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**Now Accepting Applications for 2020 National Dance Presenters Forum at Jacob's Pillow**  
The Association of Performing Arts Professionals, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and Jacob's Pillow to Host Emerging Leaders in Presenting Dance

February 3, 2020—(Washington, DC) The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP), in partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts and Jacob's Pillow, invites dance presenters to apply for the [National Dance Presenters Forum \(NDPF\)](#), an immersive professional development experience at Jacob's Pillow from August 5-8, 2020. The third annual intensive, reinstated in 2018 in response to a field-wide interest, is designed to be a catalytic opportunity that addresses the unique needs of dance presenters of today and tomorrow.

“The NDPF professional development experience creates a supportive environment for performing arts professionals who are new to dance curation or are emerging dance programmers,” elaborates Krista Bradley, APAP Director of Programs and Resources. “APAP’s goal is to provide year-round opportunities that give those in the presenting, booking and touring industry the tools, resources, knowledge and skills they need to navigate change and do their best work.”

“It has been thrilling to see the cohorts from the past two years become a true network of dance programmers, sharing projects and practices,” says Jacob's Pillow Executive and Artistic Director Pamela Tatge. “Supporting early career dance presenters is key to guaranteeing that dance artists will have increased opportunities to present their work and engage communities across the country. We can't wait to identify the class of 2020!”

The Forum brings together a select cohort of emerging dance presenters from across the U.S. During the four-day intensive, the participants will discuss emergent issues in the field of dance, explore their curatorial role in the presenting ecosystem, share strategies for engaging communities, experience important choreographers and new work, and grow professional networks.

“Cohort learning is an important part of the APAP leadership development aesthetic,” says Bradley. Building relationships and cultivating collaborations is frequently cited as the single most important takeaway for NDPF participants. The Forum is intended to build a solid foundation among presenters who will shape what is seen in venues across the U.S. and open doors for dance artists to grow and



evolve in their spaces. “It’s about the opportunity to forge those relationships with a community of peers, drawing from them the support, information, inspiration and collaboration for future projects.”

APAP is committed to year-round, professional development in the changing ecology of the performing arts industry, providing avenues for members to expand and strengthen their leadership skills and offering tools, resources, knowledge and skills to navigate change and to do their best work. NDPF is a part of a growing list of cohort-based opportunities offered by APAP, including its Leadership Fellows Program, Emerging Leadership Institute, and Young Performers Career Advancement program.

“We’re excited that the relaunch of this important professional development program has been a success,” says Bradley, “and that we are partnering again with Jacob’s Pillow and NEFA.” The Forum ran from 1996 until 2006 when it was resurrected in 2018.

Immersed within the Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, NDPF participants will have access to all Festival programming, archives that chronicle over 88 years of dance history, and an international community of students, dancers, choreographers, scholars, arts professionals, and audience members. Home to America’s longest-running dance festival, Jacob’s Pillow has been a leader in presenting dance across genres for decades and is widely considered one of the most active sites for dance research, development, and performance in the United States.

Programming highlights include performances by New Zealand-based Black Grace, a critically acclaimed dance company that is known for masterfully blending contemporary and traditional Samoan dance genres; and the U.S. debut of LAVA Compañía de Danza, the resident dance company of Auditorio de Tenerife in the Canary Islands, Spain; among others.

The selection committee, comprised of representatives from Jacob’s Pillow, NEFA, APAP, Dance/USA, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, and Project Consultant Michelle Grove Herzog, strives to seek varied geographic representation and be inclusive of historically underrepresented and marginalized communities.

Last year, the 2019 Forum planning committee selected 15 emerging dance presenters with diverse backgrounds as curators, cultural organizers, and service providers to artists and audiences. In addition to participating staff from partner organizations, 2019 facilitators included Ali Rosa-Salas, Director of Programming at Abrons Arts Center in New York City; Sean Dorsey, San-Francisco based choreographer, dancer, and trans rights activist; Madison Cario, Executive Director of The Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) in Portland, OR; and Suzanne Callahan, founder of Callahan Consulting for the Arts, among others. Notably, Mary Anne Carter, Acting Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, joined the Forum for conversation around successes and challenges from participants about dance presenting in their communities.



## **PARTNERS & FUNDING SUPPORT**

Lead funding for this initiative comes from Association of Performing Arts Professionals and The New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) with support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional support is provided by Dance/USA and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with curriculum support provided by the Institute for Curatorial Practice in Performance at Wesleyan University.

## **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

This five-day leadership development conference for 15 presenters from across the U.S. will be held August 5-8, 2020. Individuals who have been presenting dance for fewer than five years or are based at an organization that has been presenting dance for fewer than five years are encouraged to apply. Room, board, and tickets to Festival performances for those invited to attend will be fully subsidized. Selected participants will be required to cover a participation cost of \$175 as well as their travel. Limited scholarships and travel subsidy are available.

**To apply: visit <https://jacobspillowdance.formstack.com/forms/ndpf2020>.**

**Deadline to apply is March 16, 2020.**

## **About the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP)**

The Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our more than 1,700 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference—the world's leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (Jan. 8-12, 2021)—APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting, booking and touring.

## **About APAP|NYC**

APAP|NYC is the world's premier gathering of more than 3,600 performing arts professionals in New York City. APAP|NYC features more than 1000 world-class artist showcases held around the city, an EXPO Hall boasting nearly 400 booths, dozens of professional development sessions, A-list keynote speakers, and pre-conference forums, many of which are free and open to the public and members. See more conference information at [apapnyc.org](http://apapnyc.org), and APAP membership information at [apap365.org](http://apap365.org).

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