

NARRATIVE 1 - Video archival of work

- *What is the opportunity for which you're seeking assistance?*

I have been a dancer and choreographer for over 20 years. I was trained at the Colorado Ballet Academy, danced with a number of regional and national companies, and began teaching at Mercyhurst University in 2016. Despite my breadth of expertise and successful career, I lack the professional-quality documentation that is necessary to share my work on digital platforms and use as work samples when applying for grants, residencies, and other opportunities. If selected for funding, I will be using these materials specifically to apply to the Pillow Lab residency in Massachusetts.

- *Is this opportunity time sensitive? How does it represent a pivotal moment in your career? How will this opportunity serve as a catalyst for your creative practice and career goals?*

In December, I met a representative from Jacob's Pillow, which is a year-round incubator of new work that also runs an international choreographer residency program called Pillow Lab. After I shared information about my background, they invited me to apply to the residency program. The residency is a highly selective closed application process and only 9 artists are awarded each year. If my application is accepted, this will be my first international residency experience. My complete application is due on May 31.

The residency will provide access to the Pillow's archives, and the presence of an "outside eye," an editor or dramaturg to provide important feedback, and professionally filmed video documentation of work developed during the residency. The residency will culminate with an informal, in-person, work-in-progress showing as part of the In Process Series. Showings are limited to an intimate, invited audience and provide valuable feedback through a structured session.

I am seeking opportunities to expand my choreographic range and translate high-level concepts into technological processes, ultimately expanding the range of humanoid movement. Access to the time, space, and resources to develop this type of work is limited. In the past, I've received feedback that the quality of my work samples prevented me from being considered for similar career-building opportunities. With this in mind, I am requesting support to document my current work and strengthen my application to the residency program. In the event that I am not selected for Pillow Lab, I have identified a number of other residencies that I will apply to using these new materials, including:

- Montavalo Arts Center - The Sally and Don Lucas Artists Residency Program (LAP)
- Djerassi Resident Artists Program
- Bates Dance Festival - Emerging Choreographers Program

- *Should you take advantage of the opportunity before you, what is the full cost you will incur?*

To achieve a professional-grade video, I need to reserve a performance space with adequate lighting and sound. Local venues such as the Blasco Library charge \$300 for rentals. I contacted a local video production company, XYZ Video, to get a quote for their services. They offered a range between \$2,500 and \$3,500. **The total cost for the video will be around \$3,800.**

I am requesting \$2,500 from the McCain grant. Because the total expense exceeds the grant award amount, I plan to make up the difference with profits from my monthly virtual and in-person dance workshops through XYZ Dance Collective.

NARRATIVE 2 - Ceramics Conference

- *What is the opportunity for which you're seeking assistance?*

National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) is an organization that engages and sustains a community for ceramic art, teaching and learning. NCECA's annual conference features dozens of presenters, demonstrations, networking opportunities and exhibitions. This year, the conference is in Cincinnati, Ohio and will take place from March 15th-18th.

I am entering the fourth year of my ceramics practice and am currently working on a new body of work. The first fired pieces were selected to be exhibited in the NCECA Juried Student Exhibition. My application was selected by exhibition curator Garth Johnson from thousands of applications received through a national open call. I am requesting funds to cover the costs of shipping materials, travel expenses, conference admission, and hotel accommodations.

- *Is this opportunity time sensitive? How does it represent a pivotal moment in your career? How will this opportunity serve as a catalyst for your creative practice and career goals?*

The NCECA is the leading annual conference for ceramicists across the nation, and will be my first juried show outside of Erie. Beyond building my resume, the NCECA presents opportunities to sell my work, make connections with artists and arts professionals from across the nation, workshops to learn new processes and expand my creative skillset, and exposure to a wide range of work from emerging and established artists.

As a self-taught ceramicist, my knowledge of this craft is limited to the scope of my personal studies and my network is primarily composed of artists from Erie, Pennsylvania. Gathering with and learning from my peers at a national level will not only grow my personal creative practice, but because I teach hand building classes at Allen Stoneware, will help to advance Erie's ceramic arts community as a whole.

Over the past 4 years, I have regularly exhibited my work around the Erie area. As with any career, small steps get us closer to our larger ambitions. This grant would facilitate my growth as an artist by allowing me to both showcase my work on a national level and learn from my peers.

- *Should you take advantage of the opportunity before you, what is the full cost you will incur?*

Shipping and packing materials - \$130 for 3 pieces

Travel expenses - \$100 for gas round trip (\$3.82/gallon, 690 miles total)

Conference admission - \$320 for 4 day pass, early bird admission

Hotel accommodations - \$640 for 4 nights at Holiday Inn Cincinnati Riverfront (10 minute drive from conference site) at \$160/night (single /double occupancy)

Total cost: \$1,190