

- **Dance Ireland Programme Policies**
- **Dance Ireland Decision-Making Process**

Dance Ireland maintains the support and confidence of its members, funders and users through its commitment to a coherent programme, operating policies and a transparent decision-making process. We acknowledge our responsibility to be accountable when devising our programme and also to clearly explain our decision-making process.

Programme Policy

Dance Ireland is a membership organisation. Our priority is our members.

We operate a members' rate, members' student rate and a non-members rate.

We welcome all non-members to our Training Programme (morning classes, workshops, master classes) which are open to suitably qualified practitioners. However our Development Programme (awards, exchanges, platforms, residencies) are for the benefit of members only.

We value all forms of dance equally and actively work to support practitioners realise their creative potential, including those working within ballet, contemporary dance, traditional Irish dance, ethnic forms, somatic practices, and hybrid dance forms. In addition, we support those working collaboratively and through an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary practice.

Our programme has evolved in response to the needs of a growing sector. First established by a group of like-minded choreographers and dancers; our founding principles remain:

- To provide support and practical resources for dancers & choreographers;
- To work towards developing a sustainable dance sector in Ireland;
- To lead, represent and advocate on behalf of the dance sector;
- To enhance public awareness of and involvement in dance at all levels.

For the latest programme details, please check: www.danceireland.ie.

We maintain a fair and inclusive system of support.

Our remit comes from our national and international funding relationships.

Decision Making Process

Our decision making processes are informed by our commitment to:

- Open Call / Expression of Interest (EOI)
- Detailed Information Sheets
- Shortlisting
- Peer Panel Assessment
- Feedback

Open Call / Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Open Call process creates a level playing field for all candidates, and is used for:

- Awards and financial supports
- Mentorship opportunities
- National and international residency and exchange opportunities
- Showcase platform and performance opportunities
- Associate Artist Programme.

We widely disseminate Open Call / EOI information using our website, ebulletin, social media, direct email promotion and through DanceHouse notice boards.

Detailed Information Sheets

With each Open Call, we provide detailed information sheets, which state the decision-making process involved. They also contain information about eligibility, criteria, supporting documentation requirements, how to apply and who to contact with further queries.

Shortlisting

Shortlisting is a feature of how we operate. This enables us to remain focused on the published criteria. All shortlisting is undertaken internally. All eligible candidates are shortlisted, and shortlisting takes place on the basis of meeting the criteria.

Peer Panel Assessment Process

We are committed to the peer panel assessment process, which enables us to utilise external expertise. Our peer panels (normally 3 – 5 persons) comprise Dance Ireland representative (either a director and/or executive member) plus external expertise, as required.

Feedback

We are committed to providing constructive feedback that is professional, cordial and honest.

Partnership

- *How and why do we work with the people we partner?*

Creative and financial partnerships are key to our continued development. At a time of diminishing resources, we actively engage in a range of partnerships with members and others, including non-members, other national and international partners and those with and without funding. Partnerships enable us to leverage our resources (including DanceHouse) for the betterment of dance in Ireland.

We are responsive to all requests seeking a partner and we are happy to provide letters of support. All partnership requests are treated equally and subject to negotiation. For those with funding and resources we partner on a 50/50% basis.

Outlined below are some of our current key partnerships:

- *Re-Presenting Ireland*, a showcase initiative by Culture Ireland, DI and DDF;
- *Step Up: Dance Project*, a young professional dancer transition project between the Arts Council, Dance Ireland, Dance Limerick and University of Limerick;
- *Modul-dance*; a pan European 5-year project involving 22 partners from 15 European countries, which concludes in autumn 2014;
- *Communicating Dance*; a Léargas/Leonardo Lifelong Learning project involving partners from France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy and Croatia (2013 -2015);
- *LÉIM*, a Creative Europe funded project, led by Dance Ireland, involving partners from Italy, Spain, Germany and Cyprus (2013 – 2015);
- *EDN*, a network funded Creative Europe project, involving European dance houses (2014 – 2017);
- *Local Initiatives*, with support from Dublin City Council, we support local interest groups including Company B, Macushla Dance Club and Dublin Youth Dance Company.

Dance Ireland Residency

The *Dance Ireland Residency* programme at DanceHouse is regarded as one of our key means of support for members and professional practitioners.

Because of this, it is managed differently:

Dance Ireland Residencies (which can range from 1 - 4 weeks free studio in a membership year) are awarded internally, in response to an application and subject to availability.

They are operated on a year round basis and open to both funded and unfunded members (individual and company). We aim to accommodate as many requests as possible and maintain a public database of residencies awarded on our website, ebulletin and annual activity report.

To apply for a Dance Ireland Residency, members must use our application form (available on request from the General Manager). When applying, we ask members to outline the purpose of the residency (which cannot be used for commercial purposes), dates, any special requirements and whether funded or unfunded.

The *Dance Ireland Residency* programme is managed by the General Manager.

For full terms and conditions, please consult: www.danceireland.ie.

Programming

The annual Dance Ireland programme is agreed in collaboration with the board of directors, with responsibility delegated to the Chief Executive, and is generally planned one year in advance.

Other programme elements are curated internally through a process of invitation, commission and partnership. These include:

Classes (national/international guest teachers, courses, master-classes and workshops);
Dance Talks;
International Associate Artist programme;
Professional Development Workshops / Seminars;
Writings (including reviews, critical reflections and essays);
DanceHouse exhibitions.

DanceHouse

Dance Ireland operates DanceHouse on licence from Dublin City Council.

Using a combination operating model, we maximise our resources, with approximately 60% Dance Ireland programme and 40% other activity including studio rentals.

All 6 studios and Artists' Resource Room are available to rent, subject to availability and terms and conditions. This includes our *Winging It!* scheme, a no-notice studio hire facility available to members.

Dance Ireland is the trading name of the Association of Professional Dancers in Ireland Ltd.
Company registration no: 189346; CHY 16193.

Dance Ireland, DanceHouse, Foley Street, Dublin 1 Ireland.
Tel: 01 855 8800; Email: info@danceireland.ie; Website: www.danceireland.ie