



OUR NATIONAL PORTFOLIO, 2018-22

Dance Narrative



The 2015-18 dance portfolio comprises 57 organisations and an investment of £39.4 million per annum (11 per cent of the total portfolio spend), and the proposed 2018-22 portfolio is 64 organisations and an investment of £42.2 million (10 per cent of the total spend). This increase of seven organisations represents a 12.3 per cent increase to the dance portfolio.

Dance is an incredibly popular artform in the UK, with a range of styles for people to watch or take part in – from ballroom to ballet and hip-hop to contemporary and from folk to Kathak. On television, Northern Ballet teamed up with CBeebies to screen its series of ballets for young children; BalletBoyz' moving film about the impact of war, *Young Men*, was screened twice on the BBC and the BBC's Young Dancer of the Year competition has seen winners going on to work with leading companies such as Rambert and Richard Alston Dance Company.

Over the last few years our investment in dance hubs in Birmingham and Leeds has brought notable success for the artform – with additional £5 million Government investment in the Birmingham hub to deliver new studios and greater audience reach.

In Leeds, the work undertaken by Northern Ballet in partnership with the hub has resulted in an Ambition for Excellence Award and we are including Northern School of Contemporary Dance for the first time in the portfolio to help retain graduates in the city and complement the dance development work already undertaken by Yorkshire Dance.

National Portfolio Organisations reached nearly 600,000 young people in 2015/16 through outreach work. This is reflected in the high standards of participants in the annual U Dance festival and applicants to the National Youth Dance Company.

The 2018-22 dance portfolio shows progress on a number of fronts, particularly around diversity, but it also presents a broadened talent development offer, one single national sector support organisation for dance and a strengthened offer for children and young people.

Of 10 dance organisations awarded Elevate funding, seven are joining the portfolio. These offer a broader range of styles, including hip hop (ZooNation, Boy Blue Entertainment and Avant Garde) and South Asian (Aakash Odedra's Leicester Dance Theatre). Ballet Black is also joining the portfolio, offering excellent role models for aspiring Black and minority ethnic dancers and a strong offer for children and young people. Uplifts for StopGap and Candoco, together with new joiner Corali, strengthen the integrated dance offer.

In 2013 we invested in the creation of a ground-breaking consortium bringing together Dance UK, Association of Dance of the African Diaspora, Youth Dance England and the National Association of Dance Teachers. New Sector Support Organisation, One Dance UK, to be based in Birmingham, is now a one-stop shop for dance artists to get support to develop their careers as well as the leading subject association for dance in schools.

There is increased support for new and existing companies touring on the mid-scale and internationally such as Ballet Lorent, Motionhouse and ACE Dance and Music.

Dance continues to be a strong international export and we have given Dance4 in Nottingham an uplift in funding to continue the work it has started with arts councils

in England, Wales and Scotland and UKTI to take British choreographers and producers to international showcases.

We recognise that our decisions will have an impact on dance development in the North West and as a priority, our area and national teams will work together with the sector to develop a new approach in that area. This will include working with our National Portfolio Organisations, both local and national, to ensure a strategic approach which positions dance at the heart of exciting new initiatives, such as the Factory.

MORE INFORMATION:
[artscouncil.org.uk/npo](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/npo)

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