

*Policy for Commissions,
artists selection & events curation*



1 | COMMISSIONING POLICY

CONTEXT

Tipperary Dance envisions the commissioning of choreographic work in the context of its mission statement. The process of commissioning work takes place in several steps:

- Planning the commission and preparing the context
- Selecting the artist
- Research & development, Realisation, Delivery of the commission
- Reviewing the commission and its outcome

PLANNING THE COMMISSION AND PREPARING THE CONTEXT

Defining the values and general expected outcomes of the commission

Tipperary Dance commissions artworks to:

- Develop audiences
- Develop dance and the arts in the region
- Build up resources for the dance sector

This is done by:

- Creating a framework of opportunities for artists
- Engaging with the public in the region

Preparing the context

This stage aims to clarify the environment put in place to support the commission: commissioner, purpose, partners, artists mode of selection:

- Defining who commissions, in which context, for what purpose.
- Building adequate support:
- Raising funds: Arts Council Arts Grant application
 - Securing partners: venues, resource organisations, etc.
 - Assessing the framework: partners, resources, funding
- Approaching artists:
 - Defining artists selection mode: open-call, limited call, or direct invitation
 - Collecting expression of interest in the case of limited call or direct invitation: Brief project outline. Assessing availability.
- Writing a detailed commission brief.

Writing the Brief

Writing a detailed commission brief providing detailing the conditions offered, commission theme, expected outcome, engagement with the public, financial conditions, copyrights, stages of the commission, timeframe, etc.:

- The commissioner
 - Who commissions
 - In which context, for what purpose the commission is proposed
- Ethos & values behind the commission
 - Creation framework: opportunities for artists
 - Engaging with community in the region
 - Developing great art in the region
 - Audience development
- Mode of selection of the artist:
 - open-call, limited call, or direct invitation
 - In case of open call or limited call, redirect to open calls policy
- Subject matter:
 - Describe the theme and implications of the topic
- Expected outcome:

- What is expected (type of work, target audience, type of format, duration)
 - Type of engagement with the public if any (performances, frequency, performance location and context)
- Involvement with the community
- Conditions offered:
 - Work environment provided (residencies, performance location)
 - Technical support provided
 - Financial conditions: commissioning fees + conditions and schedule for payment
- Ownership of the work and rights of use
 - Defining who owns the work
 - Defining in which conditions future dissemination of the work will take place
- Requesting a detailed project from the artist
 - Description
 - Feasibility budget
 - List of collaborators.

SELECTING THE ARTIST

Choosing the artist according to the defined selection mode (direct invitation, limited/open call)

- Submitting the brief to the artist (either directly or through a limited/open call)
- Requesting detailed project including:
 - Description.
 - Feasibility budget based on the commission fund and other resources possibly available to the artist.
 - List of collaborators.
 - Schedule.
- Assessing artistic proposals and feasibility:

- Discussing adjustments in the case of an invited artist, until both parties find an agreement.
 - Competitive assessment in the case of a limited/open call (see open calls policy).
 - Ensuring all conditions are met (feasibility, availability, etc.) for a successful outcome of the commission.
- Validating the artist selection.
- Formalising a binding written agreement between Tipperary Dance and the selected artist.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, DELIVERY

The artist conducts the R&D and creation work necessary for the realisation of the work. Tipperary Dance liaises with the artist to confirm good unfolding of the project & solve possible issues.

Where the commission provides support such as residencies and/or technical support, Tipperary Dance facilitates it by ways of direct coordination and or mediation with the venue(s) and partners.

Tipperary Dance coordinates and overviews the delivery of the commission as per brief and written agreement.

REVIEW

Tipperary Dance assesses the unfolding and outcome of the commission in relation to the commissioning brief. Tipperary Dance reviews the unfolding and outcome of the commission with the artist to evaluate the process and its outcome and address potential issues for future commissions.

1 | LIMITED CALLS AND OPEN CALLS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Tipperary Dance frequently offers and advertises opportunities for dance artists, professionals, undergraduates or graduates.

While some events/activities are curated towards the creation of an artistic program reflecting a particular theme, topic or type of work, others are offered and advertised publicly through a semi-open or open call.

In this case, Tipperary Dance applies policies ensuring inclusivity and fair access. A fair opportunity to access the call, and a fair assessment of all candidates.

The framework of Tipperary Dance's programs and opportunities is defined by its mission statement

DEFINITIONS

Open call: an open call is a publicly advertised opportunity addressed to any person, provided that (s)he and her/his project falls within the criteria described in the call.

Limited call: a limited call follows the same process as an open call and is similar in all aspects, except for the fact that it is directed to a limited group of pre-selected people. This could be referred to as a semi-curated selection process.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Our decision-making processes are informed by our commitment to:

- Open Call / Expression of Interest (EOI)
- Google Application Forms
- Shortlisting
- Peer Panel Assessment
- Feedback

INCLUSIVITY, EQUITY AND FAIR ACCESS

Tipperary Dance is a non-profit organisation funded by public resources and recognises a duty and ethos of inclusivity and equity.

By inclusivity, it is meant that opportunities are open to all people who fall within the target of the advertised opportunity, and that all expressions of interest will be assessed with the same criteria, regardless of the applicant's gender, age, ability, race, origin, sexual orientation, civil or family status, or membership of a minority community.

By equity, it is meant three things:

- **Equity of opportunity:** open calls are broadcasted publicly through media that are relevant and significant for the art form. This usually includes: Tipperary Dance's newsletters and website. Dance Ireland website. Other popular websites that advertise opportunities for dance, such as dancingopportunities.com.
- **Equal access to the opportunity:** the application and assessment process are standardised: all candidates fill an application form on the same online system – therefore all applicants have equal access to the application procedure and are requested to provide the same information content and documents, within the same deadline set for the call. On some occasions, the system only accepts a limited number of expressions of interest, in which case it is stated in the description of the opportunity.

- Equity in the assessment process: all expressions of interest that fall within the criteria of the open call are assessed on an equal basis, provided that they provide all the requested information and fulfil all the requested conditions. The two main criteria in the assessment process are:
 - Artistic ambition and excellence
 - Feasibility
 - Best value for the resources invested (e.g. a candidate for a residence, who demonstrates a capacity to bring her/his project to the next stage of production and/or dissemination)

Fair access: it is deemed reasonable to consider that everyone can have an opportunity to access a computer and internet connection to access the online application process.

ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO OPEN CALL

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

- Awards and financial supports
- Mentorship opportunities
- National and international Platform and exchange opportunities
- Showcase platform and other performance opportunities
- The provision of 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.

OPEN CALLS PROCEDURE

Application Forms

Detailed information is provided with each Open Call, stating the decision-making process involved, and 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 Tipperary Dance representative (either a director and/or executive member) plus external expertise, as required.

TARGETED OPPORTUNITIES

In many situations and based on the purpose or theme of the advertised opportunity, open calls are addressed to specific target groups. In this case, the open call clearly states the participation criteria, which may include (but not only): a specific professional status (e.g. professional/graduate) or level of experience, schedule availability, a specific target group (including based on specific skills, age or gender).

Unless specifically relevant to the advertised opportunity, no information is requested from applicants in the application process in relation with gender, age, ability, race, origin, sexual orientation, civil or family status, or membership of a minority community.

1 | CURATIONAL POLICY

A PUBLIC MISSION

Tipperary Dance is a non-profit organisation. Supported mostly through public funding, it acknowledges the public character of its mission, defined in its mission statement:

To generate an identity for dance as an art form in County Tipperary and deliver an outstanding arts programme to the public, that engages with local, national and international audiences and supports the professional dance sector.

Tipperary Dance develops and delivers the Tipperary Dance program, including mainly:

- TD' International Festival
- Engagement in the community: workshops, creative activities, etc.
- Resources for professional dance artists: bursaries, masterclasses, residences, forums, etc.

AN ARTIST-LED PROGRAM

Tipperary Dance is an artist-led program founded in 2008. While proposing opportunities (mostly for professional dance artists) on an open-call basis, other parts of the program are curated by the Platform's founders and artistic directors Jazmin Chiodi and Alexandre Iseli.

Their vision and expertise are based on more than two decades of professional experience as artists, choreographers, festival directors/curators and project managers.

CURATION POLICIES

All curations are led and balanced to aim for the achievement of one/several of the following:

- Showcasing excellence by selecting and presenting artists with a significant track record, who made a significant impact in their audience, sector and/or community.
- Giving opportunities to emerging artists who demonstrate a vision, level of dedication and artistic ambition that match with Tipperary Dance's criteria of artistic excellence.
- Fostering discovery and creativity. Bringing artists who can bring a significant input to the community, audience, participants, thanks to their particular expertise, track record, particular style, specific discourse, pedagogic skills, etc.
- Fostering artistic excellence and the diversification/expansion of artistic skills. Bringing artists who can bring a significant input to artists and to the professional sector, thanks to their particular expertise, track record, particular style, specific discourse, pedagogic skills, etc.
- Offering a diversity of opportunities, forms and perspectives that supports social dialogue in its diversity of opinions and interests.

CONTACT US

ALEXANDRE ISELI

Artistic Director

alexandre@tipperarydance.com

www.tipperarydance.com

+353 83 14 33 792