**Summer 2018 Fellowship (June-August)**

**Preserving Dance: A Community-based Approach to Archiving**

Dance/USA is delighted to announce its first **Fellowships in Dance Archiving and Preservation** for master's degree students in library and information sciences.

The goal of this program is to develop an engaged, passionate, and well-trained next generation of archivists in the dance field and to advance models for community-based archiving assistance to regional dance communities. Aligned with Dance/USA’s core values of equity, inclusion, and diversity, this Fellowship program invites applicants who are committed to advancing a more equitable and inclusive archives field that reflects and supports the true diversity of voices, practices, and identities within dance communities. Applicants should be interested in building bridges of access to the arts with a wide range of diverse communities.

This pilot program builds on the Fellowships in Archiving and Preservation offered by Dance Heritage Coalition (DHC), between 2001 and 2014. Read about DHC Fellows and their projects [here](http://www.danceheritage.org/fellowships.html).

This opportunity is generously supported by funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

**Program Format and Project Descriptions**

**Timeline and commitment**: June-August, 2018, approximately 400 hours total.

**Location**: Los Angeles, CA (multiple host sites).

**Stipend:** $8,000.

The Fellowship will be supervised and administered by Dance/USA’s Director of Archiving & Preservation. The Fellow will receive orientation and training in dance-specific concepts and resources for archiving, and will work with local mentors and organizations on projects to preserve and create access to unique dance materials.

**1. Part 1: UCLA Library Special Collections (six weeks)**

The Fellow will be paired with a professional mentor who has extensive experience in processing dance collections and creating pathways for access and engagement with dance documentation and legacy materials. The Fellow will be assigned to one or more project(s) that are a good fit for their interests, experience, and learning goals; possible projects include:

* Assist with cataloging collection of rare dance books;
* Create item-level metadata for digital objects in the Isadora Duncan Collection;
* Assist with processing of unprocessed archival dance collections;
* Opportunities to shadow mentor on donor visits, department meetings, or other institutional activities.

**Part 2: Practicum (six weeks)**

The Fellow will complete a practicum that places them with a local independent dance artist or arts organization to assist with preservation and organization of archival materials. Practicum activities may include creating an archival assessment, setting priorities and developing a work plan to improve the condition of the collection, creating or enhancing inventories and metadata, re-housing materials, and/or consulting on the development and implementation of legacy plans.

**3. Other professional development activities**

* Fellow will keep a blog throughout the Fellowship period that shares their learning and discoveries and engages with the themes of the program. View [blogs](http://www.danceheritage.org/imlsfellowshipsfirstyr.html) by former Dance Heritage Fellows.
* Fellow will attend Dance/USA’s annual conference in Los Angeles and have the opportunity to assist Dance/USA staff with presenting archives-focused programming and consultations.
* Fellow will assist Dance/USA staff with tracking metrics and evaluating the program’s outcomes.

**Fellowship Benefits**

* Access to mentorship by leaders in the field;
* Hands-on experience with unprocessed artists’ archives. Fellow will gain experience with making independent judgments, adapting best practices to existing capacity and resources, and working directly with artists to develop systems that reflect unique creative processes and culturally-specific practices;
* Attendance at the Dance/USA conference, opportunities to network with dance archivists and artists and participated in archives-related programming;
* Opportunity to share accomplishments and findings on a blog platform that will be disseminated on a national network.

**About Dance/USA**

[Dance/USA](https://www.danceusa.org/), the national service organization for professional dance, supports the field through research, advocacy, and convenings, including an Annual Conference. Dance/USA has adopted core values of equity, inclusion, and diversity which inform all aspects of the organization’s activities and programs.

In 2017, Dance/USA began the process of integrating the archiving and preservation programs of [Dance Heritage Coalition (DHC)](http://www.danceheritage.org/). Formerly a stand-alone nonprofit, DHC was founded as an alliance of institutions holding major dance research collections with a mission to document, preserve, and create access to the legacy of dance. With the integration, Dance/USA has taken on this mission to provide archiving services to the dance field and build skills, resources, and awareness of dance heritage.

**About the Host**

[UCLA Library Special Collections](http://www.library.ucla.edu/special-collections) inspires discovery, cultivates knowledge, advances research, and preserves cultural heritage to create a distinctive learning environment for the UCLA community and society at-large. Located in the Charles E. Young Research Library, Special Collections welcomes researchers to explore their collections of rare books, archives, manuscripts, oral histories, and other materials. Dance holdings range from nineteenth-century ballet to ethnic dance to contemporary modern dance and include programs, photographs, personal papers, and designs. Among the personal papers are those of early modern dance pioneers Isadora Duncan, Maud Allan, and Ruth St. Denis; Duncan's creative collaborator, manager, and life partner, artist Edward Gordon Craig and his mother, actress Ellen Terry; as well as Mary Desti, a close friend of Duncan's. It also houses the papers of Jack Cole, and video and film archives from Larry Billman’s “Gotta Preserve Dance on Film” archive, including many jazz and theatre dancers from L.A. Dance ethnologist Allegra Fuller Snyder’s papers and those of other early UCLA World Arts & Cultures/Dance faculty, Alma Hawkins and Judy Mitoma are also included. The complete archive of dance photographer Barbara Morgan was recently acquired and is being processed. Also of note are the collections of Bethunedansetheatre and Zina Bethune’s all abilities dance theatre and school, *Infinite Dreams,* dance critics Arthur Todd, Dorathi Bock Pierre and Lewis Segal; the papers of Ernest Belcher, founder of the Celeste School of Dance and producer of ballets for Hollywood Bowl concerts; Bonnie Cashin's costume designs for the Fanchon and Marco Dance Troupe; Andrew West's photographs of the Guelaguetza; the records of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, which featured a world arts and culture festival; and the papers of dancer and artist Marta Becket, founder of the Amargosa Opera House in Death Valley, where she has staged performances since 1968.

**How to Apply**

**Eligibility Requirements:**

Current full- or part-time enrollment in an ALA-accredited graduate program through (at least) Spring 2018. Members of underrepresented groups and applicants with a commitment to advancing social justice causes are strongly encouraged to apply. Fellows must be available for June, July, and most of August 2018 (approximately 12 weeks).

**Application Process**

Submit a resume, list of references, and a Vision, Values, and Goal Statement explaining what the application hopes to contribute to and gain from the Fellowship and how this opportunity aligns with career goals. This statement should highlight any experience or connection with dance/performing arts and dance legacy materials.

Deadline: May 17, 2018

Please send a letter of application, resume, and contact and relationship (e.g. professor, supervisor) information for 3 references as one PDF named "Lastname\_Firstname.pdf" to Tevin Giddens, Project Coordinator, at tgiddens@danceusa.org.

Applicant Finalists will be contacted to schedule a phone/videoconferencing interview with Dance/USA staff. Applicants will be asked to provide proof of current enrollment in an accredited program.