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## **Dancewave Chosen to Participate in Race Forward's Race Equity in the Arts Innovation Lab**

**Brooklyn, NY**—Dancewave is honored to have been chosen to participate in Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation's Racial Equity in the Arts Innovation Lab. This is a year-long training program to improve racial equity in the arts and culture sector. Race Forward has a nearly 40-year legacy of racial justice advocacy, bringing a systemic analysis to complex race issues. Dancewave is among sixty New York City arts and cultural organizations to participate in this year's program.

"By equipping the diverse and influential group of arts organizations in our Lab with concrete institutional practices for racial equity, we hope to increase sector-wide readiness for racial justice and see material improvements in the ways that New Yorkers of color experience and access arts and culture in our city," said Nayantara Sen, Culture and Content Project Manager for Race Forward.

The Racial Equity in the Arts Innovation Lab will provide mentorship to influential arts and cultural institutions, assisting in development of tools and strategies for interrupting racial inequity within their institutions, and positively affecting their audiences, stakeholders, constituencies — as well as staff and team members of color. The cohort of participating organizations includes museums, historical societies, arts presenting and producing groups, arts service and development organizations, artists collectives, and field-building organizations. Together, they represent a wide swath of the New York City arts and culture sector in terms of discipline, size, geography, constituency, and the types of communities they engage.

"Participation in the year-long training with Race Forward marks a significant step for Dancewave, as we further our mission to empower individuals who contribute to the fabric of their communities and beyond," remarked **Diane Jacobowitz**, *Executive and Artistic Director* at Dancewave.

Dancewave will be guided in assessing and transforming its programs to ensure racial equity and access for all over the course of the year-long program. "I am personally excited to put our programs under the microscope and to be part of a radical discussion and transformational process that will help ensure racial equity in the arts sector. The arts sector is where this work can, and must happen, and I'm proud Dancewave is at the forefront of this essential work," said **Nicole Touzien**, *Director of Education* at Dancewave.

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*Dancewave is the dance education nonprofit focusing on the development of the whole person through an accessible dance experience. Dancewave envisions a world where, through access to the dance experience, youth become empowered individuals who contribute to the fabric of their communities...and beyond. For more information visit [www.dancewave.org](http://www.dancewave.org).*