

**THE WALLACE ALEXANDER GERBODE FOUNDATION  
THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION**

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**The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Invite Applications for the 2008 Choreographer Collaboration Awards**

SAN FRANCISCO and MENLO PARK, Calif.—The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation are pleased to announce their 2008 Choreographer Collaboration Awards Program. The foundations will provide up to six grants of \$75,000 each for the commission and premiere of six major new dance compositions, created by California choreographers in collaboration with other California artists.

These choreographer collaboration grants are part of a new, three-year \$1,350,000 initiative by the Gerbode and Hewlett foundations to support fresh, dynamic collaborations in contemporary dance, theater and music. In 2009, grants will be made for playwright collaborations, and in 2010, for composer collaborations.

These grants will be available to nonprofit Bay Area arts presenting organizations. They will be aimed at California choreographers of great merit, each working in close collaboration with another California artist of their choosing (choreographer, composer, playwright, digital media artist, filmmaker, designer or other). The resulting dance compositions will have their world premiere public performances in the Bay Area between December 2009 and June 2011.

Each grant will be divided into three parts: \$25,000 will go to a California-based choreographer; \$25,000 will go to another California-based artist (choreographer, composer, playwright, digital media artist, filmmaker, designer or other) who will be a key collaborator on the project; and the remaining \$25,000 will go to the presenting organization for expenses related to the creation and world premiere of these new compositions. The resulting works may take the form of a single dance composition or a suite of shorter dances.

Proposed commissions for original works in any dance style or format will be accepted. Applicant organizations must be nonprofit and based in the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano or Sonoma.

“We understand that for many choreographers and other generative artists, collaboration is an essential and revelatory aspect of the creative process,” says Tom Layton, president of the Gerbode Foundation. “We also realize that joint projects can take a significant amount of time and exploration to bear fruit. We hope this funding program can support substantial, imaginative artistic partnerships that might not otherwise have been possible.”

“Collaboration is, in many ways, the essence of dance, and it gives us great pleasure to support more of it here in the Bay Area,” says Moy Eng, director of the Hewlett Foundation’s

Performing Arts Program. “The pas de deux of minds and hearts is where it all begins.”

Applications for the 2008 Choreographer Collaboration Awards Program are currently available online at <http://www.fdncenter.org/grantmaker/gerbode>. Completed applications must be submitted to the Gerbode Foundation no later than 4:00 p.m., Thursday, August 14, 2008. An advisory panel of experts from around the U.S. will review all the proposals, and final selections will be made by the Gerbode Foundation. Grantees will be announced in January 2009.

For questions regarding the program guidelines and application, please contact The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation’s program assistant, Olivia Malabuyo, 111 Pine Street, Suite 1515, San Francisco, CA 94111, 415-391-0911, [omalabuyo@gerbode.org](mailto:omalabuyo@gerbode.org).

### **About The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation**

The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation is interested in programs and projects offering potential for significant impact. The primary geographical focus is on the San Francisco Bay Area and Hawaii. The Foundation’s interests generally fall under the categories of arts and culture, environment, population, reproductive rights, citizen participation, building communities, inclusiveness, strength of the philanthropic process and the nonprofit sector, and Foundation-initiated special projects.

### **About the Special Awards Program**

For over 20 years, the Gerbode Foundation has made innovative grants through its Special Awards Program to San Francisco Bay Area arts institutions to commission new works by gifted individual artists: playwrights (including Tony Kushner’s Pulitzer Prize-winning “Angels in America”), choreographers (such as Alonzo King and Margaret Jenkins), composers (John Adams, Paul Dresher, and Lou Harrison among them), as well as visual artists, poets, and multi-media artists.

In a time of cultural shifts and fiscal insecurity in the arts, these coveted, nationally respected awards have helped underwrite culturally and aesthetically diverse, acclaimed new works by both prominent and emerging artists. The grants have supported artists at critical junctures in their careers, enabled local nonprofit arts organizations to develop and premiere substantial new works, and enriched Bay Area audiences, readers, and viewers by giving them first access to ambitious, original creations.

### **About The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation**

The Hewlett Foundation makes grants to solve some of the most difficult social and environmental problems facing society. The Foundation’s Performing Arts Program is founded on the premise that the experience, understanding, and appreciation of artistic expression give value, meaning, and enjoyment to people’s lives. Its mission is to support artistic expression and its enjoyment through grantmaking aimed at supporting high-quality arts organizations. Since 1966, the Hewlett Foundation has awarded nearly 1,500 grants totaling \$135 million to performing arts organizations in the Bay Area. Both the scale of funding and the singular nature of multi-year general operating support have made the Hewlett Foundation a key investor in the cultural life of the Bay Area.