

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Fort Wayne Dance Collective to Receive \$10,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts**

[Fort Wayne, IN]—Fort Wayne Dance Collective is pleased to announce it has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to receive a Challenge America award of \$10,000. This grant will support the Dance for Diverse Abilities (D4DA) program. The D4DA program provides movement and rhythm classes and performance opportunities for people who have a disability on a year-round basis at 23+ community partner locations. This grant is one of 262 Challenge America awards totaling \$2.62 million that were announced by the NEA as part of its first round of fiscal year 2023 grants.

During the grant period, FWDC will host 6+ public performances that include students from the D4DA program. These annual performances include the Choreographer's Lab, June Family Concert, Collective Expressions, Halloween Show, and more. Central to the D4DA program is the opportunity for people who have disabilities to dance in public performances and have their artistry celebrated. The northeast Indiana community benefits from having access to high-quality, entertaining performances that feature diverse casts of dancers.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects in communities nationwide," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "Projects such as this one with Fort Wayne Dance Collective strengthen arts and cultural ecosystems, provide equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, and contribute to the health of our communities and our Economy."

"We at Fort Wayne Dance Collective are grateful for this opportunity through the National Endowment for the Arts. The support available through Challenge America will allow us to reach even more individuals with diverse abilities in our community through the inspirational power of the movement arts," said FWDC Executive Director, Lee Rainboth.

For more information on other projects included in the NEA's grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](http://arts.gov/news).

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Fort Wayne Dance Collective is a non-profit arts organization located in downtown Fort Wayne, Indiana. FWDC's mission is to inspire and empower people of all identities, abilities, and stages of life through movement arts. In the 2022 fiscal year, FWDC served 36,727 people throughout Northeast Indiana and has provided scholarships, community programming, classes, and performances for the past 43 years.