

DANCE CONSORTIUM NORTH WEST – Gallery Commission

**COMMISSIONING NEW DANCE FROM THE NORTH WEST ARTISTS
July 2019**

Dance Consortia North West (DCNW) is delighted to announce two opportunities for dance artists who live or work in the North West of England.

The opportunities are:

- Support to develop a new dance work for gallery spaces in partnership with Culture Warrington and Lancaster Arts
- Support to develop a new dance for outdoor presentation in partnership with Now Northwich and SpareParts Festival.

We can offer an initial fee of £3.5K for each successful application, £1.5K of which can be used as match for National Lottery Project Grant funding.

We will provide:

- Advice and support on developing your Project Grant application
- Negotiated in-kind space to develop the piece
- Opportunities to work in-situ
- Opportunities to present the work publicly.

Timetable:

- Closing Date for applications: 13 September 2019
- Commission awarded by end of September
- Funding bids developed and submitted during October and November
- Development Phase January to September 2020
- Public sharings in October 2020

Subject to successful initial presentation in 2020, there is an additional fund of £7.5K to support either the gallery or outdoor commission going on tour – either through further creative development (e.g. choreographic mentorship or the artist selecting to work with an additional creative collaborator) or through providing tour booking, showcases and high quality marketing materials.

We are particularly interested in applications from artists with a disability or from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic artists.

Earlier R&D

We anticipate that your concept will have already been through some form of research and development and excerpts may have even been shared at a scratch night or showcase. We want to help you develop this to a piece that is ready to be presented at the commissioning partners' gallery or festival in the first instance. This is a creative commission and we acknowledge that the

development could stop at the end of each stage; however we want to work in partnership at each stage to maximise success.

A New Dance Work for Gallery Spaces

This commission will be developed and presented with Warrington Museum and Art Gallery and the Peter Scott Gallery at Lancaster University with performances to take place in October 2020.

The commission should respond to these very specific but different galleries but also have the flexibility to be re-worked for other gallery spaces. The presentations in October 2020 will form part of Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival and Lancaster Arts autumn season. Themes for both are being developed and will be shared with short-listed artists.

Once appointed, the three commissioners, Culture Warrington, Lancaster Arts and DCNW, will work closely with you to plan the development of the work.

We are looking for work that should be:

- Ideally between 15 and 30 minutes in length.
- For a minimum of two performers.
- A work that will have a strong impact on audiences in the chosen locations.
- A work that also moves your professional development forward.
- A work that is able to tour to other gallery spaces

Warrington Museum and Art Gallery is a Grade II listed building opened in 1858 built in brick and stone. It houses over 2,000 artefacts from across the globe in addition to a collection of historic and contemporary art. The Museum and Art Gallery has a mixture of traditional and contemporary spaces over its three storeys.

Peter Scott Art Gallery is a constituent part of Lancaster Arts, a combined arts organisation based at Lancaster University. It presents a varied programme of contemporary exhibitions complimented by displays drawn from the gallery collection which includes British, European and Asian artworks. The collection continues to develop through contemporary acquisitions and also features a significant holding of Pilkington's ceramics. The gallery opened in its current location in 1988 and features three presentation galleries including a double height main gallery with balcony.

Both have hosted dance events before.

Staged development:

1. Commission Awarded – September 2019

A fee of £3.5K will be available upon being commissioned. In addition the Consortia can bring a range of other resources to support the development of the work:

- Guided tours of the spaces and collections.
- Studio space in both locations and across the Consortia network. Exact numbers of weeks and times to be agreed.

- Development time in the gallery spaces themselves working around other commitments
- Access to technical advice
- An advisory panel of co-commissioning partners to give feedback and advice at the start and the midpoint of your development process.
- Opportunities to share work-in-progress with invited, peer audiences
- Access to digital and music studios if required at Consortia partner venues.

The specific support programme will be negotiated in response to need and availability with the successful dance artist.

2. National Lottery Project Grant application – October/November 2019

£1.5K of this commissioning fee can be used as match funding for ACE National Lottery Project Grants. We anticipate that the successful applicants will submit an application under this programme to increase the available resources for development of the piece. We anticipate confirming the successful commission award in September with the development work to start from January 2020 onwards which would allow for a National Lottery Project Grant to be submitted and assessed in this period.

3. Project Development and Sharing – from January to October 2020

Using the different spaces and resources from the Consortia, the development phase will take place over approximately nine months if needed. Your costings for this development phase should include up to three presentations of the work hosted by each gallery in October. Co-commissioning galleries would also want to open agreed elements of the process up to students or other artists e.g. observing devising workshops or tech rehearsals and would want to work with the artists on creating social media and blog content about the process.

As part of your application you should provide a budget showing how the commissioning fee and the National Lottery Project Grant award alongside in-kind resources are used to cover each phase. For sharings of the work please estimate all costs in addition to fees for performers and creative teams. If your National Lottery Project Grant is unsuccessful, DCNW will review the situation with you and assess whether a second application or a smaller scale work is an appropriate and viable alternative next step.

There will be review points with the selected artists and the commissioning partners at specific stages: when the outcome of the bid to National Lottery Project Grants is known, at the start and at the mid-point of the development process.

Evaluation

One aspect of the commission is to test DCNW as a commissioning partnership. The successful applicant will be expected to take part in an evaluation of the process and to document learning to inform future commissions.

Future Presentations

Following sharing in 2020, either the gallery or the outdoor commission will be selected for additional support to take it on a more extensive tour later that year or the following year.

Eligibility

- We will not accept applications if you are an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) or if you are currently studying.
- These commissions are only open to artists living or working in the North West
- We will only accept applications where the proposed work has been through some form of earlier R&D or you can demonstrate earlier research and collaboration that would allow you to deliver the commission in the proposed timetable

Making an Application:

We are asking that you submit an application of 4 sides (if written) or a video/audio recording of up to 10 minutes to tell us:

- about your ideas and who you are making the work with e.g. choreographers, creative artists, mentors and advisors.
- why you are interested in making sited work if you haven't before or how this project will be a development of other work you may have made for gallery spaces.
- What previous R&D or collaboration has taken place to support this work
- how long you think it will take to make, in a simple project plan.
- how you will allocate the fee and what further in-kind support you want from us presented in a simple budget including the money you expect to get from elsewhere (cash & in kind with dates by which you expect to receive it)
- your artistic track record including links to your previous work, your website/social media streams or film channels.

Short-listed applicants will be invited to an interview in late September, likely to be 20th, 25th or 27th September tbc.

Contacts for more information:

The deadline for application is Friday 13 September. We are happy to have a short conversation by email or phone, if you need to talk things through. Please contact Ivan Wadeson, Partnerships Director, at DCNW.

Submission deadline:

Please submit your final submission by 5pm on Friday 13 September 2019. You may deliver your application by email, post or by hand.

Please email applications to ivan@cheshiredance.org or post to:

Ivan Wadeson, Partnerships Director
Dance Consortia North West
c/o Cheshire Dance
Winsford Library
High Street
Winsford
Cheshire CW7 2AS

Decision making:

A panel made up of the co-commissioning partners and advisers will assess applications. A short-list of artists will be invited to interview and travel expenses provided. If you are commissioned, we expect that you commit to:

- capture or document your experience(s) and learning via a blog
- share and show your learning with the wider sector, physically and/or digitally, in a format agreed with DCNW this might include attending arts meetings and/or giving presentations about your work
- engage in media, PR, promotional & advocacy opportunities for no additional fee
- show clearly how you spend the money, providing receipts if requested
- evaluate what happens as you develop and make the work
- credit of DCNW and partners' support in a specified format on all publicity & in all PR during the commission period.



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Dance Consortia North West is a new, innovative partnership creating a cohesive programme of dance development. DCNW's three year development has been led by an influential group of partners including The Lowry, Contact, The Bluecoat, dance development organisations Cheshire Dance, Merseyside Dance Initiative and Ludus Dance, the nine universities who teach dance in the North West and the voice of the independent artist through the 100 member-strong ALFA network for dance artists. DCNW has support and investment from Arts Council England and in its first year of funding is delivering mentoring for dance artists, an artist development partnership with The Lowry, commissions for new dance works from North West artists and fundraising to initiate further opportunities for artists and audience development in the region.



Culture Warrington is a charitable trust, formed in 2012, and manages three key cultural venues in the town, including Pyramid, Parr Hall, and Warrington Museum & Art Gallery, as well as delivering the ever-popular Warrington Contemporary Arts Festival.

Situated in the heart of Warrington's Cultural Quarter, Pyramid and Parr Hall are two of the region's leading venues for music, comedy, dance, drama and more, playing host to top industry names such as John Bishop, Stone Roses, and Jimmy Carr.

Warrington Museum & Art Gallery is one of the oldest museums in the country and provides an award-winning programme of events and temporary exhibitions, as well as running regular free family-friendly craft activities throughout the year.



Lancaster Arts plays a dynamic and vital part of the cultural scene in North West, England as a leading commissioner, producer and presenter of contemporary arts.

Our programme is rooted in our venues at Lancaster University presenting world class arts programmes for over 50 years. The Nuffield Theatre is well respected for showcasing emerging and established artists. Throughout its 50 years the theatre has played host to artists such as: Akram Khan, Nigel Charnock, Russell Maliphant and Adrian Howells.

We are proud of our artist support and development programmes for artists at the beginning of their careers to established artists exploring new avenues for their work. We support commissions to develop new work and work closely with our partners to provide opportunities for both artists and our communities.