DJD
DANCE CENTRE
CREATIVE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

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Application for Residency
The DJD Dance Centre Creative Residency Program
January 1-June 30, 2027

Description

The DJD Dance Centre Creative Residency is a program that aims to encourage the independent dance artist sector in Calgary and nationwide. The residency program has been created to support the research, development, and/or final phase of production for independent choreographers working on specified, self-directed projects that are targeted for production. During the residency, artists will have access to one studio at the DJD Dance Centre free of charge for the duration of their residency. This arrangement is designed to allow choreographers to work and grow in a concentrated manner and with as few limits as possible to the choreographer's creative energies.

Guidelines

Please be aware that the following terms apply when making an application for a residency at the DJD Dance Centre:

Priority for residency will be given to mid-career and established independent artists with a proven track record and a solid project proposal. Priority will also be given to independent artists not specifically associated with an established dance organization (charitable or for-profit). Emerging choreographers are also encouraged to apply and may be granted shorter windows of residency time based on availability.

Potential residency schedule – Applicants may request up to 16 weeks of rehearsal time between 9:00 am – 4:30pm, Monday-Friday. Priority will be given to applications that request half-day or full-day rehearsal blocks. Priority will also be given to rehearsal requests that aim for 2, 3, or 5 rehearsals per week. If requesting a full-time residency (i.e. 5 days per week at 7 or 7.5 hours), the maximum studio request accommodated will be 6 weeks.

All residencies are subject to studio/programming availability and a degree of flexibility around dates may be required to help with the scheduling of residency times. Once a residency is agreed upon and confirmed in writing, the dates may not be changed, unless agreed by the steering committee in exceptional circumstances and where it causes no adverse effects on other users.

The deadline is October 5th, 2026, for the period January 1-June 30, 2027. There will be no rolling deadlines for the residency program.

DJD will provide the use of one studio free of charge to the successful applicant. All applicants are expected to engage their own professional dance artists and collaborators for the project and are expected to cover any additional costs incurred by the project. Choreographers are encouraged to apply for grant funding to support the fees associated with the developing work.

Successful residency applicants are highly encouraged to offer a workshop and/or class offering to the community as part of their residency. Schedules for this workshop/class will be determined in communication with the program steering committee and will be dependent on space availability. Further information regarding workshop/class offerings will be forthcoming in an acceptance email for successful applicants.

Successful residency applicants will also have the option to self-present an informal studio showing during their residency for invited guests and community members.

Selection Panel

All applications will be assessed by a panel of 3-4 members drawn from the DJD artistic staff and the professional dance community (the panel will include a minimum of one member from DJD and one professional independent dance artist from the community). All applications will be assessed against the set criteria. Decisions will reflect the majority opinion of the panel present. There will be no appeals process, but applicants are welcome to apply for the next deadline.

Selection criteria

Applicants must be:

- A Canadian citizen or permanent resident living in Canada. Priority will be given to Calgary-based artists. If you reside outside of Calgary, please clarify why working in this city is important to you.
- Identified as a professional artist as defined by Canada Council for the Arts.
- Choreographers who have presented at least 3 works publicly in a professional context (not including school or pre-professional works). The works choreographed must have been performed by paid, professional artists.
- Choreographers who are recognized by their peers for their contribution to the field of dance.

Applications will be assessed primarily on:

- The clarity of the proposal or idea presented.
- How well the proposed artist/project meets the guidelines of the residency program.
- A match between studio availability and choreographer's request for space.
- The choreographer's demonstrated, prior artistic achievements.
- The potential for the requested studio time to result in a successful realization of project goals.
- The strength of the artist/team of artists involved.
- The potential of the work to have future presentation.

To Apply

Using no more than 2-3 pages, please include:

- Your name and contact details.
- What you plan to do in the space and how many artists (along with their names if known) will be rehearsing in the space. If there is collaboration with other artists, provide proof of engagement.
- How many weeks you wish to be in residence and what time period(s) works for you within the schedule guidelines (please provide a first and second choice if possible).
- What you hope to achieve or discover by the end of your time in residence.
- What are your long-term plans for the proposed work and how this project fits in with your wider goals/practice.
- Whether your residency will be used for research, development, and/or final phase of production.
- Links to two video selections of recent work (no more than 10-minutes; please specify timecode for viewing).
- How you wish to document and/or share your experience or outcomes with the community.
- What your possible times/topics for sharing a workshop with the community might be.
- How the project will be funded. (Applying for grants, donations, etc)

In addition to the above application, please send a 1-3 page dance resume or 1-page bio.

Completed applications should be returned by email to lkleiner@decidedlyjazz.com by 5 pm on **Monday October 5th, 2026.** The meeting to assess the applications will be held within six weeks of the deadline. Applicants will be notified within eight weeks of the deadline. Any questions regarding the residency program should also be addressed to the email address above.

The DJD Dance Centre Creative Residency is a program initiated by the DJD-CRP steering committee including Kimberley Cooper, Kathi Sundstrom, Melanie Kloetzel, Tania Alvarado, and Helen Husak.