



SCHOLARSHIPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is the NYC Dance Alliance (NYCDA)?

NYC Dance Alliance (NYCDA) was incorporated in 1993 as a 'for-profit' dance educational organization. For 18 years, NYCDA has toured the United States producing a series of weekend dance conventions – comprised of classes in Jazz, Ballet, Tap, Contemporary, Hip Hop and Musical Theater and more. Seven prominent dance educators travel to 23 cities across the country – offering 2 full days of classes to dancers ages 7-18 (and their teachers). Each Regional Convention season culminates in a National Finale hosted in New York City in July.

NYCDA attracts 15,000-20,000 dancers to the conventions during the 23 city Regional Season and 1,500+ dancers to the annual National Finale in New York City.

NYCDA alumni are currently represented in every facet of the dance/performance industry: New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, virtually every Broadway show, numerous Nationals Tours, TV/Film... and so much more. Additionally, NYCDA alumni are currently represented in, and have graduated from, the most prestigious dance and musical theater college programs in the United States. (A list of NYCDA alumni is available.)

What is the NYC Dance Alliance Foundation (NYCDAF)?

NYC Dance Alliance Foundation (NYCDAF) was incorporated in 2010 as an IRS approved 501(c)(3) public charity. After 16 years of nurturing the next generation of professional dancers through NYCDA, the natural next step was to create a 'not-for-profit' organization that further invests in the incredible young talent across the United States.

NYCDAF is committed to broadening arts awareness while advocating education and high standards of excellence in dance. NYCDAF is dedicated to investing in the next generation of professional dancers by offering scholarships for secondary and college education.

The current focus of NYCDAF is funding a College Scholarship Program. However, additional programs supporting other 'non-college' avenues of advanced education (such as apprenticeships, professional training programs, etc.) are being discussed and investigated.

SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS

How are colleges involved with NYCDA and NYCDAF?

College dance departments are capitalizing on the fact that talented dancers from across the United States come to New York City in July to attend the NYCDA National Finale and Summer Workshop. Participating colleges are now NYCDAF College Partners. NYCDA hosts a special College Scholarship Audition, which offers colleges the opportunity to recruit dancers for their specific programs.

In addition to this specific College Scholarship Audition, the dancers are also available for observation during the 4-days of NYCDA workshop classes.

JULY 2009: University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA was the first College Partner to recruit NYCDA dancers. The 2009 College Scholarship Audition was administered by UArts and NYCDA faculty member, Scott Jovovich. \$350,000 in college scholarships were awarded by UArts to NYCDA dancers.

JULY 2010: University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA returned and **Marymount Manhattan College** in New York City, NY joined as a College Partner in the recruitment process. The 2010 College Scholarship Audition was administered by the head of the Dance Division at Marymount Manhattan College, Katie Langan. UArts awarded TWO NYCDA dancers \$150,000 scholarships each. Marymount Manhattan College awarded FIVE NYCDA dancers \$44,000 scholarships each.

JULY 2011: University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA and **Marymount Manhattan College** in New York City, NY returned. Additionally, **Point Park University** in Pittsburgh, PA and **Mercyhurst University** in Erie, PA joined as a College Partners in the recruitment process.

July 2011 was the first time the New York City Dance Alliance Foundation (NYCDAF) awarded its own college scholarships. Unlike the scholarships from the recruiting universities, NYCDAF scholarships will be applicable to ANY college program. (More details below.)

At total of nearly \$2.8 million+ in college scholarships were awarded at the 2011 NYCDA National Gala. This is a combination of recruitment scholarships from NYCDAF College Partners and scholarships awarded directly from NYCDAF.

Tiler Peck (New York City Ballet principal soloist and NYCDA Alumni) and **Desmond Richardson** (Complexions Contemporary Ballet) administered the 2011 College Scholarship Audition. Representatives from the College Partners, as well as selection committee members from NYCDAF, were in attendance.

JULY 2012: University of the Arts (PA), Marymount Manhattan College (NY), Point Park University (PA) and Mercyhurst University (PA) are scheduled to return as a College Partners in the recruitment process. Additional dance programs have expressed an interest and may be joining.

When will the NYCDFAF scholarships be awarded?

The current goal is host at least TWO annual scholarship auditions and presentations per year.

- One will be in conjunction with the NYCDA Summer Workshop at the NYCDA National Finals– hosted annually in New York City in July. This 4-day event attracts dancers from across the United States and offers a unique opportunity for comprehensive evaluation of individual talents.
 - (a) This first 2012 audition will be held on **Sunday, July 1st** with NYCDFAF college scholarships presented at the NYCDA Gala on Thursday, July 5th.
 - (b) Applicants must be registered for the 4-day NYCDA Summer Workshop.
 - (c) Our College Partners will also be recruiting dancers at this event and scholarships to their institutions will be awarded at the NYCDA Gala.

- A second annual scholarship audition will coincide with the NYCDFAF Fundraising Gala – **BRIGHT LIGHTS SHINING STARS**.
 - (a) This second 2012 audition will be held on **Sunday, July 29th** in New York City with scholarships presented at **BRIGHT LIGHTS SHINING STARS** on Monday, July 30th.
 - (b) In addition to the application process and audition, applicants must have participated in the National Fundraising Program with their local dance studio. (Full details regarding the ongoing National Fundraising Program are available.)

- A third annual NYCDFAF scholarship is presented in conjunction with the annual Fred and Adele Astaire Awards in NYC. NYCDFAF is a beneficiary of this annual celebration of the best of dance on Broadway and in film. This is the NYCDFAF ‘Adele Astaire College Scholarship’.

How many scholarships are given out each year? How much are the scholarships?

Currently, there is no preset number of scholarships. In 2011, 50+ teenagers benefitted from nearly \$3 million in college scholarships awarded through NYCDFAF. Annual fundraising revenues, total interested applicants and case by case evaluations of potential recipients’ needs will all be considered in determining the final number of scholarships and amounts. NYCDFAF will attempt to offer financial assistance and support to as many deserving candidates as possible.

2012 NYCDFAF Goals include:

JULY 5th NYCDA Gala

- Potentially, four \$10,000 scholarships will be awarded thanks to NYCDFAF Gold Sponsors: Dance Magazine, Capezio, Steps On Broadway and “The Radio City Christmas Spectacular”.

- An additional \$50,000 to \$150,000 in scholarship monies will be awarded by the NYC Dance Alliance Foundation (NYCDFAF). The plan is to award these scholarships in increments of \$10,000 - \$25,000.

AUGUST 1st NYCDFAF Fundraising Gala - BRIGHT LIGHTS SHINING STARS

- As a result of the National Fundraising Campaign, NYCDFAF hopes to raise enough to support \$50,000 to \$100,000 in NYCDFAF scholarships monies to be awarded at this event. Final numbers will directly correlate with the results of the National Fundraising Campaign. Individual scholarships may range from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

How can I apply for the scholarships?

Applicants must attend an audition and submit a detailed Application prior to attending either scheduled audition. Applications will be made available through the NYCDA website at www.nycdance.com.

Application deadlines:

July 1st audition: Applications must be received by June 15

July 29th audition: Applications must be received by July 23

It is possible to attend BOTH auditions as long as the applicant is registered for the 4-day Summer Workshop AND has participated in the National Fundraising Campaign with their local dance studio. (Check the National Fundraising Campaign details for eligibility requirements.) However, you may only receive one NYCDFAF funded scholarship.

Does each College Partner require a separate application?

No. There will be one comprehensive application that collects all necessary information. It will cover all criteria requested by all scholarship donors – the College Partners, as well as NYCDFAF.

How old must I be to apply?

The July 1st audition is open to applicants who have recently completed their junior or senior years of high school. Primary consideration will be given to those heading into their senior year. However, everything is ultimately evaluated case by case, and recent high school graduates have been selected.

The July 29th audition is open to applicants ages 16-20. Applicants already enrolled in a college dance program are welcome, as long as they are in good standing with their institution and meet all the NYCDFAF criteria.

Do I need a certain high school GPA to apply?

GPA and test score information will be collected on the application and will be considered as per each scholarship donor's criteria. GPA prerequisites do vary. The required GPA from each participating College Partner will be listed on the application.

Are the scholarships ‘merit’ based or ‘need’ based?

Currently, most scholarships will be merit based. However, applicants are encouraged to provide any supporting information regarding financial need and hardship (as requested on the application). This information will be collected and considered as per each scholarship donor’s criteria. Each applicant’s total situation will be considered. NYCDFAF plans to develop additional ‘need based’ opportunities in the future.

Who evaluates the applications and determines the scholarship recipients?

Each application and audition will be evaluated by a team of experts consisting of NYC Dance Alliance Faculty, the NYCDFAF Scholarship Selection Committee comprised of industry professionals, as well as the NYCDFAF Executive Director.

Do I have to attend a certain college or university?

No. NYCDFAF allows the recipient to attend the college of their choice. However, the College Partner scholarships are specific to their individual institutions.

Do I have to major in dance or musical theater?

Currently, YES. Our inaugural focus is to nurture the next generation of professional performers. However, NYCDFAF may eventually develop additional programs for dancers pursuing other interests. If a NYCDFAF scholarship recipient eventually changes majors, the status of the scholarship will be re-evaluated.

How are the scholarships awarded?

All scholarship monies will be paid directly to the institution – on behalf of the scholarship recipient. Additionally, all NYCDFAF awards of \$10,000 or more will be divided into 4 equal payments. One quarter of the full NYCDFAF scholarship amount will be paid to the institution at the beginning of each school year. Winners of all scholarships will need to provide the Foundation with a letter from the institution, verifying your enrollment in a dance or music theatre program, as well as a copy of your current tuition invoice.

Can I go to a college abroad or just domestic?

Currently, NYCDFAF will only provide scholarships to domestic universities.

If I am awarded a scholarship, do I need to provide proof that I am enrolled in college?

YES. NYCDAF will require copies of:

1. Letter of Acceptance from College or University
2. Letter for Dance or Theater Department stating you are a dance or musical theater major
3. Current Invoice for Tuition

Is the scholarship contingent on maintaining a specific GPA while in college? What proof will I need to provide?

Each NYCDAF scholarship recipient is a young ambassador of the NYCDAF scholarship program. As such, NYCDAF requires that all scholarship recipients maintain a 3.0 GPA and remain in good standing with the college. Scholarship recipients will be required to provide NYCDAF with copies of current transcripts.

In order to renew a NYCDAF scholarship, each summer the recipient must submit the following:

1. Transcripts showing a GPA of 3.0 or higher
2. Letter from department chair stating that you are still a dance or music theatre manager
3. Tuition Invoice for the next school year

If I withdraw from college, what happens to the remainder of the money?

NYCDAF Scholarship recipients that choose to leave college will forfeit the unused balance of their scholarship. The unpaid monies will remain a part of the NYCDAF College Scholarship Fund and will help endow a new scholarship for another deserving applicant.

Are NYCDAF scholarships only available for college education?

At this time, YES. Additional opportunities are being developed that will support other professional training programs, apprenticeships and educational opportunities.

SPONSORSHIP QUESTIONS

As a sponsor, how will my donated monies be used?

ALL MONIES generously donated by our sponsors will directly benefit a scholarship recipient(s). Depending on the total amount of sponsorship, a portion of the donation will be endowed in the name of the sponsor. Additionally, NYCDAF will work with the sponsor to fit their philanthropic 'criteria': need based, merit based, incentive match, etc. NYCDAF feels strongly that the sponsorship should be a collaboration which benefits ALL – the sponsor, NYCDAF and the scholarship recipients.

Can I endow a scholarship with my own specific criteria?

Basically, Yes... NYCDAF allows each of our College Partners and corporate sponsors to dictate their own criteria. This criteria may range from academic standards (GPA and test scores) to financial need based criteria to a demonstrated level of merit.

How are the finances of the foundation managed?

Currently, a small 'operational' fund is maintained in a NYCDAF checking account. The balance is invested in an interest bearing money market account and laddered Certificates of Deposit. All finances are managed directly by the NYCDAF Executive Director, in conjunction with an accountant and legal team.

Does NYCDAF have ongoing fundraising plans?

Our current plan is to fully produce TWO annual NYCDAF stage events and to participate in ONE additional event that benefits NYCDAF.

(1) A fall/winter event serving as a fundraiser utilizing the talents of NYCDA alumni and choreographers as well as prominent Guest Artists from the concert dance world. This annual event is held at the prestigious Joyce Theater in NYC, and serves the NYCDAF mission of Broadening the awareness of dance, while raising funds and awareness for NYCDAF.

- December 27, 2010: First NYCDAF winter event entitled PRELUDE
- January 16, 2012: Second NYCDAF winter event entitled DESTINY RISING
 - DESTINY RISING 2012 included a STAR FUNDRAISER PERFORMANCE from Plumb Performing Arts (AZ). They raised \$15,000+ for NYCDAF.

(Photos and more details are available.)

(2) A summer event serving as a fundraiser/gala – capitalizing on the numerous dancers attracted to NYC in the summer. This annual event is entitled **BRIGHT LIGHTS SHINING STARS** and will utilize the talents of NYCDA alumni and choreographers as well as Guest Performances from the Broadway community.

- August 1, 2011: First NYCDAF BRIGHT LIGHTS SHINING STARS GALA held at the NYU Skirball Center. Music legend, Roberta Flack was the guest of honor and the recipient of the first NYCDAF Ambassador For The Arts Award.
 - BRIGHT LIGHTS SHINING STARS 2012 included two STAR FUNDRAISER PERFORMANCES from Next Step Dance (TX) and KJ Dance (TX). Together, they raised nearly \$40,000 for NYCDAF.
- July 30, 2012: BRIGHT LIGHTS SHINING STARS Gala to be held, once again, at the NYU Skirball Center.

(Photos and more details are available.)

(3) NYCDAF will be a beneficiary of the annual Fred and Adele Astaire Awards. The 2011 Awards included the first NYCDAF 'Adele Astaire College Scholarship. The 2012 Fred and Adele Astaire Awards will be held on June 4th in NYC.

Additionally, grass roots' fundraising is ongoing throughout the United States. Numerous dance studios are participating in a variety of ways: local performances, car washes, bake sales, coin donation boxes – all benefitting NYCDAF. (More details regarding the National Fundraising Campaign are available.)