



PHOTO: Aetherbound: Saya Naruse

# Northumberland Dance Development Fund

Open Call - May 2026



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

# Northumberland Dance Development Fund

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**Aim of the Fund:** To contribute to the development of dance in Northumberland, through a partnership approach between Maltings Berwick, Alnwick Playhouse and Queen's Hall, Hexham, funded by the Northumberland Dance Development Fund (NDDF).

## Dance Development: Open Call

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The Dance Development Open Call is funded by the Northumberland County Council's Dance Development Fund, and is managed in partnership by the Maltings Berwick, with Alnwick Playhouse and Queen's Hall, Hexham.

The aim of the fund is to support dance development in Northumberland.

The micro grants of **up to £3,000** are available to dance companies and individual dance artists to stimulate and develop dance projects and community focused dance activities between July 2026 - March 2027.

### **The Northumberland Dance Development Fund is open to:**

Dance Companies, individual Dance Artists and practitioners based in the North of Tyne region and those with established creative links to Northumberland, who:

- Can demonstrate understanding and experience of working in rural areas.
- Can articulate an understanding of dance provision across the county, and how this project would add value.
- Can contribute to post project evaluation/reporting, to include participant/audience feedback to help all concerned to improve understanding of participant/audience interests (and what they would like from a Northumberland dance agenda programme.)
- Will include an element of community involvement in the project, and potentially targeting new audiences.
- Can contribute to peer-learning and sharing of learning from the funded projects leading to the development of excellence in the dance sector in Northumberland.

The funding can be for a series of classes to build capacity for dance participation; for a residency to develop a dance production or for a series of workshops to develop skills and build capacity for dance in Northumberland.

The fund can cover expenditure on: fees for dancers, choreographers, travel costs within Northumberland, including transport for participants, materials/resources.

Please note that the fund is limited and small grants will be distributed through an Open Call application and selection process.

## How to apply

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Northumberland based dance companies and individual artists, and those who are working in Northumberland, are invited to apply now for micro grants from the NCC Dance Development Fund, to develop dance classes/workshops/residencies or work-in-progress dance projects in the county.

Please send your application to these 3 email addresses:

Please include **NDDF Open Call Application** in subject line and ask for a receipt.

[lucyvaughan@maltingsberwick.co.uk](mailto:lucyvaughan@maltingsberwick.co.uk)

Lucy Vaughan, Head of Creative Engagement, Maltings, Berwick upon Tweed.

[damian.cruden@alnwickplayhouse.co.uk](mailto:damian.cruden@alnwickplayhouse.co.uk)

Damian Cruden, Artistic Director, Alnwick Playhouse

[katy.taylor@queenshall.co.uk](mailto:katy.taylor@queenshall.co.uk)

Katy Taylor, Artistic Director, Queen's Hall, Hexham

If you have any questions or would like to arrange an informal conversation about the Open Call fund, please email **Lucy Vaughan** at [lucyvaughan@maltingsberwick.co.uk](mailto:lucyvaughan@maltingsberwick.co.uk).

## What do we need to know about your Dance Development proposal?

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Please tell us about your idea or project and how it will develop your dance practice, dance in the community and/or your dance company's creative work.

We are open to funding dance projects that will involve community participants, especially those in rural Northumberland, as well as funding professional dance companies to develop their work-in-progress.

The funding from NCC is ringfenced for the Dance sector in Northumberland, to support the development of dance projects and productions during the financial year 2026-27.

**Please outline your proposal in no more than 2 pages of A4, and include the following information:**

**Please tell us about your work as a Dance Artist or Dance Company and the project you would like this fund to support.**

**Who?** Potential participants – can you tell us if you plan to work with a new or pre-existing group? With community participants or professional dancers – or both.

**Where in Northumberland will the work take place?** Potential location(s) or preferred location for the sessions or residency.

**When?** The month (or months) when you plan to deliver your funded activity (between July 2026 - March 2027).

**How?** Mode of delivery – a weeklong residency, or a series of classes or workshops?  
Please explain how you propose to deliver your project.

**Your budget:** How much you are applying for (up to £3,000) and a breakdown of your expenditure.

**Notes:**

- If you are freelance/self employed please provide your Unique Tax Reference Number.
- If applying on behalf of a Company, please provide information about your charitable status or CIC numbers.

**You must:**

- Provide, if applicable, the appropriate protection policy and DBS checks for anyone working directly with children, young people or vulnerable adults.
- Be appropriately and adequately insured for the project you propose to do and be able to provide the correct evidence if asked to do so.
- Provide references if asked to do so.
- Whatever the scale of your project you must evaluate it on completion. This must include budget reporting and evidence of numbers of people involved ie freelance artists, participants.

**Scoring criteria for selection of projects to interview:**

- Completed application and budget explaining how the funding award will be spent.
- Demonstrates the ability to deliver a quality dance project, series of classes, or residency.
- Delivery between July 2026 - March 2027.
- Ensures there is a need and demonstrates partnership working.
- Demonstrates willingness to work across the County.

**Closing date for applications: Monday 18 May 2026 at 5pm.**

We will contact shortlisted applicants and invite them to interview so that we can discuss their plans in more detail. If you have not heard from us by Thursday 28 May your application has not been successful on this occasion.

We plan to hold **interviews on Thursday 4 June.**

Interview times and location to be confirmed.



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