



DCNW RESEARCH PROGRAMME ROUND 3 INFORMATION SHEET

The DCNW Research Programme has three strands, which are roughly about

- creating work
- showing work and artists
- sharing learning

Round 3 is now open for proposals for commissions that are either about showing work and artists or about sharing learning.

Showing work and artists will be about finding the best ways to bring attention to the work and practice of artists and organisations. You should think about what other dance professionals can learn from your project alongside what it will do for you. Successful projects will do both.

You might:

- create an event or series of events
- enhance an event
- perform in or join a project

These commissions don't have to be complex and might be platforms, scratch nights, showcases, digital or hybrid performances, testing new partnerships, places or times to showcase dance or many other ways that you can show your work or capacity to work. You might think about who provides you with opportunities now and see if you can expand or build upon your market.

Sharing learning commissions might be in any format but will do two things well:

- Tell the story of the Research Programme and the strengths of NW dance
- Make the learning from the Research Programme as a whole and make past commissions useful to others: artists, organisations and colleagues

We want the Research Programme to have impact on our North West and national colleagues. After all, if NW artists have found a way to do something new or interesting through dance, shouldn't everyone have a chance to incorporate that in their own practice. How would you reach out to the dance and cultural community and share ideas that can change how they work?

Because these commission/s are about the programme, you should consider how you will work with the DCNW team and some or all of the commissioned artists and organisations.

MAKING A PROPOSAL

The application process is designed to be straightforward and flexible. We will ask you:

- What you want to look at
- How it will make a change – large or small – beyond you and the artists or organisations directly involved
- Some information about you, and especially why you are the best individual/team to make this project happen

We provide a template and prompts to support successful applications, but you can communicate in a way that best suits you but which can be understood by the panel.

We are also available to discuss ideas, answer questions and support the proposal process for you.

WHO CAN APPLY

Professional and non-professional individuals (over the ages of 18) and companies that are dancers, practitioners, venues, teachers, individuals or others that are connected with and/or working within the dance sector in the North West of England.

We want the people and organisations who make and share dance to identify the issues and opportunities that are important to them with 'research questions' that are clear and specific. You could ask them yourself or you could work with others.

We will look at the need for your question, how it meets the priorities of dance in the North West, and whether it meets our ambitions for inclusion and diversity.

HOW TO APPLY AND THE PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

The template below is a guide for a commission proposal. The length, detail and complexity of your proposal should be proportional to the size and complexity of your project. There are some prompts below to help you think about your answers. We'll need less information for smaller projects and will want to know more about larger projects, but we want to keep the application process as compact as possible.

Please read the full Research Programme commission guidance [here](#) to give yourself the best chance to succeed. Please pay particular attention to sections 9 and 10 which explain how decisions will be made.

Research Question

What do you want to explore? What question/idea/issue do you want to look at? Why do you want to look at this? What effect will it have on NW dance and on you?

Methodology

How will you answer your research question? What will you do? Who will you work with? How will you share the knowledge, work or other outputs of your project? How will you measure the impact of your project?

Demonstrate your potential as an artist or organisation

Why are you the right artist/organisation/venue/partnership to undertake your research question? How can you demonstrate your suitability to make this work? You might want to comment on artistic or production capability, project management skills, financial factors, background or experience which will help reach priority audiences, etc... Also, tell us what impact your project will have.

Engagement and audiences

Describe your core audience.

Which priority audience(s) will you target? How will the project reach out – consider race, age, socio-economic background, dance practice?

What support do you need to deliver this research project?

Make sure you include your contact details and CVs, if appropriate.

You may wish to include some additional information with your proposal, depending on the scale of your project. A list is available in section 11 of the guidance document.

If you prefer you may submit a video application or use another format, keeping to the same guidance regarding length and content.

Please contact DCNW@cheshiredance.org to discuss how to best submit your application or to talk about other ways to make a proposal.

CLOSING DATE:

Proposals are to be submitted by **midnight on 5th February 2023** via email to: DCNW@cheshiredance.org; or, by post to DCNW, Winsford Library, Winsford High Street, Winsford, CW7 2AS; or by other arrangements.