

# Move Ahead



## TeesDance & Hartlepool Borough Council Commission Brief



Credit: How Long is a Piece of String at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre by Fully Booked Theatre [TeesDance](#)

Photographer: Phil Hill

TeesDance is a new voice for dance in the Tees Valley. Through innovative programmes, partnerships and advocacy, we strive for excellence by creating opportunities for dancers, choreographers and audiences, fostering creativity, diversity and high-quality provision.

We challenge perceptions of who dance is for and what can be achieved. Dance that makes a difference; developing artistic and aesthetic understanding, cultural awareness, health and well-being, learning and attainment, life and employability.

Our programmes are designed for the dance sector to flourish. By embedding best practice, partnering with freelancers and established organisations, we champion the work of local talent to make work with and for participants and audiences, both new and existing.

We are committed to creating conditions in which dance artists can thrive through establishing strong networks and delivering targeted professional development programmes, platforms and commissions.

Through our work, we are:

- Profiling, celebrating and advocating the importance of dance in all its diverse forms and settings.
- Making high-quality dance accessible to all.
- Supporting the workforce to achieve excellence in dance performance, education and management.
- Improving conditions for dance to be learnt, discussed and seen.

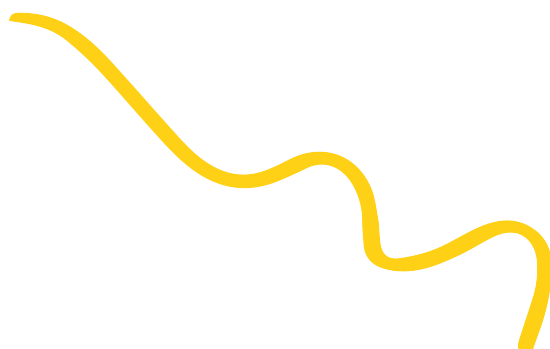
We define dance in this context as all styles and genres of movement focused work, including physical theatre, and circus arts.

## **Call for Proposals**

### **Move Ahead**

TeesDance are commissioning 4 artists or companies to produce new dance work to be delivered in Tees Valley through their MoveAhead commissioning strand of activity. There are 4 commissions available, with each of the commissions built around one of the following Boroughs –

- Darlington;
- Hartlepool;
- Redcar and Cleveland;



- Stockton-on-Tees;

Each of the commissions is worth £5,000 with in-kind support of up to £520 (2 days at £260 per day).

## Hartlepool

This document is for those of you wishing to apply for the opportunity in Hartlepool. TeesDance, in partnership with Hartlepool Borough Council (Creative Hartlepool), is looking to support artists to create new dance-based performance works in the region. TeesDance is committed to creating conditions in which dance artists can thrive in the Tees Valley and one way is through offering commissions with funding support that can be leveraged and working with partners to support the artist to identify additional opportunities to present the commissioned work.

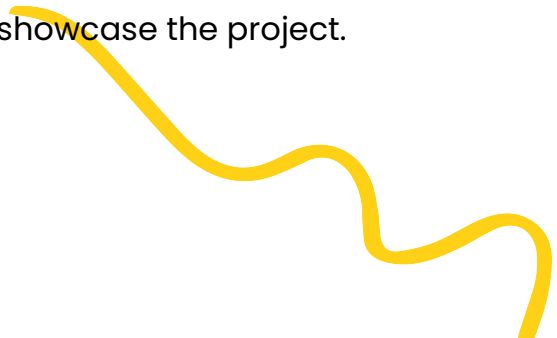
There is one opportunity to receive £5,000 in funding related to Hartlepool, along with producing support in-kind from TeesDance. Depending on the scale of the idea the funding support can be leveraged against other funds and TeesDance can support this process.

This opportunity is expected to lead to finished work at the end of the process. Please read on for more details on the TeesDance and Hartlepool Borough Council commission.

**Theme:** We are looking for:

- proposals from artists who put communities at the heart of their practice;
- for applicants who have a passion for getting people dancing;
- for projects that support communities in Hartlepool to raise artistic ambitions and celebrate the community.

**Output:** We are looking for proposals that support communities in Hartlepool. Proposals that enable participants to take part **or** to attend as audiences. We are seeking creative ideas in response to either; families and young people in improving well-being and access to opportunities **or** connecting isolated communities in developing social cohesion and engagement. It does not have to end in a performance, though there could be opportunities to showcase the project.



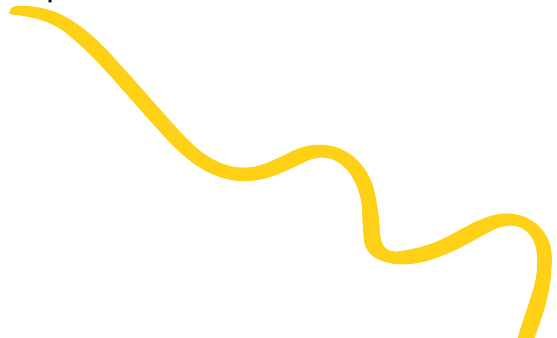
Potential tie-ins to the cultural calendar include participation in Hartlepool's emerging Maritime Festival (August 2025), Hartlepool Folk Festival (October 2025) and Wintertide Festival (November 2025).

### What do you get?

- £5,000 funding support from HBC.
- Producing time, marketing, and community engagement support in-kind from TeesDance to the value of £520.
- TeesDance will invite programmers and potential future partners to public performances.
- Invitation to present work in progress at the TeesDance and Moving Art Management scratch platform; *Move: In Progress*.

### How to apply

Within your application, we will expect you to explore the following elements of activity, as well as the areas listed within the selection criteria.

- Your name and contact details;
  - Any relevant experience – this can include professional, educational, voluntary, personal and lived experience; This can be sent as a CV or link and will not count to your overall page limit.
  - Which commission are you applying for;
  - Your idea and how it responds to the brief;
  - Why you want to make this work;
  - Anticipated start and end date;
  - Budget outline to include where else you are going to apply for funding;
  - There will also be an opportunity to support your application with relevant links;
  - You will also be asked to complete an anonymous Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form;
  - Please note that costs and management to mount or install outdoor work are the responsibility of the applicant. Evidence of Liability Insurance and Risk Assessments for the work must be available on request.
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Your application should be no longer than 2 sides of A4. Please send your application as a Word document or PDF.

The budget, as well as timescales, can be added as a further page or spreadsheet. Any further documents you wish to send with your application can be sent via email.

The deadline for commissions is **Monday 29th April at 10am.**

Please send your applications to [aaron@teesdance.org.uk](mailto:aaron@teesdance.org.uk)

As each of the 4 x MoveAhead commissions responds to different geographical areas and have slightly differing briefs with different relevant outputs, please ensure your application responds to the specific commission brief.

## The Selection Process

All applications will be read by a panel made up of a TeesDance representative, a representative from the relevant Local Authority and a local freelance dance artist. Each panel will shortlist a small number of artists who will be invited to a follow-up meeting either in person or by Zoom to chat about their idea in more detail. Each panel will then select one artist per commission to support as part of this programme.

## Selection Criteria

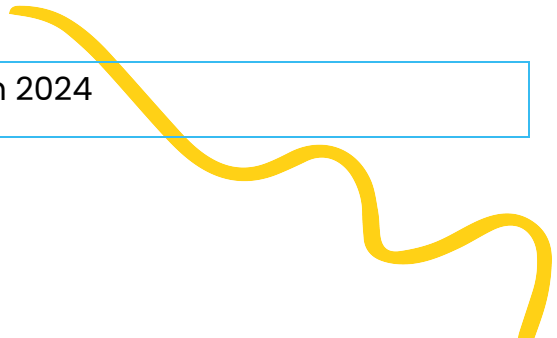
The selection will be based on the following:

- Quality of the idea for the project and how it responds to the relevant brief;
- How dance and movement focused work is integrated into the project;
- Deliverability of the project, skills and experience of the people involved timescale and resources;
- Geographical location - priority will be given to applicants based in the Tees Valley.

## Timeline for selection

Applications open

Wednesday 6 March 2024



Online Briefing about commission which will be BSL Interpreted	4pm-5pm Wednesday 20 March 2024
Application deadline	10am Monday 29 April 2024
Shortlisting notification	Tuesday 7 May 2024
Interviews	Between 10am and 4pm Tuesday 14 May 2024

### Provisional dates of activity

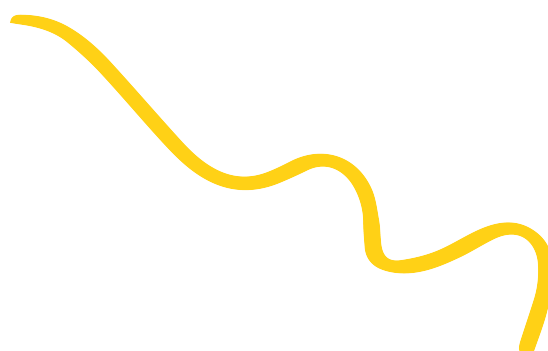
Hartlepool Borough Council	Dates tbc
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### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We strongly encourage applications from people of Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse backgrounds, as well as those who are D/deaf, neurodivergent, disabled and who identify as LGBTQIA+ or experience barriers due to their socio-economic background. We welcome applicants from all walks of life whether you are an experienced artist or company or consider yourself an emerging artist.

If you require assistance in completing your application form or require submission in a different format please get in touch with Aaron Bowman (he/they) Senior Producer – [aaron@teesdance.org.uk](mailto:aaron@teesdance.org.uk)

If there are any adjustments that would help support you in your application or during the selection process, please let us know.



Creative  
Darlington

DH  
DARLINGTON  
HIPPODROME

 **DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

 **HARTLEPOOL**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 **Creative**  
Hartlepool


RED CAR & CLEVELAND  
 **RC**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Between  
the Tides**



  
**Stockton-on-Tees**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 **ARTS COUNCIL**  
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Mayor  HM Government



**Tees  
Dance**