



TILTshift Dance is announcing an open call for **AADF2026 Collaborative Residency, Internship & Fellowship** that will run in tandem with **Asian American Dance Festival 2026**, San Diego's only dance festival centering AAPI dance artists and voices.

General Program Overview:

AADF Collaborative Residency, Internship & Fellowship is a multi-year professional development and cultural empowerment program serving **early to mid-career AAPI choreographers and dance artists**. This annual program runs 7 months per cycle, in tandem with Asian American Dance Festival (AADF) - San Diego's only dance festival that centers AAPI dance artists and voice.

Participants have the option to choose from two progressive tracks—1) **Residency** followed by **Choreographic Fellowship** and 2) **Internship** followed by **Production Fellowship**—together, fostering new artistic growth, important leadership development, and deepened cultural engagement. The program culminates in works presented at AADF2026 in late summer/early fall.

Participants may engage through three distinct yet interconnected sub-programs:

Residency – Choreography Track

- For AAPI choreographers exploring multicultural identity through movement.
- Combines interdisciplinary collaboration (with AAPI spoken word artists) and independent identity research.
- Includes guidance from experienced AAPI mentors who have and continue to work in this arena.
- Culminates in the **AADF Collaborative Residency Showcase**.

Internship – Production/Administrative Track

- For AAPI dance artists who wish to develop organizational, technical, and administrative skills.
- Provides hands-on training in event production, arts management, and community programming.
- Includes direct mentorship from AADF co-organizers and from leaders in partner AAPI arts organizations.

Fellowship – Choreographic and Production Tracks (by invitation)

- For artists who have completed a Residency or Internship.
- Deepens artistic growth and leadership capacity in choreography or production, as Fellows mentor new Residents and Interns.
- The Fellowship will launch with the 2027 program cycle, for which candidates from the 2026 cohort will be invited to apply.

Features of the full program:

- One sub-program is completed in a single program cycle.
- Participants of either the Residency or Internship may return the following or any future year to complete the other track.
- Fellowships require completion of either a Residency or Internship, as well as an invitation by the program organizers in order to apply.
- Fellowship year does not need to follow immediately after the Residency/Internship year.
- Participants have the opportunity to complete all 4 sub-programs, spread across 4 program cycles.

AADF2026 Collaborative Residency, Internship & Fellowship is curated and directed by AADF co-organizers Joyce Lien Kushner and Dr. grace shinhae jun. The Residency sub-program is run in partnership with MindFull Movement director Daja Marks.

Timeline

Application Dates

Dec 15	Application opens
Jan 19	Application due
Feb 9	Artists notified via email

Key Program Dates *(Dates TBD - please check website for updated dates)*

Feb 22	Meet & Greet @ Oceanside Museum of Art
Mar 8	AADF Gathering*
Apr 5	Oceanside Museum of Art - performance & workshops
May 2-3	Oceanside Theater Company (final collaboration)
May 17	AADF Gathering*
Jun	ChoreoLAB workshop (choreographic research)
Jul	AADF Gathering*
Jul 19	ChoreoWreck (choreographic research)
Aug 30	AADF2026 Dance Film Screening (Residents, Interns & Fellows help)
Sep 4	AADF2026 Collaborative Residency Showcase (final project showing)
Sep 5	AADF2026 Community Day (Residents, Interns & Fellows help if not performing)
Sep 12	AADF2026 Mainstage Showcase (Residents, Interns & Fellows help if not performing)
Sep 20	Final meeting & recap

**AADF Gatherings are optional for Residents (required for Interns), but we highly recommend attending these networking events.*

Program Details & Requirements:

Click links below to jump to sub-program detail pages.

- [AADF2026 Collaborative Residency](#)
- [AADF2026 Collaborative Internship](#)
- **AADF2026 Collaborative Fellowship** - Planned for 2027 program cycle.

Residency - Program Details

The Residency (choreography track) provides choreographers the opportunity to explore their multicultural identity through their artistic practice, while also beginning to explore intersectionality within the AAPI diaspora. Participants move through 2 phases during the Residency.

Phase 1: Research & Community - Residents are paired with AAPI spoken word artists for interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration, creating joint work through community engagement and storytelling. Together, resident choreographers and spoken word artists explore the complexities of identity, migration, assimilation and resistance cross-culturally within the AAPI diaspora. Two performance opportunities are provided to share this collaborative work.

Phase 2: Independent Exploration of Identity - Residents dive into independent research. They explore themes of inhabiting multiple cultural spaces, how to navigate conflicting expectations, and what it means to live in that liminal space of being both Asian/Pacific Islander and American. Residents support each other through feedback and exchange, while receiving guidance from experienced AAPI mentors who have and continue to work in this arena. Resident research culminates in a final choreographic work presented at AADF2026 Collaborative Residency Showcase.

Opportunity to Complete Second Track - Those who complete the Residency and receive an invitation to return, may apply to participate in the Internship the following year.

Opportunity to Apply for Fellowship - Those who complete the Residency and receive an invitation to return, may apply to participate in the Fellowship the following year.

****AADF Production Support*** - Residents who are also interested in gaining experience in dance production have the ability to participate in some Internship opportunities as their program and time allows. All Residents are required to help at AADF events that they are not participating or presenting in.

Choreographers:

- Open to early to mid-career AAPI choreographers of all dance genres. Prior choreographic experience required. Experience in collaborating with other artists is preferred. New choreographers are not eligible at this time.
- Looking for AAPI choreographers interested in:
 - exploring questions of identity, specifically as relates to identifying as both Asian/Pacific Islander and American.
 - working collaboratively with spoken word artists and possibly with each other. Choreographers are invited to suggest an AAPI spoken word artist they know and would like to collaborate with.
- AAPI choreographic duos are eligible to apply. However, we recommend you contact us to discuss prior to submitting an application.

Spoken Word Artist Collaborators:

- Spoken word artists are under the purview of MindFull Movement.
 - Not considered "Residents" of the program, but rather as collaborators.
 - Pre-selected by MindFull Movement to collaborate with the resident choreographers.

- Spoken word artists may be suggested by applicant choreographer and submitted for consideration. Email us at asianamericandancefestival@gmail.com with subject: AADF2026 Collaborative Residency.

Creative & Developmental Support:

- **Rehearsal Space** - Rehearsal space provided for the duration of the residency (2hrs/wk totaling 60 hours). Resident choreographers can choose to rehearse in their own studios if they prefer.
- **Mentorship** - Ongoing guidance from experienced AAPI mentors who have navigated the intersections of multiculturalism, diaspora, identity, and dance - meetings, one-on-one rehearsal visits, feedback, etc.
- **Education** - Residents have opportunities to take professional development classes and workshops that are essential for dance artists who eventually wish to self-produce or work for dance organizations. Topics may include grant writing, marketing & social media, self-promotion, creating and managing budgets, etc.
- **Financial Support**
 - Honorarium of \$750 disbursed in 3 partial installments
 - Collaborating artist honorarium of \$250 each (up to 2 collaborating artists per resident) to support final work presented at AADF2026
 - Production stipend of \$250 (materials, costumes, etc) to support final work for at AADF2026
 - Additional funds may be raised by Residents via AADF2026 online fundraising campaign for final project needs
- **Production, Marketing & Tech Support** - Support provided for all events.
- **Documentation** - Photo and video documentation of all events.

Research & Community Engagement: Throughout the Residency, choreographers and spoken word artists will have several opportunities to engage with the community for both research and sharing of work.

- **Oceanside Museum of Art Showing (April 5 TBD)** - *Initial Artistic Response of Choreographer/Poet*
 - 2 works per choreographer/poet duo (under 5min each) - improvised or prepared
 - 1) Choreographer's response to poem
 - 2) Poet's response to dance
 - Post performance panel discussion.
 - Post performance community jam session.
- **Oceanside Theater Company Showing (May 2-3 TBD)** - *Collaborative Work of Choreographer/Poet*
Resident choreographers and spoken word artists present their collaborative work to audiences. A post performance panel discussion follows.
- **ChoreoLAB (June TBD)** - *Choreographic Workshop*
Residents participate in a choreographic workshop that explore movement generation through the lens of cultural heritage and identity. Workshop participants play with ways to incorporate their personal cultural identities into dance making, particularly when working in dance forms outside of their cultural heritage. The workshop is open to all dance artists, not just Residents or those who identify as AAPI.

- **ChoreoWreck (July 19) - Choreographic Research Process**

Residents participate in ChoreoWreck as part of their dance making research. ChoreoWreck is an event during which choreographers offer their works to be de/reconstructed by a fellow artist, live in front of an audience. This process known as “wrecking” allows:

- 1) the “wreckee” choreographer to gain deep insight into their work as part of their research
- 2) the “wrecker” to play and practice editing and directing
- 3) audiences to see dance making as it occurs, leading to a deeper appreciation of the art form

See information about our previous ChoreoWreck events - [Spring ChoreoWreck](#)

- **Production Support & Education**

- Residents assist in the production of all AADF2026 festival events that they are not performing or participating in - AADF2026 Dance Film Screening, AADF2026 Community Day, and AADF2026 Mainstage Showcase.
- *OPTIONAL - Residents who are also interested in gaining some experience in dance production have the option to participate in some Internship opportunities as their program and time allows.*

Final Work Showing - AADF2026 Collaborative Residency Showcase (Sep 4 TBD): The Residents’ final choreographic research projects are presented during AADF2026. This may take the form of a dance work and/or presentation incorporating other mediums.

Eligibility:

- 18 years of age or older.
- Early to mid-career choreographer of Asian, Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islander descent.
- Open to choreographers of all dance forms.
- Not a student or enrolled in any degree seeking program at the time of the program - some exceptions (please inquire).
- Not participating in a comparable development, fellowship, or residency program at the time of this program.
- Not currently a member or employee of TILTshift Dance.

Requirements if Accepted:

- Committed to working collaboratively with a spoken word artist, and a willingness to engage with and listen to AAPI community members.
- Must be open to working collaboratively with other Residency artists and receiving mentorship from AADF mentors.
- Support and promote the festival and the community of artists involved, including sharing of social media posts, marketing materials, fundraising campaigns, etc.
- Provide timely and detailed information regarding the progress of work for promotional purposes, technical and logistical considerations, performances and events.
- Must be available for entire Residency from mid-February 2026 through mid-September 2026.

- Must be available for all scheduled meetings, workshops, and AADF2026 events.
- Must be able to navigate transportation in and to San Diego for in-person rehearsals, classes, workshops, and events. Candidate would ideally be local to San Diego County, but not required if able to be present for all required happenings and events.

How To Apply: To apply for the AADF2026 Collaborative Residency, please fill out all required sections of the application form. You will need to answer the following narrative questions and submit the requested materials. We strongly suggest using your own voice and language when answering the narrative questions.

- **Introduction Video:** Link to 30sec-1min video introducing yourself
- **Resume or CV (PDF file)**
- **Photos: 1 headshot and 1 movement/performance**
- **Short Bio (100 words max)**
- **Artist Statement (300 words max):** Describe your artistic practice and philosophy. What interests you and motivates you to make work.
- **Residency Intentions & Goals (300 words max):** Describe why you are applying for this residency, any goals you have, and what you hope to gain from this experience, particularly as it relates to your AAPI identity.
- **Highlighted Project (300 words max):** Please choose one example of a project that helps us understand what you do and why you do it. Describe the community served, your goals, and your collaborators if any. Please share if or if not this project changed your perspective or practice. Include this project as one of your work samples submitted.
- **Work Samples:** Please provide 3 work samples in which you are the main choreographer or collaborator in its creation. Include links to videos (youtube, vimeo, or google drive only) and a brief description of the work. Work samples should be between 2-5 minutes each, and can be of your work in a performance setting, or high-quality rehearsal footage. If you send us work samples longer than 5 minutes, please indicate time interval of the video that you would like us to review.

All applications must be submitted via the online form by **Monday, January 19, 2026**, 11:59pm PST. Artists will be notified of results by **Monday, February 9, 2026** via email.

Apply here - <https://forms.gle/shevFHWyYBmSARHp8>

For any questions, please email us at asianamericandancefestival@gmail.com with subject: AADF2026 Collaborative Residency

Internship - Program Details

The Internship (production track) provides dance artists opportunities to develop production, management, and leadership skills necessary for producing small and large scale events, while also developing skills in community building that is culturally sensitive.

Dance Artists:

- Open to early to mid-career AAPI dance artists of all dance genres. This includes performers, teachers, and choreographers.
- Looking for dance artists interested in:
 - learning about the administrative and operational side of dance making and production.
 - developing deeper ties to AAPI communities through the arts, and helping bridge AAPI communities with the broader San Diego community.

Developmental Support:

- **Training** - Hands-on “learning by doing”
 - **AADF2026 Planning & Production** - Interns work directly with AADF co-organizers and volunteer staff in planning, organizing, and producing this year’s festival and interim events. Having hands in all aspects, Interns learn about, strategizing, budgeting, marketing, communications, and outreach. Interns learn to engage with other professional artists, organizations, performance venues, and other 3rd party partners.
 - **Partner AAPI Organizations** - Interns are provided opportunities to work with and learn from partner AAPI arts and cultural organizations that have longstanding ties and deep commitment to local AAPI communities. These organizations provide Interns rich exposure to community building and cultural engagement. Interns are able to participate in serving community needs while also gaining valuable administrative skills as they assist these organizations with small projects and events.
- **Education** - Interns have opportunities to take professional development classes and workshops that are essential for dance artists who eventually wish to self-produce or work for dance organizations. Topics may include grant writing, marketing & social media, self-promotion, creating and managing budgets, etc.
- **Mentorship** - Ongoing mentorship from AADF co-organizers, including one-on-one training and meetings.
- **Financial Support** - Weekly \$200 stipend for administrative training and work (weekly hours vary depending upon programming, estimated 8-10hrs/wk).
- **Opportunity to Complete Second Track:** Those who complete the Internship and receive an invitation to return, may apply to participate in the Residency in a subsequent year.
- **Opportunity to Apply for Fellowship:** Those who complete the Internship and receive an invitation to return, may apply to participate in the Fellowship the following year.

Eligibility:

- 18 years of age or older.
- Early to mid-career dance artist of Asian, Native Hawaiian and/or Pacific Islander descent - any dance form.
- Not a student or enrolled in any degree seeking program at the time of the program.
- Not participating in a comparable development, fellowship, or residency program at the time of this program.
- Not currently a member or employee of TILTshift Dance.

Requirements If Accepted:

- Must be available for entire Internship from mid-February through mid-September.
- Must be available to work 8-10 hours per week, with some weekends that are event related and usually once or twice per month. AADF2026 festival weeks in Aug/Sep will require more hours. Schedule to be determined.
- Must have access to a laptop or computer with internet access - most work will be performed remotely as TILTshift Dance does not have an office location. While some meetings/training will take place in-person, some will take place via zoom.
- Must have working knowledge of and comfort using social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube, etc), graphic design and photo editing programs (Canva, Illustrator, Photoshop, Inkscape, Gimp, or similar), and spreadsheet and document programs (Word, Excel, Google Docs, Google Sheets, etc).
- Must be available for all scheduled meetings and AADF2026 events.
- Must be local to San Diego County and be able to navigate transportation around San Diego for in-person shifts, classes, workshops, and events.
- Support and promote the festival and the community of artists involved, including sharing of social media posts, marketing materials, fundraising campaigns, etc.

How To Apply: To apply for the AADF2026 Internship, please fill out all required sections of the application form. You will need to answer the following narrative questions and submit the requested materials. We strongly suggest using your own voice and language when answering the narrative questions.

- **Introduction Video:** Link to 30sec-1min video introducing yourself
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For any questions, please email us at asianamericandancefestival@gmail.com with subject: AADF2026 Internship.

Know an AAPI dance artist we should consider?

If you know of an early to mid-career AAPI dance artists who would be great for either this residency or internship, please forward the information to them. We want dance artists of all genres and from all AAPI groups!

It truly takes a village to bring projects like AADF and the Collaborative Residency, Internship & Fellowship to life...let's support and celebrate our fellow artists!
