

UBW, Inc.

(Brooklyn, NY)

2005 and 2006 Advanced Training Institutes**Total Award: \$200,000 over 2 Years**

To support the 2005 and 2006 Advanced Training Institutes (ATI), summer initiatives that impart community engagement strategies to dancers, community organizers, educators and choreographers. The purpose of the ATI is to give UBW company members, new institute participants, and returning participants an opportunity identify a community challenge and address it through movement, spoken word and music. Institute participants research and study the issue. They engage in dialogue and creative exchange and develop collaborative activities with community members that strengthen participants' understanding of effective community practice. The expectation is that institute participants will use their acquired skill in their home communities. Founded in 1984, UBW is an internationally recognized performance ensemble that relocated from Tallahassee, Florida where there was a very small funding community, to Brooklyn, New York. Since its inception, UBW has been committed to validating the voices of individuals by nurturing leadership skills and facilitating the use of art as a means of encouraging social responsibility and civic engagement. In 2004, the UBW Summer Institute enrolled 42 participants and was organized around the theme of voter education and registration. The resulting performance piece, *Are We Democracy?* was performed at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Joe's Pub and the Festival of Arts and Ideas. The film of the performance has been shown at conferences around the country. In 2005 and 2006, UBW will build a leadership base of community arts practitioners; collect stories about successful projects implemented by participants and others; provide a venue for renewal; document workshops, expand the organization's website to facilitate networking and develop a five year plan.

Program Contribution Breakdown:**\$200,000** Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategy 4*