

My name is Belén Maya, I am a Spanish flamenco dancer, choreographer, teacher and lecturer for more than thirty-five years.

My experience with Tamara Adira has evolved greatly in many directions since we first met. The pandemic gave us the opportunity to meet in my online classes and we kept working together afterwards until I was able to travel to San Antonio, Texas. During this incredible time of deep personal and professional changes Tamara has stayed true to the core of her dancing philosophy : becoming a better dancer and sharing her improvements with the flamenco community. For her, for me, these two are linked, as we understand that art must contribute to life and viceversa. Her focus and concentration, her passion for dance and the goal to make avant garde flamenco available and understandable to the San Antonio dance community , come together in a commitment as strong as steel wich I have rarely seen before.

Tamara Adira is able to create a perfect artistic environment, as an entrepreneur-dance company director, dancer and workshop organizer. She made the following possible during my visit in San Antonio:

- . Intercultural exchange between me as a leader Spanish flamenco dancer and flamenco artists living and working in the United States. This allowed mutual sharing of research and practice on how the art of flamenco is evolving in both countries.
- . Premiering avant garde work (MERCURIA and Sombra y Luz/Misterio del Flamenco) and consequently opening new spaces in which knowledge of modern flamenco may create new audiences and enlarge the existing ones.
- . Allowing me to coordinate and mentor her ongoing training, which pervades all aspects of her life: Physical conditioning, reading, study and reflection, along with the practice of traditional flamenco based on study of technique, choreographic composition and music.

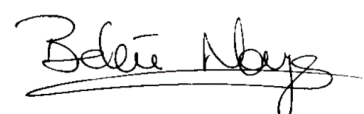
I have seen Tamara Adira go through very difficult professional and personal challenges but her work ethics and love towards her craft, and her core commitment to creating significant art in the form of flamenco and Spanish dance, have carried her through, strengthened her body and soul and consolidated her position as a path opener in San Antonio's flamenco scene.

My current mentoring aims in this direction, showing that a different Flamenco company (integrating text, performance, acting and flamenco) is posible, by revealing and empowering Tamara Adira's artistic prowess and letting her be a mirror for other cross cultural artists.

Attaining this grant would allow the extended research and process time this kind of artistic challenge demands. It would take Adira's company to a higher theatrical and choreographic level and might break the "glass ceiling" of many flamenco companies in the United States, who stagnate just for fear of assuming an active role of change and innovation.

It is an honor and a great pleasure to support Tamara Adira in receiving this grant. I have complete confidence in that it will allow her to continue refining her art and expanding the knowledge and enjoyment of flamenco, dance and Spanish culture in her community and in the United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Belén Maya". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.