



Pavilion Dance Associate Artist 2026-28 -

Open Call Out

Call open: 27 March 2026

Application deadline: 30 April 2026

Are you a choreographer with a socially-engaged practice and in search of an organisation that supports and champions your work in a holistic way? Would you benefit from some fresh sea air and a supportive, friendly team? Are you up for the challenge of working with new communities?

We're looking for our next Associate Artist to work with us potentially for the next 2 years.

We offer up to four weeks per year in our studio and theatre space free of charge.

In addition, there is up to £3,000 cash over 2 years for you to use either to support your residency period or to develop your artistic practice.

In return, we would love to work with you on how dance can be used in our communities both in our building or out and about. If your application is successful, we'll discuss what this could be.

If you feel there is a barrier preventing you from applying, please get in touch to discuss how we can work with you to remove those barriers. Access support is available (see below).

Pavilion Dance South West

Westover Road, Bournemouth BH1 2BU

E info@pdswh.org.uk T 01202 203630

www.pdswh.org.uk

Pavilion Dance South West is a registered charity dedicated to transforming communities through dance.
Company Registration Number 3231304 Registered in England. Charity Registration Number 1111641 VAT Number 224 7443 16



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Pavilion Dance Programming

Pavilion Dance empowers and champions diverse artistic voices. Rather than curating to specific themes, our programme celebrates the unique perspectives and experiences that artists bring to our dancing community. We collaborate deeply with artists, amplifying their voices and connecting them with the people.

We are therefore interested in working with artists who:

- Engage and connect with people in our community
- Activate and reimagine spaces in creative ways

For this iteration of Associate Artist, we are specifically interested in appointing a choreographer with a socially-engaged practice. As a dance organisation we see ourselves as a conduit between artists and communities and we would like to support an artist whose ethos aligns with ours.

We define socially-engaged practice in this context as artists who work proactively and collaboratively within communities. The practice should be informed by participation as well as performance, e.g. community cast, co-creation or a workshop series.

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We are interested in new and exciting ways that artists connect with communities so please feel free to include them in your proposal.

Our Associate Artist is probably already known to us and this scheme is intended to instigate a deeper partnership. We welcome artists who we have not had a chance to encounter yet to apply for our Visiting Artist scheme instead.

Criteria

This opportunity is for an established UK-based dance artist or company and we would be delighted to hear from:

- Artists or companies (based anywhere in the UK) with whom we have established, or can establish, a relationship. We've seen your work, you may have been presented in our theatre, you could simply be in conversation with us or you may have been a Visiting Artist previously

We will be assessing applications according to:

- How your proposed work connects with our values: **Kind Inclusive Innovative Empowering**
- How you are proposing to connect your work with audiences, communities or participants

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You must be over **18 years of age**, but you can be at any stage in your artistic career.

Applicants will be assessed using these priorities and criteria by Victor Fung (Artistic Director), Jeanette Hinton (Performances Producer) and one independent artist.

What is on offer?

Our Associate Artist will have access to space for up to 4 weeks per year.

Our initial suggestion for Year 1 could include:

Tuesday 1 - Friday 4 September 2026, 9am - 5pm in Seafront Studio

Tuesday 8 - Thursday 10 December 2026, 9am - 5pm in Ocean Theatre

Tuesday 12 - Friday 15 January 2027, 9am - 5pm in Ocean Theatre

Tuesday 15 - Friday 18 February 2027, 9am - 5pm in Ocean Theatre

For full dimensions of the dance spaces on offer please visit our [website](#).

If some or all of these dates don't work for you, then we can discuss alternative timing as our spaces bookings allow. Please note if you need to discuss this in your application.

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The cash award is split into two amounts - £1,750 for Year 1 and £1,250 for Year 2. The second year of the award is contingent on a review at the end of year one.

The cash award will be paid in one lump sum or two equal instalments within each financial year. We can agree what payment plan is best for your project.

You will be offered access to our Employee Assistance Programme which has free-of-charge advice and counselling services for all of life's challenges.

We also have a supportive team of arts professionals on hand who can offer guidance and advice in developing your work. You will have up to 8 days' of time allocated over each year, split between the Artistic Director and Performances Producer. This time can be used for activities such as in-studio artistic feedback, funding application writing, budgeting and cash flow or tour booking. We can work with you as to how we split our time depending on what best serves your needs.

There may be opportunities we can explore together. Being appointed our Associate Artist is a partnership and designed to kick-start a longer-term relationship between us. If our initial year of working together has been successful, then your Associate status continues for a further year.

Access

Our building is fully accessible with wheelchair-friendly doors, a lift, loo and hearing loop.

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If you feel there is a barrier preventing you from applying, please get in touch to discuss how we can work with you to remove those barriers - jeanette.hinton@pdsw.org.uk or call 01202 203630

Application forms can be supplied in an alternative format if required or you could submit your answers via a 5-minute video or voice note (see guidance below on how to do this).

Please let us know what access support you might need in order to do a residency with us.

“Being Associate Artists of PDSW has been a fantastic opportunity that has helped us elevate both the quality and breadth of our work.

Over the 2 years, the studio space, cash support and mentoring has allowed us to fully create and nationally tour our work CAGED, invest in valuable self practice and start the R&D of our new project Beautiful Future. This, along with opportunities to connect to local schools and communities, has been an invaluable opportunity to expand into new regions and take our work to the next level. We cannot thank the wonderful PDSW team more for their support, guidance and all around positivity and warmth! ”.

- Linden Dance, Associate Artist 2024-26

How to apply

Please complete our [form](#) outlining the following:

- Description of your practice
- What you hope to achieve from your association with Pavilion Dance

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If you cannot access the MS form, then we can send you a version to complete in Word. Please email jeanette.hinton@pdsw.org.uk if you need this.

Alternatively, we are happy to accept application by voice note or video outlining the two points above (no more than 5 minutes). Please send your file to jobs@pdsw.org.uk with 'Associate Artist application 2026' in the subject line. You will also need to submit short films of two examples of past work.

The deadline for completed applications is 6pm on Thursday 30th April 2026

If you have been shortlisted, you will be invited to an online interview w/c 18 May (exact date tba). This will last up to 45 minutes and will be scheduled on Zoom. If you have any dates that week you cannot attend, then do let us know in advance.

About Pavilion Dance

Pavilion Dance transforms lives through cultivating a culture of dancing. We offer dance experiences that are relevant, diverse, inclusive, and captivating.

Our seaside creative hub in Bournemouth is home to our dancing community. Through theatre and outdoor performances, weekly dance classes, in-school workshops, evening dance events, and many other activities, we welcome people of all backgrounds to experience the embodied joy of dancing.

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As a dance charity, we are passionate about delivering our work locally in BCP as well as supporting the development of dance in the SW, the UK and beyond.

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