



## ABOUT RAWDANCE:

Founded by Co-Artistic Directors Ryan T. Smith and Wendy Rein in San Francisco in 2004, [RAWdance](#) is an award-winning, contemporary dance company that transforms theaters, public places, and screens. The company's activities include both the creation and performance of original work as well as community-focused programming, a fellowship program, and teaching. *SF Chronicle* describes the company as "witty, whip-smart, and beautiful to watch." *Critical Dance* calls RAWdance a "rare treasure" that "combines choreographic excellence, innovative structures, groundbreaking concepts and impeccable performances." The company's home base and the majority of its programming are in San Francisco. RAWdance is also slowly expanding bicoastally, building new programs and a following in New York's Hudson Valley, where the Co-Artistic Directors have resided since 2019.

**Company Mission: RAWdance champions the power of movement as an indispensable source of connection and a visceral medium to illuminate the issues of our time. We commit to creating adventurous, thoughtful and welcoming programming that challenges what contemporary dance is, where it happens, who it includes, and the role it plays in our lives.**

# RAWdance BOARD MEMBER ROLE DESCRIPTION Updated Nov. 2025



## COMPANY BASICS:

- RAWdance is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, EIN: 26-2249457. The company is incorporated in California and is registered as a foreign entity in New York.
- The current board includes [six standing board members](#) and an advisory board. The company's Co-Artistic Directors serve as permanent, ex-officio board members.
- [The team includes](#) two full-time Co-ADs and one part-time administrative role.
- The company engages dancers as part-time employees on a project-by-project basis. RAWdance collaborates with other creative professionals on a part-time employment or contract basis, depending on the role.
- The company's annual operating budget is approximately \$250K.





## PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:

**Creation** / RAWdance regularly creates and presents original contemporary dance work both for the theater and for non-traditional spaces.

Recent & upcoming highlights include:

- RAWdance’s upcoming Home Season, February 5-7 at ODC Theater (SF), featuring 3 Bay Area premieres.
- RAWdance’s critically-acclaimed outdoor site-specific 20th Anniversary season at Yerba Buena Gardens (SF) in 2024.
- Residency projects at 836M Gallery (SF), including the Izzie-nominated *Loving Still* and a new Fall 2026 installation.

**Curation** / The company produces unique platforms to highlight diverse voices from the broad spectrum of contemporary dance.

Recent & ongoing highlights include:

- The CONCEPT series salon, which has shared works from almost 200 guest artists in a welcoming, informal setting. In SF, the event takes place at the War Memorial Green Room. In the Hudson Valley, the event takes place in Kingston’s Senate Garage.
- The company’s September 2025 production, *Dance Break* at SF’s Yerba Buena Lane.

**Fellowship** / Radiate Fellowship, with two graduated cohorts to date, supports a small group of early-career BIPOC dance makers.

**Teaching & Commissions** / Periodic workshops and commissions from university and high school programs as well as commissions from professional companies.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

**Free and Pay-What-You-Can Events** / RAWdance regularly produces free and pay-what-you-can events to ensure that art is accessible without financial boundaries.

- The CONCEPT series salon is always pay-what-you-can. Some audience members elect to come for free and others opt to pay up to \$100 to attend.
- Free outdoor programming such as September's *Dance Break* in Yerba Buena Lane, in San Francisco, places dance directly in the public sphere.

**Organizational Partnerships** / Each project provides a unique opportunity to partner with other community and arts organizations.

- For 2023's *Loving Still*, the company partnered with the GLBT Historical Society and the Unspeakable Vice tour of North Beach, which provided a truncated tour of the neighborhood's queer history before each performance.
- For 2024's *Escape*, RAWdance partnered with Litquake's Elder Project to create a visual and audio gallery exhibit that was connected to the work's focus on the Borscht Belt.

**Business Partnerships** / The company aims to promote local small businesses when possible and is also buoyed by their mutual support.

- RAWdance regularly shares a list highlighting local eateries near performance venues.
- For a 1920's inspired 2024 Spring Benefit, the company coordinated with Valencia Street Vintage for a special RAWdance discount and dual marketing.

**Community Classes** / RAWdance has offered free classes to further its outreach.

- In 2024, the company offered a free site-specific workshop to teen dancers.
- During the pandemic, RAWdance offered a free monthly Zoom class called Choreo Club.



## PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A BOARD MEMBER:

- Support and focus the organization on its mission.
- Monitor the financial health of the organization and ensure that it has stable and diverse funding sources to achieve its goals.
- Participate in identifying and soliciting funding to ensure the mission is met.
- Plan, organize and effectuate fundraising activities, in coordination with staff.
- Volunteer for performances and special events.
- Attend RAWdance performances as well as outside dance performances for context on the field.
- Provide and/or develop contacts for RAWdance fundraising and networking.
- Recruit and orient new board members and assess board performance.
- Promote the visibility of RAWdance in the community.

Board members serve a three-year term, and, by mutual agreement, may serve for up to three successive terms with a maximum nine-year term limit. Officers are elected annually for one-year terms. Currently, board meetings are held via zoom on a monthly basis (9-10 months/year), with limited use of any additional committee structure. As we look to bring on new board members, there is discussion about shifting to an every-other-month cadence, but implementing one or more committees to keep progress moving in between board meetings. Any such shift would require board agreement and approval.

The company strives for 100% board giving on an annual basis but does not have a give/get policy. Service on the RAWdance Board of Directors is without remuneration.



## QUALIFICATIONS OF AN IDEAL RAWDANCE BOARD CANDIDATE:

- A commitment to and understanding of RAWdance's mission.
- A commitment to equity and anti-racism.
- Residing in, or deeply connected to, the San Francisco Bay Area or Hudson Valley.
- An affinity for cultivating relationships and building consensus among diverse individuals.
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, dependability, and a passion for the performing arts (and dance specifically).
- Professional experience in one or more of the following areas: community organizing, finance, event planning, law, philanthropy, nonprofit fund development, marketing, publicity, and/or operations management.
- Capacity and desire to commit an average of 4 hours/month on RAWdance board work, including advance preparation for meetings and community outreach. The commitment can vary widely. Some months may require a single meeting, while others, particularly during fundraising periods, will necessitate an excess of 4 hours.

