

For Immediate Release

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BAY AREA NATIONAL DANCE WEEK TAKES ACTION TO STIMULATE ECONOMY

Bay Area National Dance Week offers 350 dance events completely free in order get audiences out of the house and into theaters, studios and onto the dance floor (where they belong)

All dance! All free! All week!

April 24-May 3, 2009

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—March 11, 2009—Bay Area National Dance Week (BANDW) announces a greater number of free dance events than ever in its 11th years history. From April 24 to May 3, 2009, dance companies throw open their doors and present over 350 free dance events throughout San Francisco, the North Bay, South Bay and East Bay.

The Bay Area has long boasted one of the largest and most diverse dance communities in the country. BANDW reflects this scale and diversity – and features free events in countless movement styles, including fire dance, ballet, modern, Argentine tango, same-sex tango, classical Indian, jazz, hip hop, hula, Samba, Chinese classical, belly dance, aerial dance, West African, Scottish country and much, much more. The events that take place during BANDW are all FREE and include performances, rehearsals, lecture demonstrations and studio open houses.

Everyone is invited, and those interested, curious or inclined, need only pick up a newly designed event guide (distributed at cafes, dance studios, theaters) or visit BANDW's new website at www.bayareandw.org to explore the many events and learn more. Participants may also sign up through BANDW's website.

"This year's Bay Area National Dance Week boasts the greatest number of events in our 11-year history," said Wayne Hazzard, Executive Director of Dancers' Group. "Could there be a better time to take advantage of free classes, performances, rehearsals, and more? This is the year to dance your economic worries away and experience the generosity of our extraordinary and broad dance community."

Kick off event, Friday, April 24, 12noon

Live Performances and a Public Conga Through Union Square

The 11th Annual BANDW kicks off this year on Friday, April 24 at Union Square at noon with a host of live performances followed by a public Conga Line. The 1-hour schedule includes a youth performance by students from **James Lick Middle School**, and performances by **AXIS Dance Company**, **Vanessa Mosqueda & Mixtiso Latin Hip Hop**, **Leung's White Crane Lion Dancers**, and **Kellita Maloof and the Hot Pink Feathers**, with music by the **Hot Pink Feathers All Star Marching Band**. This BANDW kick-off event, is a great way to start a week of non-stop free dancing, and drew many dancers and non-dancers into its throes last year.

For the second year running, Bay Area National Dance Week also presents the *Dancers' Choice Award*. Nominations come from members of the Bay Area dance community, so that the *Dancers' Choice Award* can recognize significant contributors to dance in the region. This year's award goes to **Alleluia Panis**, Artistic and Executive Director of Kularts, a leading presenter of contemporary and tribal Pilipino art.

More program information about the 11th Annual Bay Area National Dance is available online, visit www.bayareandw.org.

Bay Area National Dance Week Funders

Bay Area National Dance Week is a fiscally sponsored project of Dancers' Group and gratefully acknowledges the support of: Fleishhacker Foundation, Grants for the Arts, Walter & Elise Haas Fund, William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation and the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

The History of Bay Area National Dance Week

National Dance Week was founded in 1981 to increase awareness of dance and its contributions to our national culture. The first Bay Area National Dance Week (BANDW) festival grew out of a public dialogue in 1998, when dance artists, administrators, and organizations came together to explore how best to spotlight Bay Area dance during National Dance Week. The festival that emerged took a national initiative and imbued it with the innovative and inclusive spirit of the Bay Area. As the largest per capita center for dance in the US, the Bay Area's festivities have been the most extensive and best attended celebrations in the country since BANDW's inception. Each year, over 100 dance organizations and artists present events during Bay Area National Dance Week, involving more than 2,500 artists and 20,000 attendees.