

'Made In The North East' Commission Expression of Interest

EASY READ



Dance City – (Dance Agency & Project Lead)

Dance City is a place where people, both amateur and professionals, go to socialise, learn new skills, keep fit and active, train professionally and find out more about dance. Established for over 30 years Dance City is the North East's leading development organisation for dance.



Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (Partner & Funder)

They are an organisation who give funding for projects. They have generously supported this commission.



'Made In The North East'

This is the name of our new commission. We want to work with a dance artist or company to make a new piece of work. We are awarding a commission pot of £25,000 (includes commission fee and performance fees), and we expect the artist or company to raise extra money to make their work too. The consortium's collective ambition is to make a world class piece of work with national significance, made here in the North East.



Why?

This project will help our partner venues better understand how to successfully book dance shows for their theatres and their audiences. We are providing lots of meetings, training sessions and support to help everyone understand more about making a new dance work, going on a regional tour and marketing the show to more people.



These are our partner venues who are taking part in the project. The new work will tour to all of these venues between Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022.

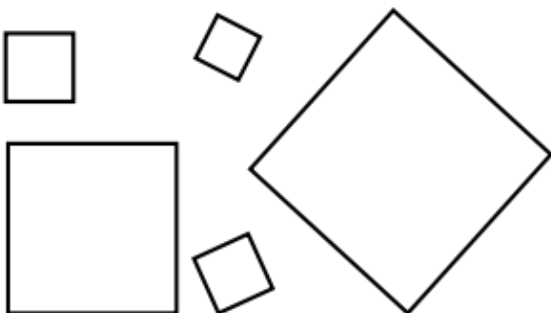
- Alnwick Playhouse (Alnwick),
- Queens Hall (Hexham),
- Middlesbrough Town Hall (Middlesbrough),
- The Witham (Barnard Castle),
- The Fire Station (Sunderland),
- Darlington Hippodrome (Darlington)
- Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre (Hartlepool)
- Gosforth Civic Theatre (Newcastle)

We are looking for an artist/company who either lives, is/are based or is/are from the North East, and who are committed to making their work here and investing long term in the dance ecology of our region.



At the end of this project, in Spring 2022, we want venues to be programming more dance shows in their theatres. We also want them to know more about the local, regional and national dance ecology. We also want their audiences to feel more confident about coming to see a dance show.

Dance City already have lots of skills and expertise about programming dance, so we will be sharing our knowledge with our partners and listening to their experiences too, so we learn more together. There is a project producer to support you, and you can work with your own producer too.



The new work made by the artist or company will need to be flexible and adaptable to lots of different sized and shaped indoor spaces. All of the theatres you will be visiting on the tour are different, with different facilities available. Please ask us if you want to see the Technical Specification documents.



Eligibility

Artist/Company must:

- Be based in or are from the North East region.
- Be makers of dance or physical theatre work of any genre. Circus arts are not eligible for this opportunity.
- Consider themselves to be mid-career, with a strong track record of making and touring work in the UK.
- Have a commitment to developing work, partnerships and audiences within the region on a medium to long term basis.
- Have experience of applying to Arts Council England's Project Grants programme and/or similar fundraising from other sources.
- Have experience of touring dance work to small and mid-scale venues.
- We are looking for new work, or work currently at an early stage of Research & Development. Re-imagined or already completed works are not eligible.
- Only one application per artist/company.



Things to think about:

Within applications for this commission we are also looking for evidence of:

- consideration for audiences both new and existing for the partners and you as the artist or company
- evidence of quality in the work you/your company produces.
- how the "*Made In The North East*" Commission will develop your own practice as a maker.
- consideration of partners and stakeholders, both established relationships and identifying potential collaborators.
- how your work meets the needs of venues, practically, ethically and artistically.
- A commitment to employing regionally based or artists from the North East.
- A commitment to deliver a series of workshops to local communities to support to delivery of the commissioned work to partner venues.
- Actively consider and implement Arts Council England's Creative Case for Diversity and Temporary Equality Objectives in the design of the activity alongside partner venues.



We know the world is very different now, and making a new dance work during a pandemic might be tricky sometimes. We, partners and funders, are going to be flexible and adaptable. The way we work together will be made safe, and we will still aim to make the best possible project we can, even if circumstances make this harder.

We want you to think carefully about how your work might need to change and adapt during the making process to:

- reach audiences online
- rehearse, make and create using social distancing guidelines if necessary
- adapt to a variety of spaces e.g. varying stage dimensions, streaming online etc
- make sure your work is accessible to those with disabilities

Partner venues have indicated that they can offer rehearsal space for the creation period between May 2021 – January 2022, with a tour likely to take place between in Spring 2022. (exact dates still to be negotiated)

How to Apply

There is a 3 step process

1. Expression of Interest form – this is where you tell us briefly about your ideas. This step lets us check that you are eligible and if your idea has potential to be successful for this commission.
2. Invitation to write a full application. If you are shortlisted and the panel like your application, you will be invited to write a longer application where you give us more detail about your project idea. (Bursaries of £100 available to shortlisted artists)
3. Interviews. If your application is liked by the panel, you will be invited for an interview to discuss your idea more.

The decision-making panel will consist of representatives from each partner venue.

After this, the successful artist or company will be chosen.



Timeline:

Friday 23 October	Opportunity opens for Expressions of Interest
Friday 20 November	Deadline for EOI submissions
Wednesday 25 November	Selected applicants invited to submit full applications
Monday 7 December	Deadline for full applications
Thursday 10 December	Shortlisted applicants invited to interview
Wednesday 16 December	Interviews with applicants via Zoom
Thursday 17 December	Final Selections made and artists notified

Dance City reserves the right to alter the timeline should the need arise.

Evaluation Criteria



Capability = do you have the skills and experience to do this well?

- Demonstrate a proven high level of capability in producing quality dance work for small to mid-scale theatres
- Demonstrate experience working in the North East region and/or has contributed to the region within the last 5 years
- Demonstrate staffing and knowledge capacity to deliver work to a high standard



Viability = is this a good idea and are you the right person/people to do it?

- Suitability of the artist/company's work for partner venues facilities
- The scale of the artist/company's proposed work is appropriate for the budget available
- Demonstrate best practice regarding governance and management of resources

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Stakeholder Management = these are your partners, collaborators, investors and funders who support you to make your work.

- The artist/company has a proven track record and ability in developing successful partnerships and working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, including arts organisations, community groups, local businesses and children and young people.

☒ **Yes**
☐ **No**
☐ **Maybe**

Consent = do you agree to do the following things as part of the project?

- The artist/company consents to participate fully in the process of the project, to support venues in achieving the best possible understanding of making, programming and touring new dance work. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Meetings, Q&A's, pre/post show talks, formal and informal discussions around relevant topics
 - The documentation of the process by partner venues through various means including photography, videography, interviews and written text
- The artist/company agrees to participate in the culminating symposium event to celebrate the project achievements in 2022 (date TBC). This will include sharing a short excerpt of the new work, as well as delivering feedback to audiences. The format of the symposium will be designed in consultation with the commissioned



On the left is Alex Anslow, she is the Programme Coordinator and Creative Producer at Dance City. On the right is Phil Douglas, he is Creative Producer at Dance City.



If you would like a short 10 minute, informal conversation, please contact Alex or Phil at Dance City via email alex.anslow@dancecity.co.uk or phil.douglas@dancecity.co.uk or call 0191 261 0505, between the hours of 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Eligible artists/companies are required to complete the expression of interest Submission Form/Video located on the Dance City website: www.dancecity.co.uk/professional-artists/commissions/ and submit them to Alex Anslow alex.anslow@dancecity.co.uk by **Friday 20 November 2020 at 5pm.**

(Applications submitted after this date will not be considered)

We actively encourage applications from artists who self-identify as black, Asian, ethnically diverse , lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, neurodiverse or disabled.

Thank you