

**50 Years in Motion:
A Cheshire Dance Community
Heritage Project**

Lead Artist /Creative Practitioner (Freelance)

Job Application Pack 2026

Lead Artist / Creative Practitioner 2026

Cheshire Dance is looking for a skilled and experienced Artist / Creative Practitioner to lead it's 50th Birthday Community Heritage Project: 50 Years in Motion.

We would like to commission a high-quality artwork, or creative outcome, that is rooted in and responsive to Cheshire Dance's archive; which holds both physical documents and the organisation's rich, living and embodied heritage.

The commission will centre on collaboration and co-creation, inviting past and present communities to actively explore, contribute and re-imagine the heritage, stories and experiences of Cheshire Dance. In doing so, the artist will create a shared, collective experience that opens up the archive and engages audiences in meaningful and accessible ways during Cheshire Dance's 50th year.

We're open to a range of artforms and creative approaches - particularly those that place participation, dialogue, and artistic excellence at their heart.



Background

As Cheshire Dance reaches its 50th Birthday it will celebrate its role as a pioneering community dance organisation, while recognising that the heritage of community dance is at risk of being lost. It intends to use this special anniversary to look forward as much as to reflect on the past. Through connecting with the rich community of individuals and practices that have shaped and formed the organisation over time, it aims to shine a light on the impact of community dance, the co-created body of knowledge and the learning that will shape the next 50 years.

50 Years in Motion: A Cheshire Dance Community Heritage Project

One strand of the 50th Birthday Programme is a 50 Years in Motion: A Cheshire Dance Community Heritage Project.

Cheshire Dance holds a rich archive of documents, film, music and images; alongside, the living, embodied heritage of Cheshire Dance carried within the bodies of community members who have engaged as participants, artists, learners and staff.

The aim of the 50 Years in Motion is to explore and illuminate the Cheshire Dance archive (living and physical), alongside community members, and share the stories through a creative product. These community members might be local and able to meet up, while others will connect via social media.

Role Overview

The Artist / Creative Practitioner will lead this project strand, working with the Cheshire Dance community to create a meaningful process and high-quality creative outcome that will be shared at events as part of the 50th Birthday programme.



Role Brief

Research and Development:

- To explore the Cheshire Dance Archive (physical and digital)
- To design and deliver creative engagement sessions and encourage volunteering with the Cheshire Dance community; with the aim of gathering stories, reflections and perspectives on the organisation and its impact over the last 50 years
- Research and uncover new stories, whether they are in news articles or documents; or from conversations with members of Cheshire Dance community
- To work with the Digital Marketing Officer to engage the Cheshire Dance community from the past 50 years (a dedicated Facebook group has recently been launched)

Creative Outputs:

- To work with the Nexus Young Leaders and Cheshire Dance Freelancers to explore the archive as an artistic starting point for choreography (for example: through creating resources and contributing to workshop days)
- To curate stories, themes and threads emerging from the Cheshire Dance archive to tell a compelling story about the organisation in its 50th year
- Work with the Cheshire Dance community to produce a creative outcome inspired by the Cheshire Dance archive, which will be presented at 50th Birthday events

Considerations:

- To consider the legacy and long-term impact of the process and creative product (Cheshire Dance is based in Winsford Library)
- To work collaboratively with the Cheshire Dance team to ensure connection and synergy between the archives project and other elements of the 50th Birthday programme
- Engage with partner organisations
- Manage £1,000 materials budget



Essential Skills & Experience

- An understanding of and interest in community dance
- Knowledge of Intangible Heritage, Oral History and/or Community Collections
- Track record of gathering and sharing community stories
- Strong facilitation skills with experience of facilitating a wide range of people of different ages and backgrounds
- Track record of creating high quality artistic work
- Experience in making accessible work
- Demonstrate Project Delivery experience
- Experienced in and enthusiastic about collaborative working
- Ability and willingness to travel to Winsford and across Cheshire West for workshops if/when needed
- Ability to work to deadlines
- Self-motivated, self-organised and able manage time appropriately
- Ability to work without direct supervision and take initiative
- Active commitment to equity, diversity and anti-racism
- ICT skills and confidence in using Microsoft Office

Working Arrangements

We envisage that this role could be delivered in a hybrid format: some of the work could be delivered remotely including online sessions, with in person visits to Cheshire Dance required to engage with the archive and facilitate in-person workshops. These visits can be planned around the role holders' availability.

We also welcome applicants who wish to work in person as flexible workspace is available at our office in Winsford Library (High Street, Winsford, CW7 2AS). We use Microsoft Teams for online meetings.

Fee Breakdown

£6,000 (approx. 24 days) + £1,000 materials budget

This is a freelance role – the role-holder will be required to submit invoices to claim for the fee and will be responsible for their own tax and National Insurance. We will arrange a payment schedule with the successful candidate upon appointment.

Timeline

- Application deadline: Thursday 3rd September 2026
- Notification of Interview by 11th September 2026
- Interviews: 23rd or 24th September 2026
- Project start: October/November 2026

To Apply

Interested applicants are invited to submit a CV and an expression of interest. Your CV and expression of interest should include:

- An Expression of Interest outlining your approach to the commission and relevant previous experience (written or video)
- A indication of how you would use the budget/days available
- A CV that clearly outlines your experience, skills and knowledge of delivering creative projects
- Examples of previous work (could be website link, PDF, video)
- Two references that we can contact

Please send the above to people@cheshiredance.org with the email subject as **'APPLICATION 50 Years in Motion'**

Cheshire Dance particularly welcomes expressions of interest from under-represented groups in dance and the arts. We will publish the interview questions and welcome conversations with enquirers in advance. We can support applicant's access needs in attending their interview. Once appointed, we will seek to address any support, access or equality needs you might have in carrying out your role.

For enquiries about the role, or to schedule an informal conversation please email people@cheshiredance.org with '50 Years in Motion' as the subject, or, call the Cheshire Dance office between 9am and 2pm Monday-Thursday.

