

## 2020 Non-Repertory Funding Application

### Introduction

The Merce Cunningham Trust (MCT) is supporting the artistic legacy of Merce Cunningham through the Cunningham Fellowship Program (the “Fellowships”). This program supports the research and reconstruction of Merce Cunningham’s choreographic works. In an effort to bring other parts of Cunningham’s legacy and artistic work to the fore, MCT is now offering research opportunities through the Cunningham Research and Study Program (the “Program”). These grants are open to former members of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) and others wishing to study Cunningham dances or aspects of his creative process and output. While these grants are not available for studying the staging of repertory per se, they are available as part of a collaborative project that includes staging, whether undertaken as part of a Fellowship or otherwise. Research intended to lead to staging a Cunningham dance or focused solely on such staging should be requested through a Fellowship.

### Program Description

The Program will look to expand the existing knowledge and understanding of Cunningham’s work process, creativity, oeuvre, or the place of his work and career in a broader cultural context. The underlying goal and intention of the Program is to expand the publicly available content and knowledge related to Cunningham and his impact. As the Trust’s mission is to make Merce Cunningham’s legacy accessible to the public, it is the intention of the Program that grants generate information that can be used by the Trust and the public at large in furthering Cunningham’s legacy.

***The Cunningham Trust has access to a vast store of resources and expertise. Proposals that look to engage with these and the legacy in cross-disciplinary modes will be most positively considered. Examples of such research include academic approaches to repertory that are paired with repertory workshops or other such projects. Applicants are urged to discuss their ideas with the Trust staff at the earliest stage possible because the staff is likely to already know of any allied or related activities that might be considered for the applicant’s project. Proposals for research limited to staging of Cunningham dances will only be considered by the Trustees only through the Fellowship.***

### Research and Study Program Goals

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

1. Expanding the knowledge and understanding of Cunningham’s creative and compositional processes
2. Deepening existing knowledge and understanding
3. Building contextual framings for Cunningham and his legacy
4. Exploring and developing how Cunningham’s work can be applied by practicing artists

### Selecting a Topic

As the 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 developing a topic and in structuring your application. Proposals that can clearly articulate the researcher's intention, outlook, and how the research will further the Trust's goals will be most advantageously viewed by the Trustees.

### **Research Support**

Successful Fellowship applications will yield the following support:

1. Access to the Trust's rich archives
2. Access to the Trust's experts and scholars having direct experience with Cunningham
3. Funding in support of the project.

### **Report**

Following their projects, researchers will be required to submit a report that details their study, the results, lessons learned, possible application of the knowledge learned, and projections of next steps if any in the research. All such materials should be useable by MCT in pursuit of its goals and efforts to enlarge the scope and knowledge around the Cunningham legacy.

### **Selection Timeline**

The program has a rolling deadline and potential researchers 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 Research and Study Program  
Application Form**

**Name:**

**Address:**

Street:

City/State/Zip:

**Email address:**

**Phone number:**

**Briefly state your current artistic or professional affiliation, and your connection to Merce Cunningham's work. If you are a former member of MCDC, please indicate the year(s) you were a member.**

**How much funding are you requesting? Please attach a budget for your project to this application.**

**Please explain the area of interest you would like to study, how your proposed research would further the articulated goals of the Merce Cunningham Trust, and how the project expands the accessibility of the legacy to the public. (1800 characters)**

**Does your research involve or is it focused on any specific Cunningham work or works? If so, please identify the work(s) and the connection to your topic.** (900 characters)

**Please describe your project, the sources you anticipate needing access to, and how much time you estimate you will need to complete this study?** (900 characters)

**Are there any other outside resources you will need for your research?** (900 characters)