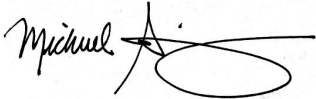


Memorandum



Date: July 19, 2023

To: All Members
Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director 

Subject: FY 2023-2024 Dance Miami Choreographers' Program Recommendations

As of this date, the FY 2023-2024 Dance Miami Choreographers Program allocation is being recommended to continue at the same funding level as in FY 2022-2023, allowing for eight choreographers to be awarded. Any specific funding recommendations being considered and reviewed at this time are subject to the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2023-2024 budget, which is contingent upon the County's Final Adopted Budget in September 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve \$80,000 in funding support for eight (8) awards to Miami-Dade choreographers from the FY 2023-2024 Dance Miami Choreographers' Program. Subject to the availability of additional funding, it is recommended that a ninth award of \$10,000 be awarded as indicated below.

BACKGROUND

Eight \$10,000 awards are being recommended for outstanding Miami-Dade choreographers selected by the program panel for the FY 2023-2024 Dance Miami Choreographers' Program. This program supports the artistic development of Miami-Dade County-based choreographers for the creation of new work in all dance forms, including contemporary, classical and traditional dance. A panel of national dance experts met on June 20, 2023 to review the submissions. The panel was comprised of: ShaLeigh Comerford, Founder and Artistic Director of ShaLeigh Dance Works (Raleigh, NC); Tamisha Guy, Faculty member of Barnard College Division of Dance (New York, NY); and Damani Pompey, Interdisciplinary Maker for Magnus Works (New York, NY). The selection of the recommended award recipients was based primarily on the quality of the choreographers' work as evidenced by the work samples submitted via digital media. Funding for the Dance Miami Choreographers' Program is derived from Departmental proprietary revenues.

The recommended choreographers are as follows:

Brigid Baker

1155 SW 6th Street, Miami, FL 33130

Brigid Baker, a native New Yorker, lives and works in Miami, Florida. Baker received a Bachelor's in Fine Arts degree in dance from SUNY Purchase College. She is a choreographer, educator, director of 6th Street Dance Studio and Brigid Baker Wholeproject, her contemporary dance company. Baker's work derives from her companion practice, Lightbody, and innovation in breath, undulations, sound, and tracings which reveals unconscious movement potentials through patterned neural tracings. Her work is formal and elastic and designed for non-traditional settings.

Carla Forte

44 NE 52nd Street, Miami, FL 33137

Carla Forte is a Venezuelan-born multidisciplinary artist based in Miami, Florida. Her work incorporates dance and film. She is one of the founders of the multidisciplinary art collective Bistoury Physical Theatre and Film. Her films have been screened at numerous film-festivals world wide, and she has been awarded numerous grants and artistic residencies from prestigious programs around the world.

Peter London

1470 NE 123rd Street, Suite 605, North Miami, FL 33161

Peter London choreographs and teaches Graham technique and Afro-Caribbean dance. A former principal dancer of the Martha Graham Dance Company, Ms. Graham created the role of "Shaman" in *Night Chant* for him and recreated other major ballets, of which he danced with Mikhail Baryshnikov and others. With the Graham Company, he toured internationally and has subsequently served as Associate Artistic Senior Consultant for the Company. He has been the recipient of numerous recognitions including the Legacy Magazine Award, the Southern Districts of the Links Award, ICABA Award, American Jewish Committee Honoree, International Voices of Hope Award, and the Martha Hill Prize for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership in Dance. He is a graduate of The Juilliard School where he was a William Randolph Scholar. He also holds a Bachelor of Fine Art degree from the New World School of the Arts.

Niurca Marquez

589 NW 98th Court, Miami, FL 33172

Niurca Márquez is a creator and performer in flamenco and other contemporary dance forms, such as Afro-Cuban and Contemporary Dance, collaborating with renowned choreographers including Susana Yamuchi (Brazil), among other notable choreographers. Her work has been commissioned by Espacio Vivo Endanza (Seville), Next at 19th (Miami), FUNDarte, Inc. (Miami), among others, and presented on various stages in Europe and the U.S. She conducts workshops internationally that integrate elements of tradition, awareness, improvisation and organic movement of the "bata de cola" (train dress) and other traditional elements of flamenco.

Yanis Eric Pikieris

14761 SW 84th Court Miami, FL 33158

Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Yanis Eric began his ballet training at the Miami Youth Ballet with his parents Marielena Mencia and Yanis Pikieris. He then trained for two years at Miami City Ballet School and at Charlotte Ballet Academy with Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux and Patricia McBride, where he was a company apprentice. In 2016, he was given the opportunity to join Jennifer Kronenberg and Carlos Guerra's Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami (DDTM) as a dancer for the company's inaugural performance, and has been dancing with and choreographing for the company ever since. As a dancer, his repertoire includes ballets by Dwight Rhoden, Alonzo King, Septime Webre, Vicente Nebrada, Gerald Arpino, Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux and George Balanchine.

Pikieris choreographed his first ballet, *Confluence*, in 2013 during his time at Miami City Ballet School, which was performed in the school's first-ever student composition performance. He later choreographed two short ballets during his time at Charlotte Ballet Academy for similar student choreographic performances. Since moving back to Miami, Pikieris has worked extensively with the students at Miami Youth Ballet, choreographing several short ballets for performances and competitions, as well as a one-act *Peter Pan*.

Smita Sen

7860 SW 95th Street, Miami, FL 33156

Smita Sen is an artist working with sculpture, dance-based performance, and advanced technology to research how the body internalizes its environment and significant life events. In her performance works,

Sen weaves together visceral movement with operatic vocalizations to understand how grief and trauma are stored in the body. With installations, Sen attempts to reimagine sites of care and creates environments for the body to enter states of meditative healing. Her most recent works examine the nature of community, grief, and palliative caregiving through the theory and praxis of narrative medicine.

Randolph Ward

925 Lenox Avenue, Apt. #1, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Randolph's love of dance and teaching began in Miami, Florida, where Randolph was born and raised. Attending the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, New World School of the Arts, Miami City Ballet School, and the San Francisco Ballet School laid the foundation for a 15-year dance career that has taken him across the United States, Europe and Asia.

Pioneer Winter

11325 NE 9th Ct Miami, FL 33161

Pioneer Winter is a Miami-native choreographer, dancer, filmmaker, and Founder/Artistic Director of Pioneer Winter Collective. He has created a significant body of boundary-pushing work, including *Gimp/Gait*. Winter also produces the annual Cine-danse festival and directs Project LEAP (Living Equality through Arts and Performance), a free dance and creative communication program for LGBTQ teens that focuses on teaching how to use the arts for activism and social change. As a young queer artist, he uses social and cultural narratives to anchor his work.

In the event additional funding becomes available or one of the above recommended choreographers is unable to accept their award, the panel would like to recommend funding the following choreographer:

Gabriela Pineiro

43 Madeira Avenue, Apt. 3, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Gabriela Pineiro is a Miami-Based Cuban-American hyper-hyphenated dancer and choreographer. Her practice unfolds at the intersection of dance, theatre, performance, and visual arts, working with memory exploration, the Caribbean, and rhythm as sources of her practice. Her work is characterized by a physicality resulting from the crossings of different dance forms. Gabriela's practice coexists in her training in Cuban Modern dance technique, ballet, Afro-Cuban dances, popular and contemporary forms. Gabriela credits her training as to what informs her understanding of movement, both in its cultural and physical implications.