

Time & Space Commissions

Information Pack

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01 Welcome

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading dance house, with a spirit of creative innovation and artistic collaboration at its heart. A key mission is to fuel the evolution of dance by providing artists with opportunities to experiment, explore, and develop their practice. Last year, we launched our Artist Development Programme, consisting of six offerings, all open or recruited by open call, designed to support the artistic community through non-outcome driven initiatives. Following this first iteration's success, we are re-opening applications for four of our programmes. You can read about the full programme [here](#).

This offer does exactly what it says on the tin. We are offering artists time, space, and support to act as a catalyst for the development of their practice, without any pressure for a performative outcome.

This programme welcomes artists and creatives working in dance in all its forms, regardless of pathway, training, or background. This programme is for you if you are looking for support to experiment, explore, and deepen your practice.

02 The Offer

What is it?

We are offering three artists a development commission to have time, space, and support to help achieve a step-change in their practice. Each artist will receive:

- **Two weeks of in-kind studio space at Sadler's Wells. The studio is offered from Monday to Friday between the hours of 09:00 and 18:00 daily, to be scheduled in either October 2024, January 2025 or March 2025 (as availability permits).**
- **A grant of £7,000 to cover any associated costs including collaborators fees, travel and accommodation, resources, or anything else that would make the development commission successful for you.**
- **Producing support from the Artist Development team at Sadler's Wells to help make the best of the development commission and to provide further advice and support as required.**

In addition, to make the development commission a success for those with supplementary needs, we can offer a bespoke package of access support to suit your requirements.

We would like the recipients of the Time & Space Commissions to have some visibility through this process and although we don't ask for any kind of performative outcome, we would like each person to share their take-away(s) from the process. This could be through documentation, a blog post or digital content reflecting on the development commission.

Who is it for?

We would like to support choreographers and dance makers that:

- **Are interested in deepening or making a step-change in their practice.**
- **Have some professional experience of choreography having already created at least three works that have been performed in a public setting.**
- **Have a choreographic practice rooted in dance in any of its forms.**
- **Are over the age of 18 and not in formal education or training.**
- **Are residents of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands).**

For us, the term choreographers and dance makers is used to define artists that are creating their own work and are committed to a professional pathway as a choreographer.

We acknowledge there are many different pathways in dance and that you might have a wealth of experience performing in other people's work. We ask that your current interest is in developing your own unique choreographic language or style. We mean this in the broadest sense which means you could be interested in creating work for several settings including theatre, outdoor, community, and visual arts contexts.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to support:

- **Individuals who are currently part of a Sadler's Wells programme such as Young Associates or are being commissioned by us.**
- **Individuals who are currently in formal education or training.**
- **Those who reside outside of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies (such as Republic of Ireland or other EU countries).**

This is a space for the artistic community and is not a place to propose projects to Sadler's Wells for commissioning or programming.

If you are unsure if this programme is for you and would like to talk to someone, please join us at one of our drop-in information sessions where you can speak to a member of the team and ask any questions you might have. If you need further assistance please contact Valentina Vela, Senior Producer. Please find further information and contact details at the end of this pack.

When is it?

We have held studio space for these development commissions on the following dates:

2024

Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November

Monday 4 November – Friday 8 November

2025

Monday 6 January – Friday 10 January

Monday 13 January – Friday 17 January

Monday 3 March – Friday 7 March

Monday 10 March – Friday 14 March

We can be flexible, subject to availability but would like the development commissions to be completed before the end of March 2025.

03 Expression of Interest

To apply, please complete an [Expression of Interest Form](#) on our website.

In this form, we ask for some basic information about you, your creative practice, ask you to describe what you would like to explore and why you would benefit from this development commission:

- 1. Please tell us about your creative practice.**
- 2. What would you like to explore through this development commission?**
- 3. Why would you benefit from a Time & Space Commission at this time?**

You can submit your responses to the questions above in either of the following formats:

- **Written statements each with a word count of up to 250 words**
- **Audio or video recordings each with a duration of 2-3 minutes**

It's best that you prepare your responses before you click through to complete the form. Once you have prepared your responses, the form should take no more than 10-minutes to complete.

We are mindful of the unpaid labour undertaken for open calls and as such invite you to keep your response to the approximate length requested.

This open call launches on Thursday 8 August and you have until **Sunday 1 September at midnight** to apply. You will receive an automatic response when your expression of interest has been received, if you don't receive an e-mail within 24 hours, please contact us via the details at the end of this pack.

04 Selection Process

This programme will be selected by:

- **Rob Jones, Associate Artistic Director at Sadler's Wells**
- **Valentina Vela, Senior Producer, Artist Development and Programming at Sadler's Wells**
- **Becky Namgauds, Independent Artist**
- **Anthea Lewis, Independent Producer/Curator**

Successful expressions of interest will present a dynamic and tangible idea to explore and will demonstrate the positive impact this development commission will have on one's practice.

We are committed to foregrounding under-represented voices and as such, we aim to offer at least two of the three development commissions to:

- **Artists from systemically marginalised groups including, and not limited to, artists with disabilities, artists from the global majority and LGBTQIA+.**
- **Artists that identify as female or non-binary.**

The timeline for this initiative is as follows:

Thursday 8 August

Open call launches for expression of interest

Sunday 1 September

Deadline at midnight

Tuesday 1 October

Responses sent to all who submitted an expression of interest

We commit to responding to all who submit an expression of interest by the date above. Should for any reason there be a change to the timeline, we will write to update you.

We anticipate this will be a competitive programme and are regretful that we will receive many more expressions of interest than sessions we are able to offer. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer feedback.

05 Access Requirements

We are committed to being open and inclusive and hope the process is accessible to all but realise that some may still encounter barriers in accessing this offer.

If this resonates with you, please get in touch by phone, text, or e-mail to let us know what additional support you require to make your expression of interest possible. Regrettably, we cannot give advice on your response itself as we will remain impartial in the process.

The large-print, plain text version of this pack is available [here](#). You can also listen to an audio version of this pack [here](#). There is a read aloud function available in the PDF, which is available to download [here](#).

Contact:

**Valentina Vela, Senior Producer,
Artist Development & Programming
E-Mail: Valentina.Vela@sadlerswells.com
Phone or Text: +44 (0) 7872 506 803**

Valentina is available from Monday to Friday between 10:00-17:00. Please allow two working days for a response.

We can offer additional financial support to help with anything you might need to overcome barriers that would usually make your participation in this kind of initiative prohibitive or challenging. These expenses could be (and are not limited to) your personal access costs, childcare or other caring responsibilities or local transportation for accessibility.

If you are successful, we will discuss these requirements with you and create a bespoke package of access support to suit your needs.

06 Frequently Asked Questions

What style of dance is eligible?

This offer is in support of dance makers and choreographers no matter what particular style their practice is rooted in. We are open to hearing from a wide range of artists.

Can I apply with a particular idea for a work that I would like to develop?

These development commissions are intended for research to support artists develop their ideas and choreographic practice without any pressure for a performative outcome. We understand there will most definitely be ideas that artists may want to explore and test so this may be part of what is worked on during the project.

I don't want to work in week-long blocks, can I structure the studio time differently?

Studio space at Sadler's Wells is in high demand so for logistical reasons we have held some weeks in the calendar to ensure there is space allocated for this initiative. We are open to looking at alternative ways of structuring the studio time, but this will be subject to availability.

Can I apply if I am already working with Sadler's Wells?

If you are already part of a Sadler's Wells programme like Young Associates, or if you are being commissioned by us you can't apply.

Is there access support to help me apply?

Yes, the materials are available in large-print plain text and audio. If you need further assistance with access, including our support with the understanding of terms used in this document, we can help. Please use the contact details at the end of this pack.

Are there age restrictions for this programme?

You must be aged 18 or over to apply. We acknowledge that everyone's journey is different, therefore there are no specific age specifications.

Can I apply if I live outside of the United Kingdom?

No, this offer is only available to artists with permanent residence in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

I am having trouble with the form; please can you help?

If you experience any IT issues in completing or submitting the expression of interest form, please contact us using the details at the end of this pack.

07 Contact

If there is other information that you need or questions you would like to ask, please get in touch with **Valentina Vela, Senior Producer** by e-mail at **Valentina.Vela@sadlerswells.com**. You can also call or text Valentina on **07872 506 803** from Monday to Friday between 10:00-17:00. Please allow two working days for a response.

We will also be hosting remote drop-in information sessions on the following dates and times if you would like to talk to us more about this programme:

Tuesday 27 August

17:00-18:00 on Zoom

Thursday 5 September

13:00-14:00 on Zoom

Please RSVP to Valentina Vela by email at Valentina.Vela@sadlerswells.com to let us know what day you would like to attend. A reminder will be sent with specific joining instructions the day before. Both sessions will be BSL interpreted.

Read more about the **Artist Development Programme** [here](#).