



Bates Dance Festival

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Bates Dance Festival to Receive \$40,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

[Lewiston, ME]—National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$30 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2017. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$40,000 to the Bates Dance Festival for Celebrating 35 years of Evolution, Innovation and Community. The Art Works category focuses on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"The arts are for all of us, and by supporting organizations such as Bates Dance Festival the National Endowment for the Arts is providing more opportunities for the public to engage with the arts," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "Whether in a theater, a town square, a museum, or a hospital, the arts are everywhere and make our lives richer."

"We are incredibly honored to have received annual support from the NEA for over 25 years. This recognition and funding is vital to our ability to train dancers, commission new work, and present world class contemporary dance artists to Maine audiences."

Celebrating 35 years of Evolution, Innovation and Community reflects and builds upon the Bates Dance Festival's history as a leading center for dance learning, experimentation, development and community building. BDF will celebrate its 35th anniversary, and bid farewell to long time director Laura Faure, by bringing together over 80 leading dance figures and emerging artists including David Dorfman Dance, zoe | juniper, Stephan Koplowitz Projects, Pearson Widrig Dance Theatre, Tania Isaac, Larry Keigwin and many others, together with 300 students, dancers, and educators for one to three week residencies to learn, create, perform, connect and recharge in a collaborative, supportive environment aimed at fostering vital artistic exchange and encouraging appreciation for contemporary dance.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).