

## THE WALLACE ALEXANDER GERBODE FOUNDATION

Contact:

Stacie Ma'a, President

Gerbode Foundation

510-982-4788, [info@gerbode.org](mailto:info@gerbode.org)

**For Immediate Release:**

July 27, 2017

### **Gerbode Foundation Announces Continuation of Special Awards Program and Invites Applications for its 2017-18 Dance Composition Awards**

**Berkeley, Calif.**— After a major restructure in 2016, The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation is pleased to announce the continuation of its Special Awards in the Arts program and another three-year \$900,000 initiative by the Gerbode and Hewlett foundations. The program will support the commissioning of individual artists and invest in their contributions to new work in the arts.

The dance composition awards are the first round of this initiative with a \$300,000 fund for the creation and production of new dance works by innovative California choreographers. The works are to be commissioned and premiered by Bay Area nonprofit arts organizations that can apply for grants of \$50,000 each. The resulting works will have their world premieres in Bay Area public performances between February 2019 and June 2021.

Proposed commissions in all dance genres will be considered. Applicants must be nonprofit organizations and based in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, or Sonoma counties.

“We are thrilled to announce our continued support for the arts and are excited to celebrate the program’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.” said Stacie Ma’a, president of the Gerbode Foundation. “We heard an overwhelming outpouring of support for this program when the Foundation announced its restructure last year and we look forward to continuing to support the Bay Area’s robust and dynamic arts scene starting with recognizing visionary dance makers.”

John E. McGuirk, director of the Hewlett Foundation’s Performing Arts Program, added, “We are pleased to join with the Gerbode Foundation to continue supporting California artists in the creative process and spur partnerships with local performing arts organizations to showcase new works. We hope these awards will create even more opportunities for people and communities to participate in the arts.”

Applications for the 2017-18 Dance Composition Awards are available online at [www.gerbode.org](http://www.gerbode.org). Completed applications must be submitted to the Gerbode Foundation **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2017**. An advisory panel of dance and choreography experts from across the country will review all the proposals, and final selections will be made by the Gerbode Foundation. Recipients will be announced in April 2018.

For questions regarding the program guidelines and application, please contact Olivia Malabuyo

Tablante, the Special Awards in the Arts Program Director. She can be reached at [olivia@gerbode.org](mailto:olivia@gerbode.org) or (510) 982-4788.

### **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, reproductive rights, civic engagement, and Foundation-initiated special projects.

### **About the Special Awards in the Arts Program**

Since 1987, the Gerbode Foundation has made innovative grants through its Special Awards in the Arts Program to Bay Area arts institutions to commission new works from choreographers, playwrights, and composers. The Special Awards Program has also supported visual artists, poets, and multimedia 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 prominent artists and emerging ones. These grants have supported artists at critical junctures in their careers; enabled nonprofit local arts groups to develop and debut substantial, original works; and enriched Bay Area audiences, readers, and viewers by giving them first access to ambitious new creations.

###