

# 2020 Fellowship Application

## **Introduction**

The Merce Cunningham Trust (MCT) is supporting the artistic legacy of Merce Cunningham through the Cunningham Fellowship Program. This program supports the research and reconstruction of Merce Cunningham's artistic works. Fellowships are open to former members of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) for the study and staging of Cunningham dances, giving them the tools necessary to further their careers as teachers, artists and stagers while facilitating licensing opportunities for Merce Cunningham's works.

## **Program Description**

The Cunningham Fellowship Program will have its ninth year in 2020. Former MCDC members are eligible to apply. Working with Trust staff, potential Fellows should develop a proposal to work solely or closely with a mentor or collaborator to study and stage one of Merce Cunningham's works. Chosen Fellows will organize and direct a multi-week workshop that will result in a presentation of an identified work or part thereof. There are generally two showings given on the final day of each workshop.

*Proposals for other research projects may be considered by the Trustees. Should you have interest in such an alternate proposal, please contact the Trust staff.*

## **Fellowship Workshop Goals**

Generally, successful Fellowship proposals further one or more of the following Trust goals:

1. Preparing stagers for an upcoming licensing project
2. Reconstructing a rarely seen work to make it available for potential license
3. Training new stagers through partnerships with mentors or co-stagers
4. Honing the skills of experienced stagers

This year (2020), the Trust will focus on reviving one or more not-recently seen Cunningham repertory works or training new stagers and building experience for current stagers.

## **Selecting a Dance**

As the Fellowship Program is intended to achieve Trust goals, please consult with either the Program Coordinator (Jennifer Goggans) and/or the Director of Licensing (Patricia Lent) in selecting a dance and in structuring your application. Proposals in which the prospective Fellow has a direct experience of the work under consideration, either having performed the work or having been part of the creative process resulting in the work, will be considered in the most positive light. Staging a work with no prior knowledge of the dance is reserved for experienced stagers, at the discretion of the Trust.

## **Fellowship Support**

Successful Fellowship applications will yield the following support:

1. Access to archival notes and videos pertaining to the identified work
2. Access to free studio space for preparations, as approved by MCT
3. Access to free studio space for rehearsals, generally from 2:00-5:30pm at the City Center Studios in New York City
4. An audition for participants will be held prior to the workshop and additional assistance in identifying dancers can be provided, if necessary

Fellows residing outside of New York City may receive a travel and lodging subsidy during their stay in New York City.

**Report**

Following their projects, Fellows will be asked to write a two-page report on their activities and experiences and to submit it no later than one month after the completion of their workshop. At the end of each Fellowship year, MCT will ask that year's Fellows to convene with MCT staff to discuss ways to enhance the Fellowship Program.

**Selection Timeline**

The program has a rolling deadline; former MCDC members may apply at any time. MCT Trustees will review applications on a timely basis and make all final decisions regarding selection.

**Submit Application To:**

Ken Tabachnick, Executive Director  
Merce Cunningham Trust  
130 West 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 707  
New York, NY 10019  
212-255-8240 - phone  
[ktabachnick@mercecunningham.org](mailto:ktabachnick@mercecunningham.org)

Cunningham Fellowship Program  
Application Form

Name:
Address:
Street:
City/State/Zip:
Email address:

Please indicate the year(s) you were a member of MCDC:
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Please explain why you are interested in becoming a Cunningham Fellow at this time and how your proposed Fellowship would further the articulated goals of the Merce Cunningham Trust. (1500 characters)

What Cunningham work or works are you interested in studying and reconstructing through the Fellowship?

Please identify the specific piece you wish to work on. Why are you interested in this piece? How familiar are you with this work? Is this a dance in which you performed while in MCDC? (800 Characters)

How much time (in weeks) do you estimate you will need to study the work, prepare the workshop and teach the workshop?

study and consultation

development of workshop plan

workshop and presentation

If you are selected as a Fellow, when would you like to conduct the Fellowship?

Please be as specific as possible:

Where will you be resident during the time of the workshop?

Will you want to use the New York City studios? (Y of N)

If not, what studio space do you anticipate using?

Please state the name of the advisor or collaborator you wish to work with:

How will you identify dancers to participate in your workshop? How many dancers do you anticipate casting? Do you anticipate needing assistance in recruiting dancers?