

Grantee Name
University of Minnesota Foundation, Northrup Center
Project Title
To support Northrup's work in collaboration with choreographer Emily Johnson, Socially-Based Participatory Engagement that challenges traditional ideas of participation and performance to create greater demand for contemporary dance in Native Communities
Project Progress and Successes
Our Artist, Emily Johnson, expanded our concept of what dance presenting might encompass by creating a program of readings by Native American writers at a local literary organization, and a day of volunteerism along the riverfront. The final event was a feast of a shared communal meal. All of these activities allowed participants to have a closer relationship with the artist, and we are hopeful that they sparked a curiosity about what other dance artists might do.
Challenges / Obstacles / Failures Encountered in the Project
This project was entered into with the best of intentions, however we are not able to actually document the result that we had hoped for: an appreciable increase in demand for contemporary dance. There were likely a number of factors that contributed to this, but I think the challenges of re-opening the building after a major renovation at the very same time we were attempting to assist an artist in developing an entirely new work, proved to be an incredibly difficult situation for both the artist and the presenting organization.
What was learned from these that might be of benefit to others?
Timing and communication is everything in an undertaking such as this.
Links to relevant website(s) and/or project publications, reports, etc.
If someone wishes to speak with your organization further about your project, would there be a willing contact? Y/N
If yes, please provide contact name and information for preferred method of contact (email, phone, etc).
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