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**New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA)  
Awards \$100,000 to Eight Small Dance Companies Through BUILD Program  
Total Awarded Since 1999 is Over \$1 Million**

The New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) has awarded \$100,000 to eight small dance companies through its BUILD (Building Up Infrastructure Levels for Dance) program. Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, the program has awarded a total of \$1,025,000 to 48 companies with annual operating budgets under \$160,000.

The 2009 recipients, who receive grants of either \$10,000 or \$20,000, are: Donna Uchizono Company; koosil-ja/danceKUMIKO; Luciana Achugar; Overfoot, Inc./Oberfelder Dance Projects; Parijat Desai Dance Company; Yanira Castro + Company; Yasuko Yokoshi, and Yin Mei Dance. The recipients were chosen from 93 applicants by a panel comprised of choreographers, dance administrators and presenters.

Unique in the dance funding world, BUILD grants must be used to develop organizational capacity and infrastructure rather than creative projects. A significant issue facing small dance companies is the fact that the founding artist is often also the chief administrator. Balancing the two roles is difficult and, inevitably, time in the studio gets compromised. BUILD was designed to help solidify structural support so that choreographers are free to focus on making work, thereby increasing their companies' longevity and contributions to the field.

Parijat Desai, whose company will use its award to work with a development and fundraising consultant, stated, "NYFA's BUILD grant feels like a rare and special gift: the fact that the foundation acknowledges that dance artists need infrastructure to realize our creative visions is unique—there is not much support like this elsewhere—and we are certain to be able to expand our capacity with this help. It is also heartening for me as an artist to receive recognition from such a well-respected source as NYFA and from the distinguished panel."

Other recipients will use their grants to develop capacity by hiring part-time bookkeepers or office assistants, increase contributed income by working with a development consultant, or heighten their visibility and increase revenue by hiring a publicist or booking agent. All of these projects will result in organizations which are stronger, more efficient and prepared for future growth. (A description of each recipient's use of funds follows.)

The New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) was founded in 1971 to empower artists at critical stages in their creative lives. Each year we provide over \$1 million in cash grants to individuals and small organizations. Our fiscal sponsorship program is the largest and most established in the country and helps artists and organizations raise and manage over \$5 million annually. Our NYFA Learning programs provide thousands of artists with professional development training and our website, NYFA.org, received over 4.4 million unique visits last year and has information about more than 8,000 opportunities and resources available to artists in all disciplines.

**BUILD is made possible with the generous support of the J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation, The Starry Night Fund of the Tides Foundation and the Harkness Foundation for Dance.**

### **2009 NEW YORK FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS BUILD RECIPIENTS:**

**Donna Uchizono Company (Artistic Director: Donna Uchizono)** will support Phase 3 of their strategic plan by using the funds to pay for a Company Manager's salary and construction/set up costs for a new permanent studio.

**koosil-ja/danceKUMIKO (Artistic Director: koosil-ja hwang)** has received an increased number of touring requests and will use its funds to hire a part-time administrative assistant to set tour logistics and find rehearsal spaces suitable for their dance and installation work, and a bookkeeper to manage the group's rapidly growing budget

**Luciana Achugar** will hire an administrative associate for 30 hours a month. In addition, funds will be used to create a website and press kits, hire a videographer and purchase office supplies.

**Overfoot, Inc./Jody Oberfelder Dane Projects (Artistic Director: Jody Oberfelder)** is experiencing a high demand for large scale dance pieces commissioned by orchestral groups. The BUILD funds will lend stability to the administrative structure, allowing Jody Oberfelder to concentrate on the creation of new works.

**Parijat Desai Dance Company (Artistic Director: Parijat Desai)** will: work with a development consultant to improve fundraising efforts; hire a consultant to systematize the administrative processes, and rent rehearsal space in order to foster ongoing contact with dancers.

**Yanira Castro + Company (Artistic Director: Yanira Castro)** will hire a publicist and video designer to implement the first steps in a marketing plan designed to grow and diversify the company's audience base.

**Yasuko Yokoshi** will work with a consultant to focus on outreach and promotion with the goal of procuring the company's first U.S. tour for an upcoming piece.

**Yin Mei Dance (Artistic Director: Yin Mei)** will hire a consultant and booking agent to raise the company's visibility, conduct outreach in China, and build managerial and administrative infrastructure.