

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Call #1 NCDF Performances

General:

Are you doing a Mainstage performance this year?

NC Dance Festival will not hold a mainstage performance during the 2026-27 season, instead, we will present a variety of other kinds of performances and activities, including partnering with a Greensboro art gallery. This decision allows us to support many kinds of dance and dancers and connect with local organizations, while working at a level that is sustainable for our small staff. Many of the activities we have chosen to present this year also provide opportunities for artists who may not have access to the extensive resources needed to create and rehearse a work for a presentation like the mainstage show. We anticipate presenting a mainstage performance in the 2027-28 season.

What is the adjudication process?

A team of 3-4 adjudicators will review the submissions, considering each work for innovation, clarity of artistic perspective, clear communication of ideas, thought-provoking material, performance quality, and suitability for the available NCDF season activities. These adjudicators will recommend a pool of “finalists,” and Dance Project staff will make final programming decisions from those finalists, taking into consideration the available performance opportunities, mix of choreographers and dance works, and flow of the performance.

Adjudicators are intentionally chosen to represent a wide range of relationships to dance, from dance faculty at area universities, to working artists previously featured in NC Dance Festival activities, to dedicated dance audience members, to graduate students in dance, to...you name it! We assemble a group that is diverse in terms of race/ethnicity, age, and aesthetic perspective.

What forms of dance do you present?

The NC Dance Festival’s focus is primarily modern and contemporary dance. However, we see “contemporary” dance as more than a technique; rather, we see it as a choreographic approach, a way of working with ideas. We encourage collaboration between genres and creative application of contemporary ideas. The NC Dance Festival considers strong contemporary and innovative approaches to choreography, including fused and collaborative forms (contemporary ballet, contemporary African, contemporary hip-hop, etc.), dance theater, and experimental work. Think your work takes a contemporary approach to choreography? Tell us why/how in your application!

What kind of information do you need to see on my resume/CV?

Generally, your resume/CV gives us a sense of your professional and educational experience. Especially if you have not applied before, it serves as an introduction of yourself as an artist. Please note relevant training, choreography, presentation experience, teaching experience, artistic honors, and anything else you think is important to paint a picture of yourself as an artist. HOWEVER, your CV is not part of the adjudication process in which your work is considered on its own.

I am not living in NC. May I submit work?

At this time, submissions are only accepted from artists living in NC. If you do not currently live in NC, but will be a resident at the time of the Festival performances, please contact us to discuss your situation.

I am a student. Why can't I apply?

If you will have finished your degree-granting program by the time the season begins, you may apply. While we recognize that there are many talented student choreographers in the state, and continue looking for ways to encourage and support this talent, we are focused on presenting the work of professional artists working in NC. We also recognize that artists may return to school for advanced degrees, or may be in school for non-dance fields. For consistency, we apply the policy across the board. You may wish to consider the Artist Residency program, particularly if you are preparing to graduate from a college/university program and want to continue rooting into the community. If you have a question about your specific situation, please contact us.

If I'm selected, what happens next?

The NC Dance Festival will extend an offer to you to be part of the season. It will describe the intended performance in as much detail as known for now, including performance compensation. If you accept the offer, we will ask for photos of you/your selected work that we can include on our season announcement and in our publicity. We ask that you not present this work between April and November 2026 in the cities you are contracted for, without prior approval from NCDF. You will also be required to obtain all necessary copyright permissions for music, text, imagery, etc. Please let us know if this permission extends to virtual performances, in the event that is necessary. Before the season begins, we will have at least one meeting with the season artists and technical director, to discuss the season and get to know each other.

During the season, artists will be responsible for:

1. Travel, lodging, and meal expenses for performance, unless otherwise specified in performance contract.
2. Technical needs beyond what NCDF venues include in standard rental fee. It may be necessary for the artist to provide fees for exceptional video, lighting, sound needs. Examples include: hazer, piano, projection from the floor or wings, etc.
3. Promotional materials and efforts as requested by NCDF administrators.

School show:

Can rehearsal footage or a studio showing be submitted for my work sample?

Yes, it is acceptable for NCDF applicants to include clear and concise rehearsal footage in their application. However, the footage you submit must be of the FULL dance you are proposing. Please be clear on what your costuming and lighting ideas are in your application.

I have my dance planned out, but I only have the first part on video. Can I submit what I have?

No, you must submit a full, complete dance with your submission. The adjudicators will not consider incomplete or unfinished work. We are not adjudicating the *potential* of a work, but rather the specific work itself, so we need to see the dance in its entirety.

I applied last year and my dance was not selected. Can I submit it again this year?

You can submit it again, if you wish. However, you may want to reach out to Anne (anne@danceproject.org) for any feedback that the adjudicators may have had for this work before re-submitting. We have different adjudicators each year, so it's possible that a work not selected one year may be chosen in a different year, but it is not common.

I am a dance professional, but my work is set on student dancers. Is that ok?

It is our strong preference to present work created and performed by NC professional dancers. We recognize that you may wish or need to submit a work set on students, however please let us know in your application if you intend to recast with professional dancers if your work is selected.

How should I submit my work sample?

We prefer that you submit your video as a Google Drive or Dropbox link. If possible, keep files under 1GB, 1080p resolution (1920:1080 aspect ratio). Please enable download permissions, at least temporarily, so that we can access your video file and compile a folder of video submissions for the adjudicators. If you are not able to submit your video this way, please contact us at anne@danceproject.org for other options.

Can I submit more than one work for consideration?

Please submit just one work for consideration for the NCDF performance for School Groups. You will be submitting the actual work you plan to present. However, if you are also applying to other calls, you may submit other work samples that best fit those artist calls.

Can I submit a dance that I've submitted to another festival/showcase?

Yes. However, please let us know where else this dance has been performed recently (and any that are possible/likely in the next year). Our preference is to present work that has not already been seen by our audiences, or presented in multiple local settings recently. If your work is selected, we ask that you not present this work between April and November 2026 in the city(ies) you are contracted for, without prior approval from NCDF.

What about dance film?

The School performance primarily presents live performance, rather than film, although we have sometimes shown dance film. This year, please submit dance films for consideration for the October 2 Greenhill performance.

October 2 Greenhill gallery performance

I want to apply for the live performance, but I don't live in Greensboro and I'm not sure how often I can get to Greensboro to rehearse in the gallery. Is that ok?

You do not need to hold all of your rehearsals for this project in the gallery. However, it is important that you can plan on at least a few in Greensboro, to set the work in that specific setting and for an open rehearsal that the public will be invited to, as a way to generate interest in the performance. If you have a question about your specific situation, please ask! (Anne: anne@danceproject.org)

I want to submit a dance proposal or a dance film for this opportunity, but my dance is not connected to the theme of "land." Can I still submit it?

You can...but our aim is to connect the dance performance to the gallery's exhibit in some way. If there are submissions that do have that connection, they will likely be stronger applicants because of the connection.

I'm interested in performing in this performance! How do I get selected to perform?

The choreographer selected to create or set their work for this performance will be casting performers during Dance Project's Pre/Professional Dance Intensive (Aug 15 & 16). There will be an opportunity to take class with this choreographer, and that class will serve as an audition. Please stay connected to our Pre/Pro information for more details!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Call #2: Artist in Residence Program

How will you choose artists in residence?

The curatorial team is made up of Festival Director Anne Morris, Kristin Clotfelter with Barriskill Dance Theatre School, and an artist from a previous Artist in Residence cohort. We strive to convene a cohort of artists who complement each other in style, perspective, and career stage, and represent the diversity in our NC community. We also consider other access to rehearsal space that applicants have (in general, we hope to offer space to artists who have limited access to other space). We consider both the potential for artistic development for individual artists as well as the potential for development of our regional community.

Does it matter what style of dance I am involved in?

No, we've had many different kinds of dance artists in previous Artist in Residence cohorts, from modern/contemporary, to jazz, to hip-hop & breaking, to dance filmmakers, and more.

I've been an artist in residence in a previous cohort. Can I apply again?

Artists who were part of the 2024 or earlier cohorts may apply again. Artists who were part of the 2025-26 cohort must wait a year before reapplying.

I'm just finishing my BFA degree and I've applied to many opportunities for next year. I think I'll be in the area until December, but I'm not sure.

This may not be the right opportunity for you at this time. We understand that sudden life changes may happen at any time, but this program is designed for people who would like to establish themselves in this dance community, at least for 8 mo, and are willing to make that commitment to their own residency and to the rest of the residency cohort.

Do I have to present a finished dance at the end of the residency?

No. We ask for artists to come in with a clear sense of their goal for the residency period, although we know that goals sometimes shift during a creative process. There is not a strict expectation of a finished product at the end of the residency, but you will be sharing your work in some form with your cohort along the way and with the public at the end of the residency. You may create a finished dance or work in progress, or rework a previous dance, or investigate your choreographic process. We are hoping that this is a productive opportunity for artists who wish to submit their work to festivals, other residency programs, or other opportunities to come out of the residency with a well-developed work to submit.

I want to do a project with multiple dancers, but I don't know many dancers in the area.

We can help by hosting an audition for you and other Artists in Residence who may also be looking to cast performers. We will work out the details with selected artists.

Am I required to pay my dancers?

It is our intention in the 2026 season to offer Artists in Residence a small production stipend of \$800 (pending successful funding). If you are working with dancers, we strongly encourage you to use some or all of this stipend to offer your dancers compensation for dancing with you.

When will my rehearsals be?

We will discuss schedules with the selected artists. Note that the summer schedule may differ from the fall schedule, due to summer camps in our studio. Occasional schedule shifts are fine, but otherwise, once your rehearsal schedule is set, we do expect you to show up for those rehearsal times unless you have contacted us about a conflict.

The call for artists mentions a "creative buddy." What does that mean?

Each artist in residence will be assigned a "buddy" from the current or a recent cohort. This is someone you check in with regularly, just to chat about how things are going. This person may end up being someone who attends rehearsals and gives feedback or just someone you know is there if you need to reach out.

What kind of work sample should I submit?

Your work sample should give us some sense of your work and/or your process - who you are as an artist. If you are interested in doing something completely different during your residency, tell us that! You may submit a work in progress or a finished work. If you wish to develop an existing work during the residency, please submit that work. Please upload a link to view your sample (youtube/vimeo/google drive, e.g.).

What kind of information do you need to see on my resume/CV?

Generally, your resume/CV gives us a sense of your professional and educational experience. Especially if you have not applied before, it serves as an introduction of yourself as an artist. Please note relevant training, presentation experience, teaching experience, artistic honors, and anything else you think is important to paint a picture of yourself as an artist.

I don't live in Greensboro. May I apply?

Our available studios are located in Greensboro and Durham, and recent artists in residence have come from surrounding areas to participate (Greensboro, Burlington, Durham, Raleigh, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, etc.). You DO have to be based in NC, but you do not have to live in Greensboro or Durham, as long as you can fulfill your rehearsal time on a regular basis.