



JAPAN FOUNDATION

**Performing Arts Japan 2019-2020
List of Awardees**

The Japan Foundation is pleased to announce grant awards totaling **USD 200,000 to 10 organizations** in the United States and Canada through the PAJ Program for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The grant recipients are listed below. (Please contact the Japan Foundation, New York and the Japan Foundation, Toronto for further information and finalized performance dates).

Touring Grant awards

Total projects: 6

Total funds allocated USD 137,000

Grant amounts: USD 12,000 – USD 33,500

ANIKAYA/Akhra, Inc. (Somerville, MA) for *Delicateness in Times of Brutality*, a tour of artists **Dakei** (Japan) and **Wendy Jehlen** (US), accompanied by three Tokyo-based musicians, will bring the PAJ Collaboration Grant-supported project to three cities in the US.

Tour Dates: September 18, 2019 – May 10, 2020

Tour Locations: Bunnell Street Arts Center (Homer, AK); Gallaudet University (Washington, DC); UC Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)

Arts Midwest (Minneapolis, MN) for *Arts Midwest World Fest 2019 – 2020*, a tour of **Nobuto Yamanaka Ensemble** to Midwest states. **Nobuto Yamanaka** is one of Japan's most celebrated shamisen players. Together with his ensemble, Yamanaka will share the music, history, and culture of the *shamisen* with audiences across the Midwestern United States.

Tour Dates: September 1– December 31, 2019

Tour Locations: Holland Theatre (Bellefontaine, OH); Riverside Park (Rushville, IN); Carbondale Community High School Auditorium (Carbondale, IL); Fisher Theater (Ames,

IA)

Blank Forms Inc. (Brooklyn, NY) for *Sabu Toyozumi: United States Tour*, a tour of this pioneering jazz drummer, his first tour in the country since 1992. **Sabu Toyomizu** will perform solo sets, showcasing some of the work he has been doing recently with both percussion and erhu, yet to be seen by audiences in the western hemisphere.

Tour Dates: September 26 – October 5, 2019

Tour Locations: Blank Forms (New York, NY); Ars Nova Workshop (Philadelphia, PA); Nameless Sound (Houston, TX); Zebulon (Los Angeles, CA); The Lab (San Francisco, CA)

Japan Society, Inc. (New York, NY) for a four-city North American tour of the multimedia dance piece *Fruits Borne Out of Rust*, conceived and directed by internationally well-known Japanese visual artist **Tabaimo**, in collaboration with award-winning choreographer **Maki Morishita**.

Tour Dates: February 17 – March 7, 2020

Tour Locations: REDCAT (Los Angeles, CA); Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT); The Kennedy Center (Washington, DC); Japan Society (New York, NY)

MUTEK: International Festival of Digital Creativity and Electronic Music (Montreal, QC) for *Tim Hecker + Konoyo Ensemble*, a two-city presentation of a collaborative performance between electronic composer **Tim Hecker** and the 4-piece **Konoyo Ensemble**, exploring traditional Japanese *Gagaku* music.

Tour Dates: TBD

Tour Locations: TBD

Ripe Time (Brooklyn, NY) for *Sleep*, a tour of an immersive physical theater work that traces the distance between what we appear to be and what we are, inspired by Haruki Murakami's shattering 1994 short story, Japanese *Hannya* myth and horror films.

Tour Dates: TBD

Tour Locations: TBD

Collaboration Grant awards

Total projects: 4

Total funds allocated: USD 63,000

Grant amounts: USD 10,000 – USD 20,000

PAXy, Inc. (Coral Gables, FL) for *Cross-pollination* in which Japanese dancer Yukio Suzuki and American composer Juraj Kojcs explore sonic and movement using various sensor technologies.

Project Period: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

TaikoArts Midwest (Minneapolis, MN) for *HERbeart: Women in Taiko* project which will bring together the best North American & Japanese female *taiko* artists to collaborate and create a dynamic and stunning performance. Artists will gather for a two-week residency

culminating with a premiere performance at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul, MN in February 2020.

Project Period: July 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

thingNY (Astoria, NY) for *shuffleyamamba* which is a dance piece created by Japanese choreographer **Yasuko Yokoshi** and American composer **Gelsey Bell**. The piece takes its inspiration from the classic Noh drama *Yamamba*. It explores female archetypes in Japanese culture.

Project Period: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Ukwashin Kabudan (Mililani, HI) for *Kumi Odori: Building a Hawaii-Okinawa Connection* which is a collaborative effort between performing artists in Okinawa and Hawaii as a means to revitalize this traditional Ryukyuan art form.

Project Period: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

PAJ Advisory Committee Members (as of December 2018)

- Mr. Ron Berry (Executive & Artistic Director, Fusebox)
- Dr. F. John Herbert (Executive Artistic Director, Legion Arts)
- Ms. Sherrie Johnson (Executive Producer, Canadian Stage)
- Mr. Edgar Miramontes (Associate Director, REDCAT)