward.

Transformation takes time, and we have allowed our values to bloom as we have disrupted our processes, resisting the tendency to rush to outcomes. Moving forward, we recognize being nimble and responsive to the evolving needs of our constituents requires an intentional and ongoing practice of critical reflection, imagination and growth.

In this spirit of iteration, there is no final document. We plan to continue this process and share along the journey where we commit to change, reassert our values or set new intentions. We invite you to be part of this dialogue! In addition to the reflections and changes offered below, we've included some next steps and ways our colleagues can be part of this work.



Laying

the

foundation

Our mission articulates the four pillars through which all of NPN's work — programs, practices and policies — will flow as we move forward:

- 1. building power for artists,
- 2. advancing racial and cultural equity,
- 3. fostering relationship-building and reciprocity, and
- 4. working toward systems change.

Mission: NPN contributes to a more just and equitable world by building and shifting power for artists; advancing racial and cultural equity; fostering relationship-building and reciprocity between individuals, institutions and communities; and working towards systems change in arts and philanthropy.**

Our **vision** reaffirms our long-standing focus on our core areas of impact — artists, our network of Partners, the communities with which our Partners engage and the broader cultural infrastructure (funders, colleagues, policy-makers, etc.) in which NPN is situated.

Vision: We envision a world in which artists have greater power and resources for meaningful, sustainable careers; strong networks maximize their collective wisdom, resources and leadership; cultural infrastructure reflects deeper partnerships and more equitable practices; and communities have greater capacity for civic engagement, representation and joy.**

**While these statements are not yet fully word-smithed, the concepts and values they embody have been enthusiastically adopted by NPN staff and Board of Directors.



Summary of changes & impact on the Network

Justice: NPN is committing to justice, as both an outcome and a practice. Advancing equity moves beyond diversity and inclusion, and prioritizes work of, by and for people of color, immigrants and Native and Indigenous peoples; people with disabilities; trans and LGTBQ people; people in rural communities and others who are systemically marginalized.

Belonging: We believe systemic disruption calls on us to engage in inclusive, spirited movement-building. We welcome everyone who is committed to the core principles in our mission to be part of our work, and we know our network composition will inevitably change as we put these values into practice. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to advancing equity in our field, and our intention is to foster a collaborative and reciprocal network where our entire learning community participates fully in this work in diverse and responsive ways.

On the move: In September 2018, NPN bid farewell to the Arts Estuary, which we operated as an office space for other arts nonprofits, a community gathering place and an event rental venue since 2014. Our new office allows us to streamline operations and opens up new partnerships for programs and gatherings in support of our New Orleans arts community.

International exchange: In this time of increased xenophobia, we assert our belief in global humanity. We have discontinued NPN's stand-alone Performing Americas Program and U.S.-Japan Connection in order to better respond to our Partners' international exchange activities, engagement with immigrant communities and support for artists working toward global justice. We invite Partners and other presenting organizations to participate in NPN's survey on international engagement so we can focus our resources and attention where they can have significant and timely impact.

Return to "NPN": In August, the Board of Directors adopted the return to National Performance Network ("NPN") as our organizational name. This reflects our recent decision to clarify our artistic focus on supporting live, experiential exchange between artists and communities and to integrate the Visual Artists Network into this framework. We recognize "performance" does not adequately describe the full scope of our work, and while our Board considered a full name change at this time we wish to challenge ourselves to reimagine our work while still honoring the legacy embedded within the name NPN.

THE PROCESS

NPN approached strategic planning with a holistic examination of our history, operations, programs, finances, context within our sector and alignment with other social justice movements. We set out to address two major areas in parallel: to deepen our work in building a more just and equitable field, and to address significant, long-standing financial challenges. We entered this work with openness and humility, examining NPN's internal practices, our outward-facing programs and the systems in which we are rooted.

External teams

Our planning engaged with the expertise of consultants Justin Laing and Ian David Moss (overall strategic planning), Nonprofit Finance Fund (financial assessment and capitalization planning), a collaboration with Creative Capital, MAP Fund and New England Foundation for the Arts (peer assessment), our Knowledge Building Initiative (KBI), led by Paul Bonin-Rodriguez and participation in Grantmakers the Arts' racial equity committee.

Internal teams

Committees of NPN staff, Board members, artists and Partners developed strategies, outcomes and guiding principles around major impact areas within NPN:

- Team Artists: advance equity through direct support to artists
- Team Organizations: advance equity through direct support to arts organizations
- Team Network: build a stronger network committed to systems rooted in justice
- Team Praxis: model and advocate for more equitable organizational practices
- Team Vernacular: embody our values in words

What's next?

Resource library: We are building an online library linking to readings, models for organizational practices, ways to evolve our language, and more. Do you have an article or model you believe is essential for advancing our work? Please share!

NPN's identity: In 2019, we plan to share a new website, logo and branding to embody NPN's values and offer a platform for more collaborative information-sharing. Stay tuned!

Network composition: Our Partners are exploring ways to foster greater collaboration and resource-sharing within the network. And throughout the year, our Partnership committee, Board and staff will be developing a new evaluation process for current and potential Partners. We expect to begin a new process in FY20.

Quarterly updates: We want to share more about upcoming opportunities, programming changes, highlights from our network and lessons learned in cultural policy and philanthropy. Look for in-depth quarterly updates, as well as more regular blog posts and social media stories.

Thank you to all who have walked this journey of reflection and transformation with us, including the NPN staff and Board of Directors, Strategic Planning Chair Shannon Daut and all who have shared feedback, advice and inspiration throughout this process. We are so grateful to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Lambent Foundation for their support of our strategic planning and for being such extraordinary thought partners to NPN.

We aim to be transparent and responsive to the needs of our constituents as we transform the way we work. We invite your feedback and questions at (504) 595-8008 or info@npnweb.org.



THE NEXT HORIZON

With a plan in place, NPN looks forward to the next year of continued transformation. To this end, our priorities are to:

- Support Partners to focus on network-building
- Engage in Network-wide dialogue around: "How might NPN build and shift power for artists?"
- Complete our theory of change
- A representative Design Team will help us develop guidelines for bringing equity to our communications, and we will build an infrastructure (website and systems) to support it
- Design new leadership development program for Partners

32 for Partners



Artist Engagement Fund

Over its three-decade history, NPN has crafted various programs to support the creation and appreciation of art in communities across the country. As our strategic planning process continues to unfold, NPN leaders reimagined its multiple offerings into one unified and flexible program: The Artist Engagement Fund (AEF).

The Artist Engagement Fund seeks to create deeper engagement between artists and communities served by National Partners. Flexibility is key: Funds may be used for planning, documentation or collaborations, and can support open rehearsals, master classes, workshops or other activities in an array of venues and environments. Partners determine for themselves how Artist Engagement projects will develop meaningful connections between communities, artists and presenters.

The new Artist Engagement Fund embodies three important elements which expand the impact of an artist's presence in a community:

Artist Mobility

NPN is committed to supporting artists in moving their work throughout the country, recognizing that sometimes this starts in their own hometowns. Partners now have the flexibility to work with local, regional, national or Mexico-based artists.

Equitable Distribution of Resources

A minimum fee structure ensures that all artists are paid fairly, but National Partners can now elect to pay artists more than the minimum, depending on their resources.

Community Engagement

While a minimum project length is at least four days, there is now no restriction on the maximum length of an Artist Engagement project.

ARTISTS

ARTISTS OF COLOR

FIRST TIME RECIPIENTS

Photo Right (opposite page): Touch Update Bill Shannon Credit: Mark Simpson



Artist Engagement Fund

Awards

National Partner	Artist	Title
651 ARTS (Brooklyn, NY)	Gesel Mason (Boulder, CO)	No Boundaries: Dancing the Visions of Contemporary Black Choreographers
7 Stages (Atlanta, GA)	Junebug Productions (New Orleans, LA)	GOMELA/to return: Movement of Our Mother Tongue
Arab American National Museum	Noor Theatre (New York, NY)	Dead Are My People
(Dearborn, MI) Art2Action (Tampa, FL)	National Arab Orchestra (Sterling Heights, MI)	The Films of Mohammed Bayoumi
	Andresia Moseley (Knoxville, TN)	AWP Week Poetry Events & Readings
ArtPower At UC San Diego (San Diego, CA)	Ranky Tanky (New York, NY)	Ranky Tanky
Ashé Cultural Center/Efforts of Grace (New Orleans, LA)	Oyu Oro (New York, NY)	Afro Cuba Experimental Dance Ensemble
Asian Arts Initiative (Philadelphia, PA)	Ananya Dance Theater (Minneapolis, MN)	Shyamali: Sprouting Seeds
Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston, MA)	Byron Au Yong (San Francisco, CA)	Activist Songbook
Bunnell Street Arts Center (Homer, AK)	Inspirit, a dance company (Middlebury, VT)	The Opulence of Integrity
Carver Community Cultural Center (San	zoe juniper (Seattle, WA)	Clear & Suite
Antonio, TX)	Ping Chong and Company (New York, NY)	Alaxsxa Alaska
Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas	Jaimie Warren (Brooklyn, NY)	Don't You Feel Better
(Seattle, WA)	TU Dance (St. Paul, MN)	TU Dance
	Junebug Productions (New Orleans, LA)	GOMELA/to return: Movement of Our Mother Tongue
	Taja Lindley (Brooklyn, NY)	The Bag Lady Manifesta
Contemporary Arts Center (New Orleans,	Mondo Bizaro (New Orleans, LA)	The Way at Midnight
LA)	Sidra Bell Dance New York (White Plains, NY)	Monster Outside
Contemporary Arts Center (Cincinnati, OH)	Shasta Geaux Pop (New York, NY)	Shasta Geaux Pop
Contemporary Dance Theater (Cincinnati, OH)	Takahiro Yamamoto (Portland, OR)	Direct Path To Detour
o.,,	Kaneza Schaal (Brooklyn, NY)	JACK &
	Dance Place (Washington, DC)	What's Going On: Life, Love and Social Justice
Dance Place (Washington, DC)	BodyCartography Project (Minneapolis, MN)	Closer
DiverseWorks (Houston, TX)	Cynthia Oliver Co. Dance Theatre (Urbana, IL)	Virago-Man Dem
	Takahiro Yamamoto (Portland, OR)	Direct Path to Detour
Florida Dance Association (Tampa, FL)	Black Label Movement (Minneapolis, MN)	Fall Young Dancers Workshop
Flynn Center for the Performing Arts	Sandglass Theater (Putney, VT)	Babylon
(Burlington, VT)	Lida Winfield (Shelburne, VT)	IMAGINARY
Fusebox (Austin TX)	Dance Theatre X (Austin, TX)	(Re)Current Unrest
GALA Hispanic Theatre (Washington, DC)	Erin Markey (Brooklyn, NY)	Boner Killer
	Angel Vazquez (Cidra, PR)	Macho Menos
John Michael Kohler Arts Center (Sheboygan, WI)	Martha McDonald (Philadelphia, PA)	Out, Out Phosphene Candle



Photo Right (opposite page): What's Going On Vincent Thomas Credit: Jonathan Hsu

Kelly Strayhorn Theater (Pittsburg, PA) King Arts Complex (Columbus, OH) Thaddeus Phillips (Philadelphia, PA) Bill Shannon (Pittsburgh, PA) Trenell Stafford Quintet (Hamilton, NJ) LACE (Los Angeles, CA) La Peña Cultural Center (Berkeley, CA) El Teatro Campesino (San Juan Bautista, CA) Alex (So Years Later La Peña Cultural Center (Berkeley, CA) El Teatro Campesino (San Juan Bautista, CA) Alex (So Years Later La Peña Cultural Center (Berkeley, CA) El Teatro Campesino (San Juan Bautista, CA) Alex (San Jose, CA) Alex (San Jose, CA) Alex (San Jose, CA) Mary Tanky (Brooklyn, NY) Landfall Festival of World Music Jimens Sarson (Los Angeles, CA) Ananya Dance Theatre (Minneapolis, MN) MACLA (San Jose, CA) Mary Arts & Cultural Center (Kahului, HI) MACLA (San Jose, CA) Mary Dance Theatre (Minneapolis, MN) Mary Dance Marks (Gronx, NY) Elio Villafranca (Bronx, NY) Elio Villafranca Latin Jazz Quartet The Bearded Ladies Cabaret Company (Philadelphia, PA) Dan Froot (Los Angeles, CA) Pangl Jaime Fennelly (Chicago, IL) Pangl Bellowing Sun Marine Fennelly (Chicago, IL) Dance Place (Washington, DC) What's Coing On Dance Place (Washington, DC) What's Coing On Danka Brathwaite (San Francisco, CA) Spiritrials Outpost Productions (Albuquerque, NM) Per Jount Pale (San Francisco, CA) Pangl Bellowing Sun A Love Supreme (New York, NY) Los Pleneros de la 21 (New York, NY) PiCA (Portland, OR) Portland Ovations (Portland, ME) Sandglass Theater (Putney, VT) Faye Driscoll (Brooklyn, NY) Thoak You For Caming-Play Tina Satter (Brooklyn, NY) Thoak You For Caming-Play Tina Satter (Brooklyn, NY) Thoak You For Caming-Play Tina's Sackett (Chi	National Partner	Artist	Title
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Sandglass Theater (Putney, VA) Babylon		Tina Satter (Brooklyn, NY)	Ghost Rings
		Project Bandaloop (Oakland, CA)	Bandaloop
Amirah Sackett (Chicago, IL) We're Muslim Don't Panic		Sandglass Theater (Putney, VA)	Babylon
		Amirah Sackett (Chicago, IL)	We're Muslim Don't Panic



National Partner Artist		Title			
Skirball Cultural Center (Los Angeles, CA)	Ananya Dance Theatre (Minneapolis, MN)	Shyamali: Sprouting Words			
South Dallas Cultural Center (Dallas, TX)	Rennie Harris Pure Movement (New York, NY)	Lifted			
Su Teatro (Denver, CO)	Carpetbag Theatre (Knoxville, TN)	Speed Killed My Cousin			
The Theater Offensive (Boston, MA)	Samuel Valdez (San Diego, CA)	And He Became Man			
	Creative Action Crew (Boston, MA)	The Heart of the Matter			
	Elizabeth James (Roxbury, MA)	OUT'Hood FEST - Liz James			
	Edsuvani Maisonet (Jamaica Plain, MA)	OUT'Hood FEST - Eddie Maisonet			
	Olivia McClendon (Boston, MA)	OUT'Hood FEST - Billy Dean Thomas			
	Ashlie Pruitt (Dorchester, MA)	OUT'Hood FEST - Black Venus			
The Yard (Chilmark, MA)	Ragamala Dance (Minneapolis, MN)	Ragamala			
	Beth Gill (Ridgewood, NY)	Beth Gill			
Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN)	600 Highwaymen (New York, NY)	The Fever			
Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus, OH) Women & Their Work (Austin, TX)	Kimberly Bartosik/Joanna Kotze (Brooklyn, NY)	Etroits sont les Vaisseaux / IT HAPPENED IT HAD HAPPENED IT IS HAPPENING IT WILL HAPPEN			
Women & Hieli Work (Austin, 17)	Bebe Miller Company (New York, NY)	In a Rhythm			
	Abby Z and the New Utility (New York, NY)	abandoned playground			

Creation & Development Fund

The Creation & Development Fund supports new artistic work as part of NPN's mission. Building relationships between an artist/company and at least two commissioners (one of which is a National Partner), the Fund allows an artistic vision and deep community connections to emerge over a three-year period. Each project is eligible for support in three phases:

1. Creation

A minimum of \$12,000 in unrestricted funds allows artists to experiment and take risks while creating work, and can be used for research and development, materials, artist compensation, technical support, travel, etc.

2. Development

Projects may apply for up to an additional \$10,000 to enhance the development of the work, build community engagement, or prepare the work for travel, touring or presentation.

3. Mobility

Co-commissioners host the new work, focusing on a live exchange between artists and communities. This exchange can take a variety of forms: public presentation or performance, gallery exhibition, or community residency. Artist Engagement Funds may also be used to support this phase.

A Program Evolves

Following rigorous reflection as part of the Strategic Planning process, NPN has committed to prioritizing historically underserved artists and co-commissioners in 2018. These include communities of color, Native American, indigenous, disability, trans and rural communities.

Increased flexibility is a hallmark of the re-envisioned Creation & Development Fund:

Artists in Mexico are now eligible to apply.

The focus is no longer exclusively on evening-length, tour-ready productions, but can include place-based, community-driven, and process-centered work.

Commissioners' matching funds are tiered according organizational budget size.

PROJECTS

COMMISSIONING ORGANIZATIONS

ARTISTS OF COLOR

FIRST TIME RECIPIENTS

PAID ARTIST ENGAGEMENTS AROUND THE GLOB

Funders

DORIS DUKE





+ Commissioners



Creation & Development Fund

Awards

Artist //	National Partner //	
Title	Co-Commissioners	Description
Dahlak Brathwaite and Roberta Uno (San Francisco, CA)	Youth Speaks (San Francisco, CA) // Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (Chicago, IL) // Miami Light Project (Miami, FL) // Center for New Performance, CALARTS (Valencia, CA) // Intersection for the Arts (San Francisco, CA)	Try/Step/Trip: A profound journey through the criminal justice system that chronicles the playwright's own criminalization through spoken word, live music, and dance
The Combat Hippies- (Davie, FL)	MDC Live Arts (Miami, FL) // Su Teatro (Denver, CO) // MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (San Jose, CA)	<i>AMAL</i> : A brave new Spoken Word work that explores the effects of war on both veterans and civilians who have been in wartorn countries.
Paul S. Flores (San Francisco, CA)	Pregones Theater (Bronx, NY) // Miami Light Project (Miami, FL) // GALA Hispanic Theatre (Washington, DC) // MECA (Houston, TX) // MACLA (San Jose, CA) // Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco, CA)	We Have Iré: A multidisciplinary look at the challenges of being an immigrant artist and the triumph of establishing one's voice in a new country
Virgina Grise (Bronx, NY)	MECA (Houston, TX) // Center for New Performance, CALART (Valencia, CA) // Duende CalArts (Valencia, CA) // Fulcrum Theater (New York, NY) // Performance in the Borderlands (Tempe, AZ)	Rasgos Asiaticos: A multimedia performance installation that tracing one woman's history back four generations as we are introduced to a cast of Mexican runaways, Chinese refugees, and fiercely independent women trying to let go of binding gender roles.
Miguel Gutierrez (Brooklyn, NY)	PICA (Portland, OR) // Kelly Strayhorn Theatre (Pittsburgh, PA) // The Chocolate Factory Theatre (Long Island City, NY) // Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus, OH) // Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston, ME) // Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN)	This Bridge Called My Ass: A new irreverent approach to questions about the tensions between identity politics, the avant garde and abstraction
Terrence M Johnson Dance Projects (Dallas, TX)	South Dallas Cultural Center (Dallas, TX) // Arna Bontemps African American Museum (Alexandria, LA)	Like a Tree: Examines the themes of urban/economic development and displacement within historic and contemporary African American communities, questioning facts and assumptions about land, home and cultural identity.
Andresia "Real" Moseley (Auburndale, FL)	Art2Action (Tampa, FL) // ASU Gammage (Tempe, AZ)	Five Black Women: A one-woman show unveiling the distinctively different lives of five Black women through poetry, song and DJ mixes
Jumatatu Poe (Philadelphia, PA)	Painted Bride Art Center (Philadelphia, PA) // Abron Arts Center (New York, NY) // Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (Bronx, NY) // Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston, ME) // Dance Place (Washington, DC) // Contemporary Arts Center (Cincinnati, OH) // PICA (Portland, OR) // Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (Chicago, IL)	Let 'im Move You: This is a Formation: A new dance work addressing choreographic, emotional and spiritual forms in Black queer dance vocabularies

Photo Right (opposite page): Activist Songbook Byron Au Yong Credit: Louis Kang



Artist //	National Partner //	
Title	Co-Commissioners	Description
RMwase Cultural Projects (New Orleans, LA)	Junebug Productions (New Orleans, LA) // Annenberg Center for the Arts (Philadelphia, PA)	VESSELS: A harmonic meditation and ritual performance for seven women about song as a survival tool during the Middle Passage.
Marike Splint (Los Angeles, CA)	Skirball Cultural Center (Los Angeles, CA) // Art and Design Research Incubator at Penn State (University Park, PA)	On The Other Side: A documentary performance challenging notions of borders and our growing tendency to draw territorial lines.
Myra Su and Tatsu Aoki (Chicago, IL)	Links Hall (Chicago, IL) // Asian Improv aRts (San Francisco, CA)	Fault Lines and Expanding Forms: Developed by emerging puppeteers of color working with master Jazz and shadow puppetry artists.
Morgan Thorson (Minneapolis, MN)	Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN) // Maui Arts & Cultural Center (Kahului, HI)	Public Love: A dance intervention redefining power through physical tenderness and the human need for touch, a choreography of affection as queer alternatives to control.
Rosy Simas (Minneapolis, MN)	Dance Place (Washington, DC) // Maui Arts & Cultural Center (Kahului, HI) // Alabama Dance Council (Birmingham, AL)	Weave: A Native choreographer's interwoven and interdependent stories, using dance, moving image and quadraphonic sound.
Timur and the Dime Museum (Los Angeles, CA)	Miami Light Project (Miami, CA) // Beth Morrison Project (Brooklyn, NY)	Nueva Cancion Project: Protest Songs of Latin America: A multimedia performance reimagining the revolutionary folk spirit of nueva canción, a Latin American style of folk music and a powerful movement for sociopolitical change.
Unit Souzou (Portland, OR)	The Myrna Loy (Helena, MT) // Caldera Arts (Sisters, OR) // Dance Place (Washington, DC) // Asian Arts Initiative (Philadelphia, PA)	A Constant State of Otherness: Exploring isolation and displacement through the collaborative art of Taiko drumming as artistic and social dialogue.
Edisa Weeks / DELIRIOUS Dances (Brooklyn, NY)	651 ARTS (Brooklyn, NY) // Mount Tremper Arts (Mount Tremper, NY) // Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation (Brooklyn, NY)	THREE RITES: Life, Liberty, Happiness: The integration of movement live music, text, video and art installation examining how rights have changed (or not) since the Declaration of Independence.
Netta Yerushalmy (New York, NY)	New York Live Arts (New York, NY) // Jacob's Pillow (Becket, MA) // Hope Mohr Dance - Bridge Project (San Francisco, CA)	Paramodernities: Explores foundational tenets of modern dance and discourse — sovereignty, race, feminism, and nihilism — and emphasizes public discussions alongside virtuosic performances by lauded dancers.
Abby Zbikowski/Abby Z and the New Utility (New York, NY)	New York Live Arts (New York, NY) // Dance Place (Washington, DC) // American Dance Festival (Durham, NC) // Wexner Center for the Performing Arts (Columbus, OH)	Radioactive Practice: Pushing a team of 10 dancers (from the United States, Taiwan, Senegal and Canada) past perceived physical limits and conventions of established dance forms.



NPN

Financial Information

In FY18, NPN funded 143 projects. Direct program support of \$2 million dollars leveraged an additional \$3.4 million in matching funds — a total of \$5.4 million for artists, arts organizations and communities.

Balance

Sheet		AUDITED FY 2018	AUDITED FY 2017
	Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,482,778	\$ 3,168,781
	Other Current Assets	\$ 280,139	\$ 2,238,962
	Fixed Assets	\$ 516,878	\$ 553,123
	Total Assets	\$ 3,279,795	\$ 5,960,866
	Current Liabilities	\$ 573,934	\$ 678,900
	Net Assets		
	UNRESTRICTED	\$ (1,035,039)	\$ (1,067,005)
	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	\$ 3,740,900	\$ 6,348,971
	Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 3,279,795	\$ 5,960,866

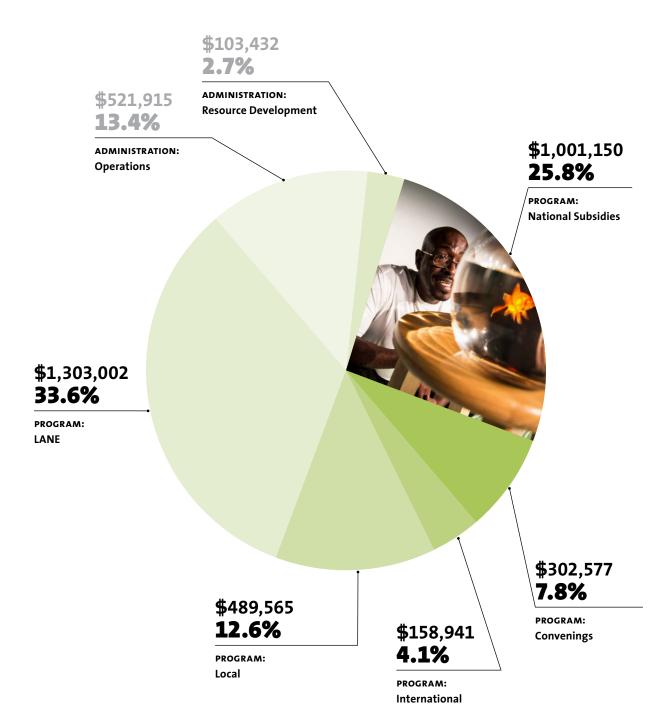
Previous Fiscal Year

Comparisons		AUDITED FY 2018	AUDITED FY 2017
	Foundations & Corporations	\$ 3,376,591	\$ 2,965,185
	Government Grants	\$ 103,500	\$ 120,957
	Other Contributed Income	\$ 132,919	\$ 189,971
	Earned Income	\$ 299,538	\$ 195,891
	Total Income	\$ 3,912,548	\$ 3,472,004
	Program Costs	\$ 3,407,441	\$ 3,732,712
	Management / General	\$ 369,709	\$ 430,915
	Fundraising	\$ 103,432	\$ 127,863
	Total Expenses	\$ 3,880,582	\$ 4,291,490
	Surplus / Deficit	\$ 31,966	\$ (819,486)

Expense

JACK &
Kaneza Schaal & Cornell Alston
Credit: Christopher Myers

51



Dustin Farnsworth Credit: Ben Premeaux

50

Foundation / Corporation





Photo Above: To Hip-Hop, With Love Wondertwins Credit: Heidi Wild

Photo Left: Speculum Black Venus Credit: Dom Wise

Photo Far Left: Hip Hoppa Locka (engagement) Amirah Sackett Credit: Luis Olazabal

Supporters & Donors

We're truly proud of the work we do as a Network. Together, we're fostering a more just and equitable arts presenting field and supporting artists and communities across the country. We know this is only possible with the generous support of people like you.

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...and the Partners, colleagues and friends who donated in 2018:

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