



**BIRMINGHAM  
INTERNATIONAL  
DANCE FESTIVAL**



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## **GALLERY37 NORTH – ARTIST BRIEF**

### **DANCE COMMISSIONING OPPORTUNITY: ‘Roaming’**

**PUNCH and DanceXchange** are excited to offer a co-commission together for the first time, as part of the Gallery 37 initiative in North-West Birmingham and the renowned Birmingham International Dance Festival.

As part of our joint commitment to celebrating difference in all aspects of our makeup, governance and work output, PUNCH & DX are excited to offer a bespoke commissioning opportunity specifically for Hip Hop dance artists. We are seeking to commission an artist or artist collective to lead a dance project, performance or event in North-West Birmingham<sup>(1)</sup>. This is in response to PUNCH’s research findings, where Hip Hop dance was the most requested activity by the local community.

Alongside this, we are also offering an artist development opportunity for a Birmingham-based, early-career dance artist working within any discipline – to gain experience working on a project of this scale in the region.

We actively encourage applications from artists of diverse backgrounds with different skills, perspectives and stories. We are particularly keen to hear from candidates reflecting a broad range of experiences across age, class, disability, gender, race and sexual orientation.

This commission is one of a programme of seven to be delivered in the area, that will collectively launch the three-year GALLERY37 NORTH (G37n) arts residency programme for young people<sup>(2)</sup>. As such, all artistic activities as part of this commission must take place in the North-West Birmingham area.

This commissioning opportunity has two key components.

#### **Strand One // ARTIST COMMISSION**

Commission value: £17,000

We are inviting dance artists working within Hip Hop styles to submit an innovative concept for this new commission that will feature as part of the Gallery 37n and BIDEF 2021 programme. The project must be dance focused but can feature other artistic elements, such as live music. The performance must take place in an outdoor place or unusual space in North-West Birmingham in June 2021 (location to be decided with producing partners) and explore ideas connected to, about, or influenced by the theme ROAMING.

We want to hear from applicants based anywhere in the UK, however there is an expectation that the successful artist/company will spend time on location in Birmingham to research, develop and refine the work, collaborating with local people and partners in advance of its performance. The proposal must connect with spaces and audiences in Birmingham, and you might gain a Brummy accent in the process!

The partnership team will work alongside the successful artist/company to produce and realise their idea in a collaborative way. The artist(s) will be paid a fee as collaborators and the project will be creatively produced by DanceXchange & PUNCH.

We anticipate the project will have life beyond this single performance opportunity, with the option to be toured as part of the wider BIDE programme in 2021 and beyond.

The project will also include a Professional Development opportunity for an early-career, Birmingham-based artist to learn what it takes to create something of this scale. The successful applicant must therefore be willing to spend time working with the emerging talent through a pass-it-on system of learning and development. See further details outlined in Strand Two below.

### **Strand Two // ASSOCIATE ARTIST (ARTIST DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY)**

Talent development fee: £3,000

As part of the Strand One commission, DX and PUNCH are also looking for a Birmingham-based, independent dance artist at an early stage of their career to work as part of the main commission.

The successful applicant will work closely with the creative producing team and the Strand One artist/company as part of an exciting Artist Development Opportunity to nurture home-grown talent, enhance their practice and gain experience working on a large-scale project.

Areas of activity may include, but not be limited to the following: involvement in the Research & Development process of the project, attending production meetings, developing relationships with the local community through consultations and workshops, advisory sessions with the producing team, and more. This opportunity aims to give the Associate Artist a broad range of experiences across a number of areas, however there will also be opportunity to home in on a particular area of interest in conversation with the Strand One artist/company and the producing team.

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# THE COMMISSIONERS

## PUNCH

PUNCH commissions emerging artists, produces new work and develops diverse audiences. We are a lead partner in a range of programmes that develop the creative talents of young people from diverse communities and marginalised backgrounds. PUNCH successfully delivered GALLERY 37 programmes in 2018 and 2016, featuring public art projects including murals in Handsworth Park and Digbeth. (wearepunch.co.uk)

## SAATHI HOUSE

SAATHI HOUSE was established in 1977 in response to the emerging issues of migration and new arrival into the Ladywood neighbourhoods; in particular Aston, Lozells and Perry Barr. Saathi House is one of the longest-standing charitable organisations in the area; delivering arts and crafts activities, self care and parenting workshops and a civic leadership programme for women. (saathihouse.org)

## DANCEXCHANGE

**DanceXchange** presents and produces some of the best UK and international dance; supports artists to create and develop their work; nurtures talented young performers, choreographers and leaders; and engages people of all backgrounds in dance activity. We're passionate about dance and we want everyone to enjoy the positive transformations it creates. (dancexchange.org.uk)

## BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

DanceXchange's largest project is **Birmingham International Dance Festival** (BIDF), a major biennial festival which takes over the city's theatres, streets and squares with show-stopping performances and great choreography. BIDF brings inspiring international dance to the city, showcases local talent, and creates lots of opportunities for people of all backgrounds to get involved. BIDF also delivers professional development events, debates and workshops, opening up a valuable space for dialogue, collaboration and sharing of ideas. Since its beginnings in 2008, the festival has played a vital role in putting a dance centre stage in Birmingham and is a powerful cultural asset for the city. To see the BIDF 2018 highlights showreel, visit <https://youtu.be/UI6czO69p4Y>.

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# THE THEME & BACKGROUND

In 2019 PUNCH undertook an extensive piece of public consultation called 'ROAMING'. It surveyed the opinions, aspirations and life choices of over 1,000 residents of NW Birmingham. The consultation revealed that 63% of residents rated arts activities locally as not good or poor. ROAMING is therefore the overriding theme of this commission and may be interpreted in creative, innovative and original ways (see more below).

**roaming** (meaning taken from Dictionary definition)

*adjective*

“moving about aimlessly or unsystematically, especially over a wide area”

*verb*

“travel unsystematically over, through, or about (a place)”

“(of a person's eyes or hands) pass lightly over something without stopping”

“(of a person's mind or thoughts) drift along without dwelling on anything in particular”

## COMMISSION TIMELINE

APPLICATIONS CLOSING DATE	02/11/2020 at 12pm
SHORTLISTED ARTISTS NOTIFIED BY	09/11/2020
INTERVIEWS	w/c 16/11/2020
ARTIST(S) APPOINTED BY	30/11/2020
BEGIN CREATION PERIOD ON & OFF-SITE	JANUARY – MAY 2021
PUBLIC LAUNCH (WORK(S)/EVENT(S) TO BE COMPLETED)	JUNE 2021
END OF COMMISSION	JUNE 2021
FINAL EVALUATION SUBMISSION BY	JULY 2021

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# THE BUDGET

## TOTAL BUDGET FOR STRAND ONE: £17,000 (Artist Commission)

Costs covered as part of PUNCH & DX core budgets include: Producer, administration, studio space, travel, marketing & PR. All other costs including your fees, any collaborators/musicians etc must be included in your proposed budget (totalling £17,000). Please see 'The Application: How To Apply – Strand One' section below for further details.

**Please note:** we would anticipate the successful artist/company to apply for match funding (such as an ACE Project Grant) to enhance the delivery of the project. The producing team is able to support the artist in their application where required.

## TOTAL BUDGET FOR STRAND TWO: £3,000 (Artist Development Opportunity)

This is a set fee based on £110 per day x 25 days (total £2,750) as a minimum time commitment, with the remaining monies expected to cover all costs including travel and subsistence.

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# THE APPLICATION: HOW TO APPLY – STRAND ONE

## Strand One: The Brief & How to Apply

We are looking for activity which is:

- designed for open outdoor places or non-theatre indoor spaces
- dance or movement led, with a focus on Hip Hop practices (this could be a single performance, a platform/showcase of multiple works across the site, a methodology that can be applied in different settings, or anything else you can think of!)
- high impact, will stop the public in their tracks, and be relatable to an everyday audience of all ages
- focused on key ideas of roaming, shared spaces and the hyperlocal
- informed by local people
- relevant to and reflective of Birmingham
- free to public audiences
- adaptable to adhere to government guidelines for socially-distanced audiences if required
- deliverable with minimal technical requirements
- deliverable within the timeline outlined below

The concept can be based on an existing idea that you'd like to develop for unusual spaces, or something brand new.

For Strand One, applications are welcome from UK-based Hip Hop dance artists who are committed to engaging with Birmingham audiences and the wider dance sector in the city. Artists must have a proven track record of delivering exceptional performances or projects. Individual artists, companies and artist collectives are all eligible to apply.

**To apply for Strand One**, please submit a proposal of no more than 2 sides of A4, or a 10min video/audio file, which articulates how you will meet the above brief, to include:

- Details of the artist/project lead and key collaborators, including relevant experience
- Info on your practice, what inspires you and why do you do what you do?

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- Commission idea and aims – get us excited!
- Who this will involve – e.g. do you have company dancers already, or will you be recruiting? Tell us who is on your dream team.
- Any tech & access requirements you know in advance

The paper bit:

- An estimated budget breakdown (please see 'The Budget' section above for further details).
- Links to relevant past works
- The details of two referees who can vouch for the quality of your work.

Please submit the application as outlined above and an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form to [emily.labhart@dx.dance](mailto:emily.labhart@dx.dance) with 'ROAMING PROPOSAL – STRAND ONE' in the subject line by **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020**.

We are happy to clarify any aspects of the commission – contact [emily.labhart@dx.dance](mailto:emily.labhart@dx.dance) by email for further information.

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# THE APPLICATION: HOW TO APPLY – STRAND TWO

## Strand Two: The Brief & How to Apply

This is a creative development opportunity for an early-career, Birmingham-based independent dance artist working within any style or specialism. The successful candidate will be:

- Creative, ambitious and determined
- Committed and passionate about developing their practice
- Excited to gain experience both as an artist and behind the scenes to understand how we make it happen
- Reliable – you'll do what they say you'll do, when you say you will
- Ready to grow – you want to push outside of your comfort zone
- Serious in your desire to impact the cultural sector, inspire social change through the arts and innovate

**To apply for Strand Two, please submit the following:**

**Part 1: Tell us about you and your experience.** (Maximum of 400 words or up to 1.5 minutes of video)

Please consider the following:

- Let us know who you are and what motivates you
- Tell us about any projects or experience that you feel are relevant to this opportunity

**Part 2: Please tell us your reasons for applying for the Artist Development Opportunity.** (Maximum of 400 words or up to 1.5 minutes of video)

Please consider the following:

- What impact you hope this will have on you and your career
- Why you feel this opportunity is important for you at this point in time

**Part 3: Please give us an example where you achieved something you were proud of, or when you overcame a significant challenge.** (Maximum of 400 words or up to 1.5 minutes of video)

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Please consider the following:

- Your role
- What skills were needed to overcome the challenge and/or reach your goal
- Why you think this was important in your professional or personal development to date

Please submit the application as outlined above and an Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form to [emily.labhart@dx.dance](mailto:emily.labhart@dx.dance) with 'ROAMING PROPOSAL – STRAND TWO' in the subject line by **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020**.

We are happy to clarify any aspects of the commission – contact [emily.labhart@dx.dance](mailto:emily.labhart@dx.dance) by email for further information.

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

At interview, the selection will be made by a panel reflecting a range of expertise and perspectives, to include an independent artist and representatives from DanceXchange, PUNCH and other stakeholders involved in the project.

The interview will be an opportunity to tell us more about your project idea, as well as to talk through your proposed budget and a timeline of activity. Further details will be sent to shortlisted artists in due course.

### NOTES

(1) Generic outline of the seven commissions

(2) Generic outline of G37n

(3) Rights to work / artistic and/or IP licence

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