


Memorandum



Date: July 17, 2019

To: All Members
Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director 

Subject: FY 2019-2020 Dance Miami Choreographers' Program Recommendations

As of this date, the FY 2019-2020 Dance Miami Choreographers Program allocation is being recommended to continue at the same funding level as in FY 2018-2019, allowing for five choreographers to be awarded. A sixth and seventh choreographer were recommended by the panel to receive an award in the event of additional funds becoming available. Any specific funding recommendations being considered and reviewed at this time are subject to the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2019-2020 budget, which is dependent upon the County's Final Adopted Budget in September 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve \$50,000 in funding support for five (5) awards to Miami-Dade choreographers from the FY 2019-2020 Dance Miami Choreographers' Program. A sixth and seventh award in the amount of \$10,000 have also been recommended in the event that additional funding becomes available so that the DMC program can fund a total of \$70,000 to support up to seven choreographers.

BACKGROUND

Five \$10,000 awards are being recommended for outstanding Miami-Dade choreographers selected by the program panel for the FY 2019-2020 Dance Miami Choreographers' Program with a sixth and seventh choreographer recommended for funding if possible. 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 24, 2019 to review the submissions. The panel was comprised of: Deneane Richburg, Artistic Director and Founder from Brownbody (Minneapolis, Minnesota); Susan Shields, Director of the Department of Dance at George Mason University (Alexandria, Virginia/Washington, D.C.); and Paul Vasterling, Artistic Director of Nashville Ballet (Nashville, Tennessee). 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:

\$10,000 **Karen Peterson**
11760 Southwest 72 Avenue, Miami, FL 33156

Karen Peterson is the founder and artistic director of Karen Peterson and Dancers, a physically integrated dance company based in Miami. Karen has created over 25 dance works in the KPD repertory; works performed at outdoor festivals, hospitals, universities, school auditoriums, as well as on main stages. She is considered globally a leader in the

field of integrated dance. She is committed to providing payment for her dancers and presenting dance in communities where dance performance is often not available.

\$10,000

Elise George a/k/a Ilisa Rosal

74 Northeast 150 Street, Miami, FL 33161

Ms. George (a/k/a Ilisa Rosal) is the artistic director of Ballet Flamenco la Rosa. She has created more than 100 pieces in pure flamenco style, as well as cross-cultural collaborations and full-length dramatic flamenco ballets. She has performed in Spain, France and throughout the United States.

\$10,000

Alexey Taran

44 Northeast 52 Street, Miami, FL 33137

Alexey Taran is the co-founder, choreographer and Artistic Director of Bistoury Physical Theatre and Film. His work involves respect and curiosity for the extraordinary creative movement of the Latin American megalopolis, both for its ambiguity as well as for the continent's ethnic-cultural diversity.

\$10,000

Randolph Ward

175 Northeast 131 Street, Miami, FL 33161

In his professional career, Randolph Ward has danced for BalletMet Columbus, North Carolina Dance Theatre, Dominic Walsh Dance Theatre, and for 6 years at the Saarländisches Staatstheater in Saarbrücken, Germany. He has performed works by notable choreographers in addition to performing his own work.

\$10,000

Pioneer Winter

14640 Northwest 17 Drive, Miami, FL 33167

Pioneer Winter is a Miami-native choreographer, dancer, and 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 that additional funding becomes available, the panel recommend funding the following choreographer(s):

\$10,000

Omayra Amaya

720 Collins Avenue, #604, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Omayra Amaya's legacy is one of a deep gypsy flamenco tradition. She is the daughter of flamenco dancers Olga and Curro Amaya and the grandniece of Carmen Amaya, considered to be one of the greatest flamenco dancers of all time. Omayra first appeared on stage with her parents' company. Her first choreographed role came at age 12, when she performed as her father's partner. She attended the Boston Conservatory, earning a BFA in Dance and

Choreography. She has accepted invitations to perform with Ana Sokolow, Ann Marie Forsyth and Jennifer Scanlon.

\$10,000

Marissa Alma Nick

801 92 Street, Surfside, FL 33154

Marissa Alma Nick's immersive performances exist on stage, in site-specific settings, screen dances, and conceptual installations. She is a 2018 recipient of Dance Miami Choreographers' Program Award and a 2017 recipient of the Knight Arts Challenge. Her work has been commissioned by Tigertail Productins, Miami Design District, Faena Theatre, Faena Forum, Art Basel Miami, FilmGate Interactive Vizcaya Museum, the Dance Now! Ensemble, New World School of the Arts, Nova Southeastern University, and Miami Dade College.