

# Next Steps for Boston Dance 2024 Application

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. I live outside the Boston Foundation Catchment area 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 Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth or Suffolk County.

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

YES – Each year grants are awarded to artists at all 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.

- 3. 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. [be in touch with Ruth Birnberg before applying to best understand how to submit resumes and videos]

- 4. 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.

- 5. 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.

- 6. I like to make work that is performed outside of theatre settings. Do I have to turn in videos that are done on stages?**

NO – you are most welcome to share videos of work that best represents what you do. If that is outside, or in a gallery, or 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.

- 7. 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.

- 8. I do not have the funds to prepay for what I want to do with the implementation funds. Will I have to wait to be reimbursed?**

NO – Once awarded the grant and you are given the opportunity then to state how you wish to use the grant money it will be sent to you directly before you must pay for expenses.

- 9. Can I complete the application in just a couple of hours?**

NO – While 6-7 grants are awarded each cycle, it is competitive. We strongly suggest that you plan time to think about your responses prior to filling out the application. Included in the application are 5 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 resume and two work samples.

**10. Can I complete the application on a mobile device?**

NO– the software program used for all the Boston Foundation Grant applications is SmartSimple. While you can view most of the application on a mobile device, it is not possible to complete all the questions and to upload files. You will need to use a computer/laptop. If you do not have access to one, contact Ruth Birnberg and she will help you get access.

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

YES – First be sure to sign up for one of the information sessions offered in September and October. Second reach out to Program Lead Ruth Birnberg for additional advice – [ruthmbirnberg@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmbirnberg@gmail.com)