

DANCECITY ©

Dance for the North East

Dance City Professional Artist Development work and programming

Dance City works to support, develop and promote dance makers. We are situated in the North East of England, therefore our focus is on dance makers from this region, but not to the exclusion of others.

We are interested in work which resonates with an audience, work that has meaning and progresses the art form of dance.

We always consider the Arts Council England Creative Case for Diversity, gender balance, socio-economic groups and all the protected characteristics in the Equality and Diversity Act (2010) when making our decisions on the following. We aim to always have a balanced panel of decision makers across all of our activities where possible. It is clearly stated when, how and who makes the decisions in each category. We always aim to have a gender balanced panel making decisions.

Our work with dance-makers consists of:

Commissions:

Dance City has a new commissioning structure. Our commissions are for those based in the North East of England only and not an NPO. We advertise our commissioning opportunities each year via our website, dance-maker newsletter and social media. This programme rolls each year, for example in 2018 all 3 stages will be occurring simultaneously. Each year we do the following:

Stage 1:

Stage 1 by open application (January each year)

Up to 5 new, short pieces of work of approximately 5-10 minutes in duration receiving up to £1500 commission each. We expect these commissions to be risk-taking and ambitious. These pieces will be performed as part of our Dance Edits regional professional showcase event in September/ October at Dance City. We will endeavour to commission

Decision by Programme Manager and Artistic Director and non-North East independent artist.

Stage 2:

Support for the development of up to 2 of the Stage 1 short pieces, extending them to 20-30 mins. Each will receive up to £2500.

Appropriate performance opportunities for these works will be sought.

Decision by Programme Manager, Artistic Director and non-North East independent artist.

Stage 3:

1 new, full length work of approximately 50-70 minutes to be performed as part of the Dance City Professional Performance Programme within the year of the commission receiving up to £7,500 commission. This will usually be a further development of one of the stage 2 pieces.

Decision by Artistic Director and non-North East independent artist.

Through our commissioning programme we commission with financial support 8 North East dance-makers every year (by 2018). In addition we directly support at least a further 8 dance-makers through providing free or heavily subsidised studio and theatre space and through 'hands-on' advice and support.

In addition to this we work with on average another 80 dance-makers, providing them with free or heavily reduced studio and theatre space. These 80 people are the leads, often there are a number of dancers working with alongside them, making the actual number much larger.

Associate Dance Makers:

By open application (January each year)

Dance City has two Associate Choreographic Dance-Makers in support of dance-makers' professional and creative development. Two Associate Choreographic Dance-Makers awards are made each year. We look for dance-makers exploring their practice and who can positively contribute to the dance ecology in the North East. One of our Associate Choreographic Dance-Makers will be 'early career'. The other Associate Choreographic Dance-Maker will be 'more established'. At least one of these will be from the North East.

Companies/ dance-makers who are in receipt of ACE NPO funding are not eligible.

The awards are for 1 year, usually running from 1 April – 31 March.

Dance City 'Associate Choreographic Dance-Maker' are be entitled to the following (by arrangement):

- Associate Choreographic Dance-Maker's bursary of £1000
- Free rehearsal space, up to 80 hours in one of Dance City's studios or theatre.
- Theatre time – 16 hours in the Dance City theatre with support from a Dance City technician.

- Meeting rooms – available to book free of charge, up to 20 hours per year
- Marketing and Fundraising advice – provided by Dance City staff.
- Financial advice – provided by Dance City staff (if required).
- Profiling opportunities – profiled on Dance City’s website, and other platforms.
- One complimentary ticket to each professional production presented at Dance City.
- Classes programme – complimentary tickets to Dance City’s classes programme, including daily professional class.

Decision by Programme Manager ‘early career dance-maker’; Artistic Director ‘more established dance-maker’ with advice from independent dance artist.

Professional Theatre Programme:

By invitation (year round)

Dance City has a growing professional performance programme. We believe it is the largest theatre-based dance programme outside London. We programme dance work from a range of companies and dance-makers. The work is eclectic but must have a resonance with an audience. We provide honest and clear communications with audiences about the work we programme. Most shows have a post-performance talk after the first night with members of the creative team of that company and the dancers, to reveal more about the work.

Our programme includes a strand for children, young people and families. We have two performance platforms each year:

Northern Platforms: work from the North East, Yorkshire, the North West and Scotland.

Dance Edits: Work from the North East of England and occasional guests.

Decision by Programme Manager (Platforms), Programme Coordinator and Artistic Director

Artist Development Programme:

Free access (year round)

Dance City provides free daily class of 90 minutes duration in ballet, contemporary and a guest teacher class in various styles each week for professional dance-makers.

In addition we provide a series of workshops in specialised areas.

Residencies:

By invitation (year round)

Dance City provides a series of residencies each year, these are for both North East, national and international dance-makers.

Where possible we invite international dance-makers to the region to develop their work, lead professional class, open their rehearsals and

share their practice, enriching and expanding the knowledge of dance-makers in the North East region.

Decision by Programme Manager and Artistic Director

Creative Summer:

By application and invitation (March each year)

Each Summer Dance City provides around 16 weeks of free studio space to dance-makers to try out new ideas and develop their working practice. This is by application process and on occasion by invitation. Often dance-makers who have applied for other areas of our work but have been unsuccessful are invited to Creative Summer so we can see their work and begin a relationship with them.

This work is shared each Friday at Dance City during the Creative Summer time.

Decision by Programme Manager and Artistic Director

At Home:

Free access (year round)

Dance City provides free studio space to dance-makers the week before it is available, on a first come, first served basis, when available.

Expanding Horizons (limited time Esmee Fairbairn funded project – to July 2017):

By application (final applications by 1st April 2016)

Dance City is delivering a two year project, for 10 dance-makers each year to support their artistic practice, develop their leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

This projects has been funded by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation.

Decision by Programme Manager

Ad hoc Support for Professional Dance-Makers

Dance City's Programme Manager offers advice and support throughout the year to all professional dancers and dance makers from new graduates to those more established in their careers. As well as one-to-one support, we offer opportunities each term to meet informally with the Programme Manager and other professionals to talk about current issues in dance in the region, consult on new ideas and to ask for feedback and input to our professional offer.

Advice and support offered by the Programme Manager, Technical Manager and Communications Managers includes Grants for the Arts and funding applications to trusts and foundations, as well as producing, budget management, marketing and technical support, networking and promotional opportunities.

Professional Dance-Makers Newsletter

Every fortnight we produce a Professional dance-makers newsletter, highlighting opportunities for professionals inside and outside the region, professional class and workshops on offer, upcoming performances and platforms, jobs, auditions and training opportunities.

Employment Opportunities

Dance City employs a large number of professional dance-makers to deliver its programmes of activity, such as our community engagement programme: both our classes in the building and those outside of it, and teaching on the BTEC Level 3, BA and MA programmes.

Artist Advisory Panel

To meet two to three times each year to discuss Dance City strategic decision making and advise of future activities.

Shadowing

Artists to shadow the Artistic Director and Programme Manager to understand their job and roles.