

SAN FRANCISCO AERIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

AUGUST 19-21, 2016



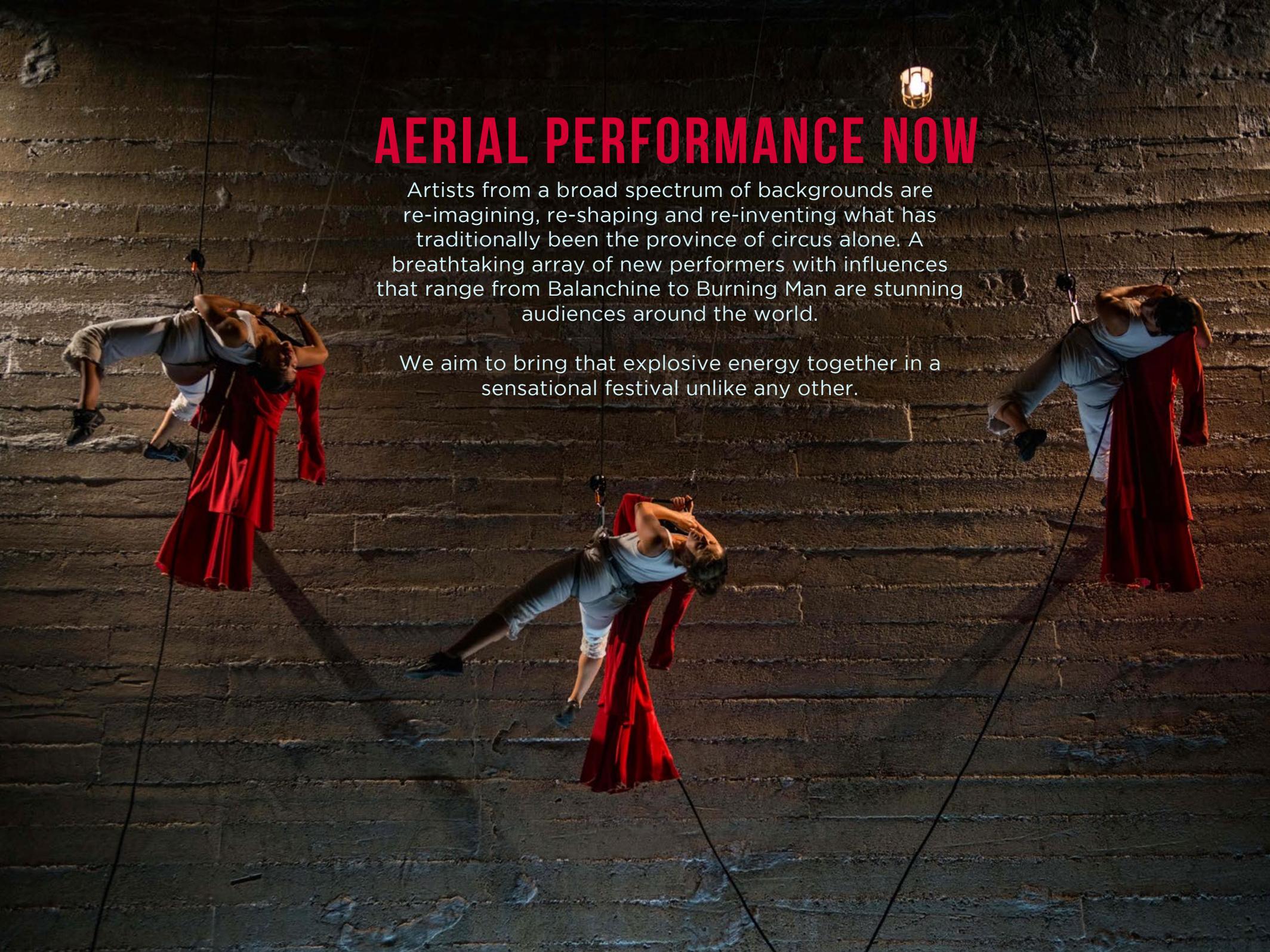
FORT
MASON
CENTER
FOR ARTS
& CULTURE

A photograph of an aerial performance in a modern building atrium. Three orange wireframe structures, resembling houses, are suspended from the ceiling. A performer is visible inside one of the upper structures, and another is inside a lower one. A central black pillar with a blue light at its base stands in the foreground. In the background, a large glass wall features the word 'ARTS' in reverse. At the bottom, a performer is on a blue platform, and a crowd of people is watching.

THE AERIAL RENAISSANCE

An explosion of creativity has reinvented aerial performance. A new generation of artists bursting with innovative imagination and extraordinary skills have given birth to one of the most incredible and visceral art forms of the 21st century.

Photo: Stephen Phillips Pictured: (left to right) Ramon Ramos Alayo, Joanna Haigood, Maurya Kerr, Robert Henry Johnson of Zaccho Dance Theatre

A photograph of three aerial performers suspended by ropes against a dark, textured stone wall. The performers are wearing white tank tops and light-colored shorts, with long, flowing red dresses draped over their shoulders. They are in various poses, some horizontal and some vertical. A single warm-toned light fixture is visible at the top center of the frame.

AERIAL PERFORMANCE NOW

Artists from a broad spectrum of backgrounds are re-imagining, re-shaping and re-inventing what has traditionally been the province of circus alone. A breathtaking array of new performers with influences that range from Balanchine to Burning Man are stunning audiences around the world.

We aim to bring that explosive energy together in a sensational festival unlike any other.

WORLD CLASS FESTIVAL

Our mission is to create a world-class festival devoted to aerial artistry in all its shapes & forms. We will bring together many of the finest performers and practitioners working today and showcase their artistry as it is rarely seen; side-by-side in a multi-faceted, site-specific celebration presented against the backdrop of a major historic & cultural facility.

Our goal is to elevate the art - literally and figuratively. To create an exhilarating experience that builds new audiences, strengthens the community of practitioners, and expands the art form to help it soar.



FESTIVAL HISTORY

Founded in 2014 at Zaccho Studio in Bayview Hunter's Point, the San Francisco Aerial Arts Festival is now located at Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture in the beautiful Marina District. Against the backdrop of the San Francisco Bay, aerial artists bring stunning and innovative performance to local audiences and tourists alike.

Our festival is San Francisco's premiere aerial arts event that features internationally recognized aerial artists and exciting newcomers breaking into the field. This biennial festival brings together spectacle, daring athleticism, aerial dance and circus to create a dynamic three day performance event.

The San Francisco Bay Area is home to some of the most important pioneers in aerial dance and award winning circus aerial artists. Zaccho Dance Theatre is celebrating these unconventional and innovative artists along with their international counterparts in a thrilling weekend of performances on the bay.

Photo: Raissa Simpson Pictured: (left to right background) Emily Leap, Alex Allen, Amara Tabor Smith, Patricia West, (foreground) Calvin Kai Ku

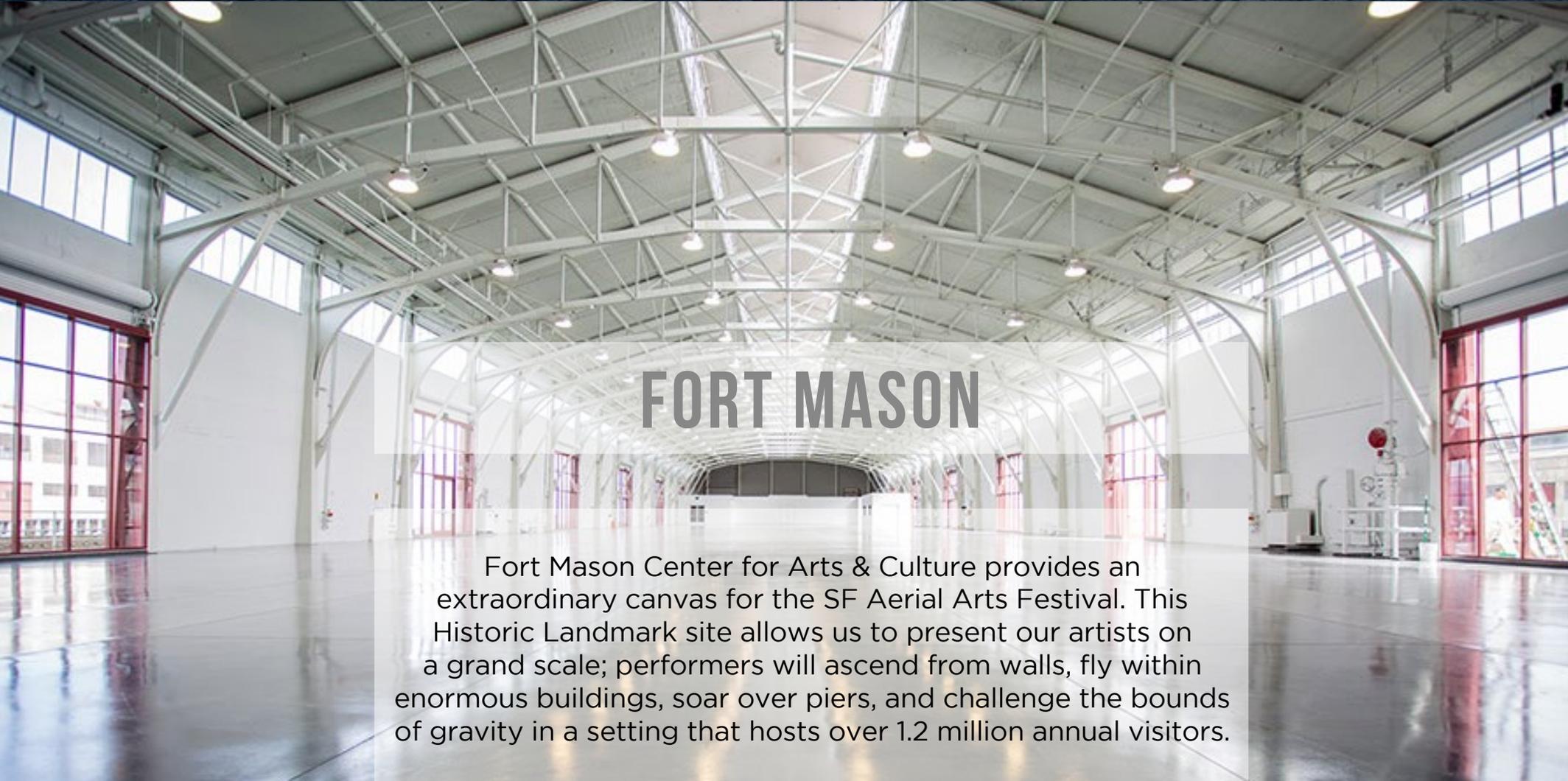


THE FUTURE

Our goal is to further this expansion in 2018 when we will broaden our programming to include the finest and most innovative aerial artists and architects working nationally and internationally.

We firmly believe that San Francisco can become the focus of the aerial performance community and that this festival can easily grow to become one of the most inspiring, talked-about and well-attended new festivals in the United States.





FORT MASON

Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture provides an extraordinary canvas for the SF Aerial Arts Festival. This Historic Landmark site allows us to present our artists on a grand scale; performers will ascend from walls, fly within enormous buildings, soar over piers, and challenge the bounds of gravity in a setting that hosts over 1.2 million annual visitors.

ZACCHO DANCE THEATRE

Zaccho Dance Theatre is best known for its site specific performances that investigate dance as it relates to place. Using innovative aerial techniques to create a dynamic and more dimensional performance space, the company has made large scale works for many extraordinary landmarks, including Popes' Palace in France, the San Francisco International Airport, Fort Point National Monument, and Port Authority Grain Terminal in Brooklyn. Under the direction of Joanna Haigood, Zaccho has been making history since 1980.



Photo: Theodora Litsio Pictured: (left to right) Jo Krieter, Joanna Haigood of Zaccho Dance Theatre



BANDALOO

A pioneer in vertical dance performance, BANDALOO seamlessly weaves dynamic physicality, intricate choreography and the art of climbing to turn the dance floor on its side. Founded by choreographer and artistic director Amelia Rudolph, BANDALOO's work has been presented in theaters and museums, on skyscrapers, bridges, billboards and historical sites, in atriums and convention halls, in nature on cliffs, and on screen. BANDALOO honors nature, community and the human spirit by bringing dance to new audiences, activating public and natural spaces, and re-imagining what dance can be.

Photo Credit: Krystal Harfert Pictured: (left to right): Rachael Lincoln, Anje Lockhart, Roel Seeber, Damara Ganley, Melecio Estrella

CAPACITOR

Born out of the collision of cultural influences found only in the San Francisco Bay Area, Capacitor's performances explore the patterns and relationships inherent in nature and the cosmos. Through dance, interactive video, cirque nouveau, live music, and large-scale movement sculptures, Jodi Lomask and her company Capacitor humanize abstract scientific concepts, transcending cultural barriers and widening the scope of basic human experience for audiences of all ages.



KARL GILLICK

Karl Gillick, a former tree canopy biologist and rock climbing guide, began producing his own aerial dance work in 1998. The creativity and dexterity required to traverse delicately among the crowns of ancient trees inspired him to share his tactile sense of movement and love of nature with an audience. With his penchant for large, interactive, site-specific work and inclusive, collaborative processes, Karl rethinks commonplace environments to enrich audience/performer shared experiences. As a master rigger, accomplished visual designer, artistic director and performer, Karl's bold, emotional imagery engages with art as primary research into the human condition.





FLYAWAY PRODUCTIONS

Flyaway Productions, directed by Jo Kreiter, performs off-the-ground dances that expose the range and power of female physicality. They experiment with height, speed and gravity, dancing on steel objects that are both architectural and fabricated. They dance at the intersection of social justice and acrobatic spectacle. They offer performance as a medium for social commentary and choose projects that advance female empowerment in the public realm. At its core, their work explores the female body- its tumultuous expressions of strength and fragility.

THE ORGANIZERS

SF Aerial Arts Festival is a collaboration between two exceptional producers with tremendous experience and diverse backgrounds.

JOANNA HAIGOOD

Joanna Haigood (Choreographer/Director) is best known for her innovative site specific and aerial performances. Since 1979 Joanna has been creating work that uses natural, architectural and cultural environments as points of departure for movement exploration and narrative. Her stages have included grain terminals, a clock tower, the Pope's Palace, military forts, and a mile of urban neighborhood streets in the South Bronx. Her commissions include Dancing in the Streets, Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Walker Arts Center, the Exploratorium Museum, the National Black Arts Festival, Festival d'Avignon and Equal Justice Society. She has been honored with the Guggenheim Fellowship, the Cal/Alpert Award, the US Artist Fellowship, a Bessie Award and is recipient of the esteemed Doris Duke Performing Artist Award





CHRIS WANGRO

One-time Circus Ring-Master and former czar of Special Events for the City of New York, Chris Wangro is acclaimed as one of the leading and most imaginative impresarios of public events in America. He has produced presidential summits, papal visits and massive public spectacles for over three decades. Wangro has created and directed prestigious arts festivals, numerous concert series & cultural expositions for private and public organizations and masterminded events and for multiple United Nations agencies, dozens of NGOs and international humanitarian organizations that have generated hundreds of millions of dollars and global media attention for those in need around the world.



Photo: John Kent Picture: Alex Allen, Emily Leap of Zaccho Dance Theatre

THE FUNDERS

San Francisco Foundation
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San Francisco Arts Commission

