

Dance Hub Birmingham Investment Programme Call Out for Proposals

The Dance Hub Birmingham (DHB) strategic Investment Programme is open for proposals.

DHB seeks to grow a true partnership spirit, building on decades of dance achievement in Birmingham and the wider region, and positioning this as a globally significant area for dance.

The Investment Programme aims to invest in a diverse range of projects that make dance a vibrant and resilient contributor to the artistic and economic life of Birmingham and the West Midlands, achieving significant long-term benefits.

The four investment priorities are:

- Infrastructure
- Sector
- Artists
- Audiences

Cross cutting themes are Diversity and Representation, along with Artform and Sector Research.

Proposals that seek to make an intervention across more than one of these investment priority areas are actively encouraged.

Proposals will be required to bring together multiple partners in order to make a significant step change for the sector.

Short summary of the opportunity:

- The investment fund totals £500,000
- We will be operating 3 application rounds across 2021-23. Deadlines: 28 February 2022, 26 September 2022 and 27 February 2023
- Proposals for investment should be a minimum of £30,000
- Proposals must carefully address the key criteria listed below
- Applications must consist of a written or recorded proposal, plus budget and equal opportunities form
- The investment fund will be fully committed by June 2023

The Brief:

The overriding ambition of Dance Hub Birmingham is to actively position Birmingham and the wider region as a globally significant area of dance, through the four strategic investment priorities:

Infrastructure New strategic initiatives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support growth in the sector• Create a dance archive of national significance• Capitalise on a growing range of digital opportunities	Sector Development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focused investment in R&D• Sector-wide leadership skills• Effective business models
Artists Work with investors to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance talent development opportunities• Stimulate international collaborations and sharing of knowledge• Expand the artistic use of digital media	Audience Work with partners, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build on Birmingham's reputation for outdoor and site-specific work• Use large-scale public events and festivals to grow audiences for dance• Increase opportunities for audiences to experience dance, both live and digitally• Develop and apply data intelligence to deepen audience engagement
Cross-Cutting Themes: Diversity & Representation, along with Artform & Sector Research.	

DHB are particularly looking for proposals that embrace and intersect across more than one of the four investment priorities; bring together multiple partners in new and unexpected collaborations; are from a diverse range of companies working in dance practices and styles, representative of the wider cultural community; and have national and/or international significance.

DHB encourages larger organisations to consult with local artists in order to bring people and ideas together and for local artists to be meaningfully engaged. DHB will support with making introductions where possible.

We welcome proposals which engage with partners outside dance, however dance must be the focus.

Match Funding Policy

In order to maximise DHB investment, successful projects will be expected to generate added value through strategic partnerships, funding, investment, earned income, in-kind support and/or other means. At least 30% of the total project value must come from sources other than DHB investment, of which no more than 10% should be in kind. ACE Project Funds cannot be used as match.

Additional investment and funding levered will be tracked as part of the DHB monitoring and evaluation processes to demonstrate the added value of the investment fund.

Key Criteria

Proposals should articulate how your project will:

- Address more than one of the four investment priorities
- Address any DHB cross-cutting themes
- Demonstrate partnership working and sector connectivity
- Support DHB's ambition to position Birmingham and the West Midlands as a globally significant area for dance
- Achieve national/international significance (where appropriate to your project)
- Generate learning, knowledge or research that will benefit the future of the sector
- Provide work opportunities, exposure and/or professional development opportunities for West Midlands Artists, Producers and/or Practitioners
- Generate added value through strategic partnerships, investment and in-kind support

Proposals will also need to:

- Demonstrate the experience, expertise and capacity of your team and partners to deliver the project effectively
- Outline plans for monitoring and evaluation, articulating how you will assess the benefits, reach and impact of your project, and disseminate learning
- Include an appropriate budget, showing income and in-kind support, in line with the Match Funding policy above
- Demonstrate an understanding of the context of the city of Birmingham and the wider region
- Have at least one person working on the project based in the West Midlands

What this funding is not for:

- Applications from individual artists or companies with no partnership working
- COVID-19 recovery projects
- Applications from employed artists where the investment funding would be used to double up on salaried time – or applications from organisations to cover core salaries

How to Apply:

Please use the brief above to submit a proposal consisting of:

- Up to 2000 words or a short video or audio file (max. 15 minutes) outlining your project and how it meets the above criteria
- A project timeline
- A budget that clearly shows income (funded, earned and in-kind support) and planned project expenditure
- Names and contact details of two suitable referees
- DHB's Equal Opportunities Monitoring form (this is anonymous and kept separate from the proposal)

You may also add one optional attachment of up to 2 further sides of A4 for additional supporting information (e.g. for further company and partnership details, video links, images etc)

Please send your proposal to Charlotte Mackie (DHB Project Manager) on DHB-CallOuts@dx.dance

Decisions will be made within 4 weeks of the deadline by a sub-committee of DHB Steering Group members.

Your personal data will be held securely by DanceXchange in accordance with the GDPR. The information you provide will be shared with relevant DHB Steering Group and selection panel members for the purposes of managing and communicating with you about this Call Out and its outcomes, and for reporting to our Board, funders, and statutory bodies as part of standard reporting processes.

Access Information:

DHB places great emphasis on being inclusive and recognises the positive value of diversity, promotes equality and challenges all forms of discrimination. We actively welcome and encourage proposals from people of all backgrounds across age, class, disability, gender, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

- A condensed version of the Call-Out is available
- An audio file is available
- Information sessions will be held online before each deadline – see DHB website for dates
- If you would like to ask questions about the Call-Out then this can be arranged over video call, phone call or email

About DHB:

DHB is an active partnership of organisations and individuals, representing the region's professional dance sector. Together, we support the development of the artform in all its diversity, seeking to drive the sector forward and position Birmingham and the wider region as a globally significant area for dance.

DHB comprises three main elements, a studio facility, an investment programme, and a collaboration that enables exciting future collective ambition for dance.

DHB is governed by a voluntary Steering Committee, currently comprising:

- Birmingham Hippodrome
- Birmingham Royal Ballet
- DanceXchange
- One Dance UK
- ACE dance and music
- Birmingham City University
- Midlands Arts Centre
- Sampad South Asian Arts and Heritage
- Birmingham Dance Network
- Independent artists

In 2015 the Treasury offered a £5million investment boost for the development of a new Dance Hub in Birmingham. This investment was entirely for dance and was a huge vote of confidence in the city's dance scene. £3million of this investment supported the building of the major new DHB studio facility.

£2million was set aside for strategic interventions in the sector, which to date, has supported a wealth of commissions, artists and initiatives.

Now, as we enter the final phase of Treasury investment, the remaining funds are to be distributed through this strategic Investment Programme.

The range and scope of investments made by the DHB Investment Programme will be monitored to ensure the portfolio of supported initiatives responds to the full range of DHB stated priorities. Specific interventions may be made part way through the investment programme to address any identified gaps, working with targeted partners.

Further useful information:

dancehubbirmingham.org.uk – more information about DHB, in particular our Investment Priorities and Impact sections.

Contact information:

Please contact Charlotte Mackie (DHB Project Manager) with any questions on DHB-Callouts@dx.dance or call the DanceXchange office on 0121 667 6730.