

With a mission to strengthen the field of dance in Greater Boston, Next Steps for Boston Dance provides multi-layered support for Greater Boston's choreographers and circus artists.

A partnership between The Boston Foundation, Aliad Fund and Movement Arts Creation Studio, Next Steps for Boston Dance is managed by The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI).

This grant program supports choreographers and circus artists creating original work in any dance genre to move forward and take a "next step" in their careers by providing:

- $5,000 of paid rehearsal space that can be used in a wide variety of venues;
- Five consulting meetings with expert advisors in areas of need and/or interest to the artist including artistic, technical, communications and planning;
- $6,000 in flexible funds to create or complete a project or take a "next step" in an artist's work or career;
- Cohort meetings to connect choreographers and allow them to share and learn from each other;
- Access to ongoing support for grantees that continues post the grant period, including project funds, advice, and workshops.

The total grant value is over $12,500.

Eligibility Requirements

- Artists must have choreographed and presented work in a public (non-educational institution) setting (online presentations accepted) within the last three years.
- Candidates must be creating original work. There are no genre restrictions.
- Applicants must reside in one of the five counties of Greater Boston—Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk or Plymouth—for the entirety of the grant period.
- Post-secondary students currently seeking and working toward dance and related degrees are ineligible to apply.

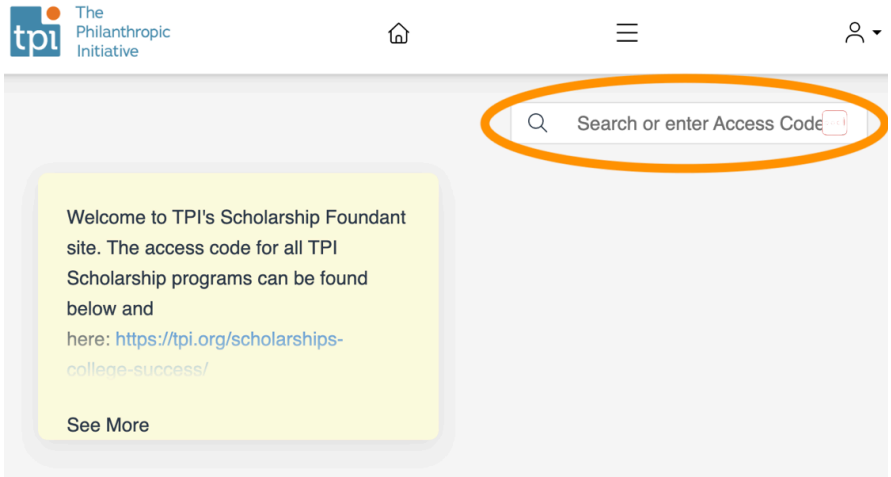
Application Process & Timeline

Date	*Process milestone or deadline*
Monday, October 26, 2026	Application opens
Friday, December 11, 2026, by 5:00 pm	Deadline for all applications (must be submitted online)
February 2027	Panel reviews all eligible applications
March 1, 2027	Next Steps for Boston Dance grant recipients finalized and decisions announced via email
September 2027	Flexible Fund payments available for recipients
March 2027–September 2028	Grant period

Application Instructions

Applications are due by **Friday, December 11, 2026 by 5:00 PM.** Only complete applications submitted online will be reviewed.

- Access the application here: https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=tpischolarship
- Create an account, log in, and enter this Access Code at the top right corner: DANCE



- Complete the online application, including:
  - Information on performances/presentations of your work.
  - Narrative questions that give the panelists a better idea of your work, who you are as an artist, and what your goals are.
  - Other requested materials include your current résumé, and two video samples of work created between September 2023–October 2026.

Questions? Please contact Lila Hurwitz, Program Manager: info@nextstepsbostondance.org

Next Steps for Boston Dance Application

Info, Tips & Frequently Asked Questions

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND TIPS

- Next Steps for Boston Dance welcomes dance makers and circus artists working in any genre, and awards grants to artists who are at different stages in their careers, from beginning to well-established.

- The grants are highly competitive, with 6–7 grants awarded each cycle. We strongly suggest that you plan time to think about your responses prior to filling out the application. Included in the application are five narrative questions about your artistic practice, your career goals in the next two years, challenges you face, and support you need to help you move forward. In addition, you will need to submit an artist résumé and two work samples.

- Please read the instructions in the Work Samples section carefully before making your selections.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I live outside of Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth or Suffolk County, but rehearse and work inside the area. Am I eligible to apply?

NO – Next Steps grants require that the recipient both lives and works in one of five counties of Greater Boston—Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk or Plymouth—for the entirety of the grant period.

I only started my professional career a year ago. Am I still eligible to apply?

YES – Each year grants are awarded to artists at different career levels, from those just beginning to well-established. The one stipulation is that you must have made work outside of an education setting.

I work in a collaborative pair. May we apply together?

YES – Collaborating Artists may apply together. Note that this must be an ongoing collaboration, not just working together for one project. ***Contact us before applying to best understand how to submit résumés and videos.***

Do I have to apply with a specific choreography/circus arts project?

NO – Next Steps for Boston Dance is about supporting your career as a creative maker and helping you get to your own next step.

I work in a dance genre rooted in forms from another country. Is this accepted?

YES – Absolutely. Next Steps funds artists working in a wide range of genres. However, you must be making original work and not only recreating traditional dances.

I like to make work that is performed outside of theater settings. Do I have to submit videos that are done on stages?

NO – You are welcome to share videos of work that best represents what you do. If that is outside, in a gallery, a store window, or anywhere else, that is fine. Show work that will give the reviewers the best idea of what makes your work uniquely yours and fits with what you wrote about in the narrative sections of the application.

My work is based on improvisation (either in part or full). Is this accepted?

YES – While your work must show your specific perspective that can clearly be seen, it does not mean that every part of the pieces performed must be pre-set.

I do not have the funds to prepay for what I want to do with the Flexible Fund. Will I have to wait to be reimbursed?

NO – Once awarded the grant, you are given the opportunity to state how you wish to use the grant money. It will be sent to you directly; however, you cannot receive the Flexible Fund payment before September 1, 2027.

Can I complete the application in a couple of hours?

NO – This is a competitive grant. We strongly suggest that you plan time to think about your responses prior to filling out the application. Included in the application are five narrative questions about your artistic practice, your career goals, challenges you face, and support you need to help you move forward. In addition, you will need to submit an artist résumé and two work samples.

Can I complete the application on a mobile device?

NO – The software program used for grant applications administered through The Philanthropic Initiative is called Foundant. While you can view most of the application on a mobile device, the platform is optimized for desktops. You may run into issues while navigating the site on a mobile device, so we encourage you to use a computer/laptop. If you do not have access to one, contact us for help getting access.

I have never written a grant proposal, or at least not one that is similar to this application. Can I get help?

YES – Be sure to sign up for one of the information sessions offered October through December. And don't hesitate to reach out to Program Manager Lila Hurwitz for additional advice: info@nextstepsbostondance.org.