**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
October 21, 2026

National Endowment for the Arts Grants
Luna Dance and Creativity $31,000 for Professional Learning
And the 25th Summer Institute

Media contact: John-Mario Arcilla Sevilla
Director of Development & Operations
jmsevilla@lunadancecreativity.org (510) 883.1118, ext. 2
Website: https://lunadancecreativity.org/professional-learning/institutes/summer/

Berkeley CA - Luna Dance and Creativity has been approved for a $31,000 Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts to support our Dance Teaching & Learning Studies through Professional Learning. This project is among 1,127 projects across the country totaling more than $31.8 million that were selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2027 funding.

The grant supports activities that enable Americans throughout the nation to experience the arts, foster and celebrate the nation's artistic heritage and cultural legacy, and benefit from arts education at all stages of life. The NEA supports arts programs that advance the well-being of people and communities.

The NEA Art Works grant will support Luna's 25th **Summer Institute** as a hybrid yearlong experience that includes in-person workshops, online follow-up sessions, collegial support, and individualized coaching focused on the art of teaching dance. Participants investigate national dance content standards, the elements of dance, human development, learning theory, teaching strategies, arts integration curriculum development, and culturally responsive and inclusive teaching practices through a lens of critical reflection. Luna's Professional Learning offerings are informed by the inquiries of Summer Institute participants and alumni

and are designed to engage them in lifelong learning as significant leaders and contributors to the field.

Luna began our Summer Institute (SI) with the vision of bringing dance teaching artists and classroom teachers together to learn from each other, create community, develop the art of dance teaching, and activate and inspire individual and collective imaginations.

"Our 2026 cohort includes new and veteran dance teaching artists and classroom teachers," says Kimiko Guthrie, Luna's Professional Learning Manager. "They are passionate and reflective lifelong learners who are excited to expand as dance educators and to build a collegial community with one another that can support them as they bring their learning back to their own communities. Their commitment to nurturing creativity and agency in their students through the art of dance is inspiring for me to see."

**Luna proudly welcomes the following educators to our 25th Summer Institute:**

Katy Ailes, Creative Movement Teacher, Oakland, CA
Rika Aizawa, Dance Teaching Artist, Culver City, CA
Sarah Bauer, Early Childhood Teacher & Director, Berkeley, CA
Lisa Clifner, Middle School Teacher, San Diego, CA
Karla Flores, Dance Teaching Artist, Oakland, CA
Ashley Gale, Dance Teaching Artist, Oakland, CA
Tanqueray Harper, Dance Teaching Artist, Chattanooga, TN
Alexa Kershner, Dance Teaching Artist, Altadena, CA
Clarissa Ko, Dance Teaching Artist, Berkeley, CA
Terrence Paschal, Dance Teaching Artist, San Francisco, CA
Hafsa Shurbaji, Elementary School Teacher, Oakland, CA
Kristine Tarozzi, Dance Teaching Artist, Monterey, CA
Rachel Wellington, Dance Teaching Artist, San Jose, CA

**About Luna**

Founded in 1992, **Luna Dance & Creativity** is a nationally recognized Berkeley-based nonprofit dedicated to bringing creativity, equity, and community to every child through dance. Luna

partners with schools, families, and community organizations to expand access to arts education, especially for children least likely to receive it, including those in the dependency system, living in poverty, or with disabilities. Grounded in creativity-based pedagogy, Luna's programs nurture artistic expression, learning, and connection through movement.

Last year, 130 families, 1,894 teachers, artists, and caregivers, at least 28,975 students, 4,056 with disabilities and special needs, from eleven counties across the country (Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Shelby TN, Honolulu HI, and Kings NY), twelve public school districts (Berkeley, Fontana, Los Angeles, Miller Creek, Novato, NYC District #13 & #32, Oakland, Reed Union, Ross Valley, San Rafael, and Sausalito), six independent schools, and institutions of higher learning (Cal State East Bay, University of San Francisco and College of Marin) received Luna's programs and resources. Discover more at lunadancecreativity.org.