

Artist Curator Call Out

Dance Base Scotland are looking for an artist from the dance and physical theatre community to curate a vibrant, diverse, engaging programme of live performance that will reanimate the iconic Dance Base building during a week in February 2021.

After a successful application to the Scottish Government's Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund (PAVRF), we are delighted to launch our Artist Curator Call Out. After a summer without live performance, we are looking for a Scotland-based artist to curate a programme of live dance work to take place during a week in February, bringing artists they respect, follow and admire into Dance Base to make their unique creative mark.

We are seeking an artist who will bring together a responsive, lightweight and flexible programme of dance works that can be staged outside of the theatre space, using Dance Base and the surrounding areas as a canvas for creation. The motivating force of the PAVRF is to reconnect artists, audiences, venues and communities and to celebrate the vibrancy of dance and movement in Scotland. We are eager to work with an artist who will bring fresh perspectives, aesthetics and styles to our audiences, and truly champion the diverse array of voices and stories that live in our nation. We particularly encourage applications from artists that represent marginalised voices in our community.

We invite ideas that:

- Are fresh and original, and that provide a meaningful connection with the people of Edinburgh
- Celebrate and champion the dance styles and communities across Scotland
- Are deliverable in the time period and with the resources available
- Require limited technical resources (it is unlikely performances will be staged in a theatre space)
- Can be aware and compliant with social distancing and other guidelines that may be in place. We currently assume that it will not be possible for audiences to sit together in proximity and we will work with successful applicants to find solutions together
- Respond directly and meaningfully with Dance Base and our environment

This opportunity is for an artist who:

- Is based in Scotland and identifies their practise as physical, embodied or choreographic
- Has previous experience in curation and would like to expand that aspect of practice
- Is engaged with the wider arts ecology of Scotland
- Can demonstrate the desire and ability to work efficiently and effectively
- Is flexible and adaptable – the current performing landscape contains many unknowns which we will all need to be able to respond to swiftly

Dance Base will provide:

- A curator fee of £2,400 (anticipated as 4 weeks at £600 a week)
- A total commissioning budget of £15,000 (Dance Base will support the allocation and administration of the budget and call outs as required)
- Access to rehearsal/development space for the commissioned works if required (Studio 1, Dance Base)
- Producing and administrative support from the Programmes Manager and Assistant Producer, including regular check in meetings (as agreed and required)
- Technical support from a theatre technician for presentation/delivery

- Artistic mentoring from the Artistic Director and/or Head of Catalyst (as agreed and required)

Please note that Dance Base will manage the full delivery of the programme of activity, including all logistics, marketing, artist liaison and administration. The artist will curate the programme and be part of the conversations around how the programme comes together but they will not be required to deliver these elements.

How to Apply:

We initially invite you to submit an outline of your curatorial vision in either written (maximum of 2 sides A4) OR video/audio recording maximum 5 minutes uploaded to Vimeo or YouTube) format. You are welcome to include images, drawings and links to recordings that help describe your programme.

We do not require a CV but a link to documentation of your previous work, particularly of any programmes that you have curated previously, would be useful and informative.

Please send this to Laila Noble, Assistant Producer, Laila@dancebase.co.uk

Deadline: **11.00 Monday 26 October**

If you require this information in any other format, please contact Laila@dancebase.co.uk

How we are selecting:

Applications will be assessed by the Dance Base Artistic Director and an Artist Advisory Group which will be comprised of members of the Scottish dance community. The panel will represent the diversity of voices and lived experiences that that make up the Scottish arts sector.

The selection panel will create a shortlist and these artists will be invited to discuss their idea with the Dance Base production team before the final decision is made. This is to ensure that the idea is deliverable, taking the timeline and production needs into account.

Applications will be discussed and debated, ensuring we stay true to our aim which is to create a programme of diverse, inclusive and celebratory performance which will engage and stimulate our audiences and provide creative satisfaction to artists.

Shortlist informed: Friday 30 October

Interview date: Week commencing 2 November

Anticipated performance week: 15-21 February 2021

COVID-19 Restrictions:

We understand that COVID-19 and the restrictions of lockdown have drastically altered the way we can create and present work to audiences. All projects will need to be flexible and responsive to any changes in guidance as they arrive. While the aim of this commission is to bring live dance performances and audiences together again, we are aware that circumstance may make in person presentation impossible. If this does happen Dance Base will honour all commission fees as agreed and aim to present the commissioned works at a later date or in a different format.

Other avenues for support:

As part of the Scottish Government's Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund, Dance Base are also delivering several other exciting strands. Full details will be published on our social media and website shortly. These will include:

- **Now, Here, This Commission:** £15,000 for a programme of live dance performance curated by Dance Base for performance in and around our venue.
- **Your Call Commission:** £20,000 for a series of new screendance works, created with dance artists and their local communities.
- **Love Dance Scotland Commission:** We are working with Dundee Rep & Scottish Dance Theatre and Tramway Glasgow to collaborate on a nation-wide project to support Scottish-based artists to develop and deliver new work of scale under the banner of #LoveDanceScotland Commissions.
- **Professional Development Programme:** From October to March 2021 Dance Base will be delivering a free programme of continued professional development for dance artists based in Scotland. This will include workshops, lectures and a series of 121 artist conversations.