

## DANCE CONSORTIA NORTH WEST – Outdoor Commission

### COMMISSIONING NEW DANCE FROM 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 devise 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 December 2019 to May 2020
- Public sharing in May/July and 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 standard and length 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 Outdoors**

This commission will be presented at two of the SpareParts Festivals between May and July 2020 and at Now Northwich in October 2020.

SpareParts is an arts programme that wraps around four, 1-day outdoor transport festivals in the North West. SpareParts is interested in artistic and participatory work that connects people and communities to art, performance and spectacle that is on, about or utilises transport and travel in creative ways. Now Northwich is a one-day international festival of dance and street art in the Cheshire market town. Produced by Cheshire Dance, the inaugural festival in 2018 saw over 26,000 people attend.

The theme which we invite artists to respond to is: ***ODYSSEY: A journey, adventure or search; connecting people and places, with the power to change everything***

Once appointed, the three commissioners, SpareParts Festival, Now Northwich and DCNW, will work closely with you to plan the development of the work and select the appropriate festival sites for the work.

We are looking for work that should be:

- Between 20 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 for daytime presentation
- A work that is able to tour to other outdoor festivals and locations

### **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, for instance:

- Guided tours of the festival sites.
- Studio space across the Consortia network. Exact numbers of weeks and times to be agreed.
- Access to technical advice (tech costs will need to be covered)
- 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 December or 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 December 2019 to May 2020

Using the different spaces and resources from the Consortia, the development phase will take place over approximately five months if needed. Your costings for this development phase should include a minimum of two presentations of the work each day at three festivals: Now Northwich in October plus two of the following three SpareParts festivals: Oldham 23 or 30th May, Crewe 4 July and Fleetwood 19th July.

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. Presentation at only Now Northwich in October is also a potential option to be discussed.

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 work for outdoors if you haven't before or how this project will be a development of other work you may have made for outdoors.
- 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 Monday 23 September.

**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](mailto: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 advisors 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 any medium you wish e.g. film, Instagram, blog etc
- 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 artist and audience development in the region.



SpareParts is the UK's first festival of transport-inspired arts and tours the country with a programme of international arts programmes and participation opportunities, designed to delight and excite audiences. SpareParts was first created in 2014, through a unique partnership between volunteer led Fleetwood Festival of Transport, Creative People & Places project LeftCoast and Wyre Council's Arts and Events team. Thanks to the support of Arts Council England, SpareParts went 'on the move' in 2017 & 2018 and toured to Sandbach Transport Festival, TrAction Crewe and of course the original Tram Sunday in Fleetwood. In 2019 Spareparts were delighted to welcome Accelerate Transport Festival in Oldham into the SpareParts family. More than just a chance for audiences to experience an international arts programme in their town, SpareParts also engages with the people who live in the places we visit, giving an opportunity for people to participate in workshops, appear in the SpareParts Arts Parades and volunteer their time to make the festival happen.



Get set for surprises around every corner in Northwich as the hugely successful family-friendly, International Dance & Street Art Festival returns for a second year. From Weaver Way to Witton

Street and Barons Quay, the thoroughfares of this old salt town will transform into a stage on which a cast of local and international artists will perform alongside talented community groups and schools. Now Northwich is produced by Cheshire Dance with partners including Cheshire West and Chester Council, Arts Council England, Northwich Town Council, Barons Quay Development Company, Northwich and Gadbrook Park Business Improvement Districts. Cheshire Dance is a member of the Creative Development Network of Without Walls and one of the founding partners of Dance Consortia North West.