

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022



Call out for Dance City's annual commissions programme is now open!

Dance City is seeking applications from dance artists/makers from across the North East to apply for our annual Commission programme which will support up to 6 artists/companies to develop new dance work from an overall budget of up to £31,000.

There are 3 commission strands available:

- Full Production
- Early Stage Work
- Charlotte Grant Early Career Award

We recommend that you read the guidance carefully to ensure you select the most appropriate strand for your work.

Please only apply for one work per company, per commission round.

All strands are open to all artists/companies (not NPOs), regardless of whether you've applied for or received a commission from us previously. Across the 3 commission strands we actively encourage application from artists who self-identify as black, Asian, ethnically diverse, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, neurodiverse, disabled and mature (10 years plus of professional practice), the latter an area highlighted by our 2019 sector consultation. We define dance in this context as all styles and genres of movement focused work, including aerial and circus arts.

All strands welcome artists/companies who are producing a full-length live performance, film or outdoor dance work. Any film work is to be in accordance with Arts Council England's definition, 'creative films that involve artists working in our supported artforms and where film is the medium for their work.'

Please note if you are interested in site responsive or specific outdoor work a further round of commissions will be launched in early 2021.

The start date for the commission period is April 2021 – March 2022. Commission funds will be released in installments from April 2021, to be discussed with Dance City.

This commissioning programme is exclusively for artists who are from, who studied at undergraduate level or above, or who are based in the North East of England. The lead applicant must show their connections and commitment to developing the North East dance sector.

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022



The application process is in three stages:

1. Stage 1 - Expression of Interest
2. Stage 2 - Full Application
3. Stage 3 - Interviews

Dance City is mindful about the context of these commissions within a world shaped by the ongoing pandemic, and how that will influence the nature of the work created and the impact of closures on our theatres, audience confidence and our collective ability to adapt in order to maintain high standards whilst embedding safe practices within the commission's framework. We encourage you to think carefully how your proposal can be adapted, for example:

- how you may best reach audiences including online or outdoors
- rehearsing, making and creating using social distancing guidelines if necessary
- adapting to a variety of spaces e.g. studios, streaming etc
- making sure your work is accessible to those with disabilities

Government guidelines as well as Dance City's in-house COVID safe produces must be adhered to at all times during your engagement with us.

You can read Dance City's COVID-19 Risk Assessment here - <https://www.dancecity.co.uk/covid-19-risk-assessment/> (please note this is updated regularly)

Dance City commissions are as follows:

### • Full production

This opportunity is for artists/companies who are producing a full-length live performance, film or outdoor dance work (minimum of 50 minutes in length)

Up to 2 artists/companies will be awarded up to £10,000 each

Please note, only up to one grant could be awarded for a full-length film or outdoor dance application.

Each artist/company will receive:

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022



- A date in Dance City's Professional Performance Programme 2021-2022 if appropriate. Alternative platforms can be discussed with Dance City's programming staff.

The following In-Kind support:

- Fifteen days of in-kind studio space in either our Newcastle or Sunderland studios (depending on availability). In-kind value up to £1,000 per week.
- Marketing advice, support and consultancy specific to this work (for example, could consist of, social media support and promotion opportunities, and up to eight hours of Marketing and Audience Development advice). In-kind value up to £1,000.
- Up to 10 hours of producing support specific to this work. In-kind value up to £500.
- Up to one meeting with the Technical Manager, one full production day in the Theatre in Newcastle in advance of the performance and one performance day in the theatre. In-kind value up to £2,350.
- Up to 20 days of free hot-desking space in our new 'Co-Working Hub' in Newcastle. In-kind value up to £400.
- Up to eight hours of free access to our meeting room facilities in Newcastle. In-kind value up to £200.
- Potential opportunity to have your commission piece and experience digitally documented online. In-kind value up to £500.

Total in-kind value for full commissions: up to £7,950.

The commissioned artist/company agrees to:

- Offer a minimum of two 1.5hr professional classes (or equivalent 3hr workshop/talk) at our Newcastle venue as part of our morning Pro Class offer to local professional dance artists
- Offer a minimum of one opportunity for local professional artists/companies to access open rehearsals/talks/workshops/informal sharing's
- Offer a minimum of one opportunity for audiences to experience their work/rehearsal/process
- Attend meetings with the Dance City team to evaluate progress

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022



- Deliver an engagement activity or post-show discussion with the audience after the performance at Dance City
- Take part in Dance City's documentation and promotion of the Dance City commission's programme. Supply images and copy when requested and in response to deadlines.

### • **Early Stage Production**

This commission is for development of early stage work - a live dance performance, film or outdoor dance work (15 – 30 minutes in duration)

Up to 2 artists/companies will be offered up to £4,000 each

Please note, only up to one grant could be awarded for an Early Stage Production film or outdoor dance application.

Each artist/company will receive:

- A performance slot in Dance Edits programme (date TBC) if appropriate for the work produced. Other platform opportunities can be discussed with Dance City programming staff.

The following In-Kind support:

- 10 days of in-kind studio space in either our Newcastle or Sunderland studios (depending on availability). In-kind value up to £1,000.
- Up to three hours of marketing support specific to this work (for example, could consist of, social media support, self-marketing pack, audience advice and support promotional opportunities via Dance City marketing channels). In-kind value up to £400.
- Up to three hours of producing support specific to this work. In-kind value up to £150.
- Up to three hours of technical support specific to this work. In-kind value up to £185.
- Up to five days of free hot-desking space in our new 'Co-Working Hub' in Newcastle. In-kind value up to £100.
- Up to 4 hours of free access to our meeting room facilities in Newcastle. In-kind value up to £120.

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022



- Potential opportunity to have your commission piece and experience digitally documented online. In-kind value up to £500.
- 

Total in-kind value for Early Stage commission: up to £3,455

The commissioned artist/company agrees to:

- Offer a minimum of 1 professional class at our Newcastle venue as part of our morning Pro Class offer to local dance artists
- Offer a minimum of 1 opportunity for local professional artists/companies to access open rehearsals/talks/workshops/informal sharing's
- Offer a minimum of 1 opportunity for audiences to experience their work/rehearsal/process
- Attend meetings with the Dance City team to evaluate progress
- Take part in Dance City's documentation and promotion of the Dance City commission's programme. Supply images and copy when requested and in response to deadlines.

### • **Charlotte Grant Early Career Artist Award**

*This commission strand is kindly supported by the Charlotte Grant legacy donation gifted by her family, and supported and match funded by Arts Council England. This commission strand is created in memory of Charlotte who trained and developed her professional career here at Dance City, and generously pays forward this opportunity for more artists to follow in her footsteps.*

This commission is to support recent BA or MA graduates who have graduated in the last three years and who are from, who live and/or who have trained at undergraduate level or above in the North East of England.

There are two opportunities for commissions to develop early stage work - a live dance performance, film or outdoor work (5 – 15 minutes in duration)

Up to 2 artists will receive a commission of up to £1,500 each

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022



At least one of the commissioned pieces will be a live performance to be showcased in Dance City's theatre.

Each graduate will receive:

- A performance slot in Dance Edits programme Autumn 2021 or an alternative equivalent if appropriate for the work produced. Other platform opportunities can be discussed with Dance City programming staff.

The following In-Kind support:

- Five days of in-kind studio space in either our Newcastle or Sunderland studios (depending on availability). In-kind value up to £1,000.
- Up to three hours of marketing support specific to this work (for example, could consist of, social media support, self-marketing pack, audience advice and support promotional opportunities via Dance City marketing channels). In-kind value up to £400.
- Up to three hours of producing support specific to this work. In-kind value up to £150.
- Up to three hours of technical support specific to this work. In-kind value up to £185.
- Up to five days of free hot-desking space in our new 'Co-Working Hub' in Newcastle. In-kind value up to £100.
- Up to four hours of free access to our meeting room facilities in Newcastle. In-kind value up to £120.
- Potential opportunity to have your commission piece and experience digitally documented online. In-kind value up to £500.

Total in-kind value of Charlotte Grant commission: £2,455

The commissioned artist/company agrees to:

- Offer a minimum of one opportunity for local professional artists/companies to access open rehearsals/talks/workshops/informal sharing's
- Offer a minimum of one opportunity for audiences to experience their work/rehearsal/process
- Attend meetings with the Dance City team to evaluate progress

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022

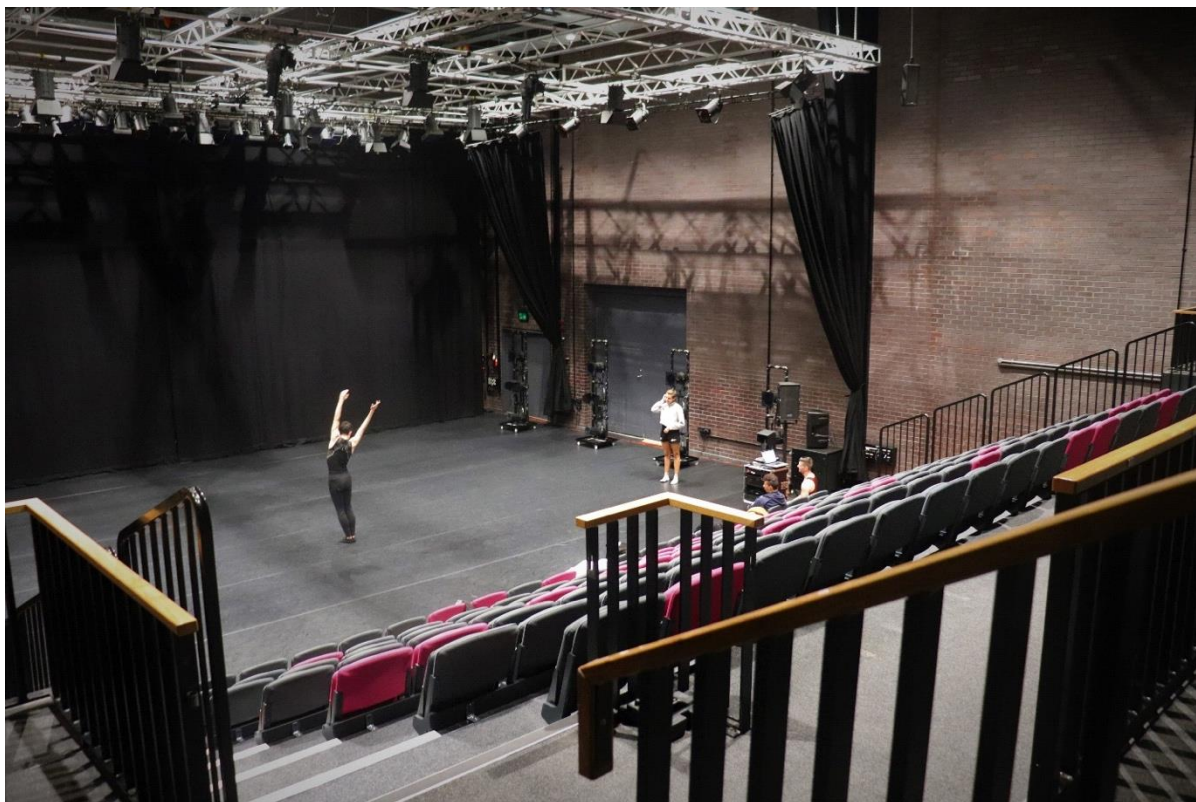


- Take part in Dance City's documentation and promotion of the Dance City commission's programme. Supply images and copy when requested and in response to deadlines.

### Dance City Newcastle – Theatre

Our Theatre is an extremely versatile space, with 240 brand new seats, raked across two levels providing unrestricted views throughout the auditorium. The lower section of the rake is retractable to accommodate cabaret or smaller scale performances and events.

We also have four dressing rooms complete with shower and toilet facilities. A full lighting rig and sound system are in situ and we can also screen films on the large white cyclorama at the back of the space.



(Image credit: Pip Kyle, artists featured Eliot Smith Dance)

Technical Specification, click on this link: <https://www.dancecity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Dance-City-Tech-Spec-July-19-1.pdf>

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022



For information on how to apply, please click [here](#). (link to website)

For a video to Dance City Commissions information including BSL interpretation, [click here](#).

For an easy read version of the Dance City Commissions information [click here](#).

### Overall Guidelines

- We wish to see evidence that you have considered producer support, mentoring support, and evidence of how your proposed activity will contribute to the dance sector.
- Please outline which other sources of funding you are exploring to support this application. We encourage you to leverage further funding from this commission from other funders, venues and partners.
- The work can be tailored towards small, medium or large scale across each of the 3 strands.
- Please note that costs and management to mount or install outdoor work is the responsibility of the applicant. Evidence of Licenses, Permits and Risk Assessments for the work must be available on request. Dance City can offer support and advice if required.
- Technical specifications for film work must be budgeted for in the artist's application. Dance City can offer to support with equipment from our in-house facilities, but additional hires must be covered by the applicant.



# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022



### Commissioning Programme Application Process 2021/2022:

Please complete the Expression of Interest application form below, answering all the questions. If you have any access requirements and need support with the application process, please contact Alex Anslow at Dance City: [Alex.Anslow@dancecity.co.uk](mailto:Alex.Anslow@dancecity.co.uk) We can accept video applications, with responses following the same questions below, or we can arrange a face to face meeting with one of our team which constitutes a verbal application.

Please email the completed Expression of Interest form/video to [Alex](mailto:Alex) with **Dance City Commission 2021/22** in the subject line, by 12 noon, **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. (Applications submitted after this date will not be considered)

### Which commission are you applying for?

Full Production

Early Stage

Charlotte Grant Graduate Work

**Name of applicant:**

**Email address:**

**Number/s:**

**Address:**

## Expression of Interest

- 1. Please tell us about your recent artistic work, experience, and achievements. (250 words)**  
(Artistic interests, style and inspiration for your work. What have you previously made?)
- 2. What is your artistic concept for the Commission? (250 words)**  
(Please describe the idea for your artistic work)
- 3. What is your timeframe for the project? (100 words)**  
(Make sure to leave enough time to submit Arts Council England applications)
- 4. What is your commitment / connection to the North East? (150 words)** (Do you live, or did you train here? How will you contribute to the development of the dance sector?)
- 5. Please briefly describe the partnerships, funding and mentoring relationships you currently have in place or intend to develop through this commission (250 words)**

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS

## INFORMATION 2021-2022



6. Please detail your current or prospective creative team (e.g dramaturg, lighting/costume designer, tour manager, producer etc) (150 words)

### Timeline

Thanks to feedback from artists and applicants from our 2020-21 commission process, we have adapted our application process for 2021-22, taking into consideration the time and investment each artist makes towards their applications, as well as offering a stipend to those invited to Stage 2, and a further stipend for those who are unsuccessful at Stage 3, to positively compensate for their involvement in the process.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Announcement – Upcoming Commissions opportunity and Panel  | Thursday 3 December 2020 – 10am             |
| Announcement – Commissions <b>Stage One</b> Expression of Interest process open for applications ( <i>open for 3 weeks</i> ) | Thursday 17 December 2020 – 10am            |
| Deadline   | Thursday 7 January 2021 – 12noon            |
| Shortlisting EOI's by panel – ( <i>5 working days</i> )  | Friday 8 January – Thursday 14 January 2021 |
| Artists notified of EOI outcome; shortlist invited to complete <b>Stage Two</b> Full Application                             | Friday 15 January 2021 – 10am               |
| Deadline   | Friday 29 January 2021 – 12noon             |
| Final shortlisting for interview   | Monday 1 & Tuesday 2 February 2021          |
| Artists notified of Full Application outcome   | Wednesday 3 February 2021                   |
| Interviews   | Monday 8 February – Friday 12 February 2021 |
| Deadline for successful artists to submit headshots, comments and sign off press release                                     | Monday 22 February 2021 – 12noon            |

# DANCE CITY COMMISSIONS INFORMATION 2021-2022



|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Announcement – public press release of successful artists | Friday 26 February 2021 |
|---|-------------------------|

## **Stipends:**

Stage 1 – No stipend

Stage 2 - £100 stipend for Full Production and Early Stage, £50 stipend for Charlotte Grant

Stage 3 - £50 stipend for artists unsuccessful in being awarded a commission at the interview stage

(The above amounts are including VAT, and paid by BACS upon receipt of an invoice.)