

Dublin Dance Festival



Artistic Director —
Candidate Pack 2021

Overview

Dublin Dance Festival (DDF) brings diverse artists, audiences and communities together to create and share exceptional dance experiences. We offer an innovative mix of live and digital performance and engagement opportunities year-round for the widest possible audience, culminating in an annual festival each May. We showcase the best Irish and international dance and act as a vital platform for artists and the creation of new work. We generate opportunities for artists, locally, nationally, internationally and virtually, through residencies, commissions and partnerships and by encouraging artistic collaboration, experimentation, risk-taking and innovation in dance.

Our Ambition for 2021–2024 is to:

- Be a pivotal dance and culture organisation, both in Ireland and internationally
- Support diverse talent to thrive and make great work
- Create more opportunities for dance artists
- Bring exceptional, powerful dance to more people
- Increase the role and relevance of dance across Irish culture and society
- Build influence with partners and funders around the wider positive impact of dance

Drivers

Championing Dance

We will retain and build on what's always been core to our purpose. To be a dynamic champion for dance as an art form.

Supporting Artists

We will continue to support established and emerging dance artists to produce, perform and grow.

Expanding Audiences

We will work hard to understand, reach and grow audiences, and provide pathways that bring them closer to exceptional dance.

Creating Relevance

We will explore, test and develop new contexts that connect people with dance in exciting and relevant ways.

Strengthening Connections

We will establish and nurture a wider network of resource, support, advocacy and opportunity for dance.

About The Role

DDF has a collaborative and agile organisational culture which supports a small, experienced and dedicated team to realise the organisation's vision. The Artistic Director co-leads the organisation, setting DDF's strategic direction alongside the Executive Producer and Board of Directors. They bring artistic and curatorial expertise across DDF's programme and activities to broaden reach and create new pathways for engagement with dance. The Artistic Director is responsible for DDF's organisational and financial success, working in partnership with the Executive Producer. They work closely with the Board of Directors and a wide range of partners to deliver on DDF's priorities.

Core Responsibilities

Artistic

- Lead DDF's curation and artistic direction
- Bring DDF's work to the widest possible audience
- Programme throughout the year to generate opportunities for dance artists and to create new, sustainable models for making dance work in a wide range of contexts
- Curate excellent, daring and relevant dance via live performances, digital dance experiences, participative/immersive dance programmes, site-specific and outdoor works, critical discussions and workshops
- Deliver an annual international dance festival in May with a hybrid programme of live and digital events
- Lead on the Big Pulse Dance Alliance, a Creative Europe funded project involving 11 EU dance festivals, 2021–2024

Strategic

With the Executive Producer

- Bring vision, clarity and purpose to strategic priorities and planning
- Maximise organisational impact while working in complex and challenging contexts
- Co-lead DDF's core team, managing and supporting team members in their roles
- Advocate for dance and for DDF, building strong relationships locally, nationally and internationally
- Ensure DDF operates to the highest professional standards
- Develop DDF's application to The Arts Council of Ireland and proposals to other funders/stakeholders
- Oversee robust evaluation and review of DDF's work in order to guide future work and development

About The Role

Core Responsibilities

Financial

With the Executive Producer and Programme and Finance Manager

- Develop DDF's annual plans and budgets
- Ensure an effective approach to resource, performance and risk management within the organisation
- Ensure programme and organisational activities are delivered effectively, in line with agreed budgets
- Liaise with and report to The Arts Council of Ireland and other funders and stakeholders

Development

With the Communications and Development Manager

- Network on behalf of DDF and initiate tactical partnerships and development opportunities
- Play a key role in identifying and raising funds and maximising resources through public and private partnerships
- Develop and maintain excellent working relationships with key partners, prospects, funders and stakeholders
- Explore and develop new programmes and revenue models, in line with DDF's core aims

Communications

With the Communications and Development Manager

- Support the development and implementation of communications and PR strategies to maximise engagement and develop audiences for DDF and for dance
- Be an ambassador for DDF, our programmes and artists
- Support DDF's digital content strategy, which creates new contexts, expands understanding and increases access to the programme/Festival
- Act as DDF's spokesperson with local and international media and within the cultural sector, developing DDF's profile nationally and internationally

Job Overview

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© Les films de l'éphémère

Job title

Artistic Director

Reports to

DDF Board of Directors through the Chairperson

Key relationships

DDF's Artistic Director and Executive Producer co-lead the DDF team and organisation. Together they manage a team of three core staff – Communications and Development Manager, Communications and Digital Lead, and the Programme and Finance Manager.

Location

Dublin Dance Festival is based at Festival House in Dublin city centre. (The team has been working remotely since March 2020 in line with Government guidelines.)

Working hours

This is a full-time post, assuming five days per week at a minimum of 40 hours per week. Evening and weekend work will be required alongside travel and/or virtual attendance at dance performances in Ireland and internationally. DDF will consider flexible models of working where they can align with DDF's core dates and priorities and is open to discussing same.

Salary

€58,000

Benefits

25 days holiday annually plus bank holidays. Two weeks of additional annual leave over the Christmas period is offered as time off in lieu of longer hours worked during programmed events and the Festival.

Start date

The new Artistic Director will begin the role in Summer 2021 for a 3-year period curating the 2022, 2023 and 2024 programmes. The Board of Directors will consider an option to extend the contract for a further 12 months to 2025, if agreed by both parties.

Probation period

One year during which either party may terminate the contract with one month's notice. Following the successful completion of the probation period, the notice period is three months.

Person Specification

The successful candidate will be a dynamic, enterprising and experienced artistic leader. They will be well connected and respected within the dance sector, with proven ability to build positive relationships and collaborate with a range of diverse stakeholders within diverse contexts. They will have the expertise to drive DDF's influence internationally and to positively impact the landscape of dance in Ireland. They will bring a generous, inclusive, equitable leadership approach which aligns with DDF's ethos and values.

Essential

- Inspiring and incisive leader with a vision for DDF's role and potential within wider Irish culture and society, as well as internationally
- Agile, imaginative curator with a minimum of 5 years' experience producing impactful dance programmes which engage with a wide range of audiences/contexts
- Generative mindset, with experience incubating new artistic approaches, opportunities and models which respond to local and international contexts
- Proven ability to lead and motivate a team
- In-depth knowledge of current international contemporary dance (live and virtual)
- A collaborator who can develop capacity across the organisation and build the right set of partners/relationships for DDF
- Enterprising and experienced in mobilising resources and creating investment opportunities and partnerships
- Ability to balance risk-taking and artistic and financial viability
- Experience in developing local arts infrastructure and connecting artists and teams across local, national and international projects
- Natural capacity for communication, inspiring confidence and developing productive relationships
- Resilient and able to foreground creativity and innovation
- Proficiency in English (verbal and written), as the working language of the Festival

Dublin Dance Festival is committed to equality of opportunity and supporting diversity and inclusion across all aspects of our work. All applications for this position will be treated equally and confidentially. We welcome applications from individuals who are underrepresented in the cultural sector.

Application Process



© Matteo Carratoni

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Please forward:

A letter of application (maximum 3 pages) telling us why you would like to lead the curation of DDF. Outline how you meet the person specification detailing the qualities and experience you will bring to the role and indicate the earliest date you could start the role.

Your CV, including the contact details of two referees.

Applications should be emailed to:
recruitment@dublindancefestival.ie

Application deadline:
Wednesday 3rd March, 5:00pm

Selection:

- Short-listing of candidates will be conducted by a nominated sub-group of the DDF Board of Directors plus an independent, external expert based on the information submitted by applicants
- Short-listed candidates will be invited to attend an initial interview via Zoom: **provisionally Friday 19th March**
- Candidates selected for the next stage will be invited for a second interview which will include a short presentation: **provisionally Wednesday 31st March**
- Candidates will have an opportunity to signal any access requirements in advance

dublindancefestival.ie

Front cover

The Misunderstanding of Myrrha, Junk Ensemble © Fionn McCann
A Love Supreme, Salva Sanchis & Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker
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Entropie, Léo Lérus / Compagnie Zimarel © Les films de l'éphémère
Hard To Be Soft – A Belfast Prayer, Oona Doherty © Luca Truffarelli

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At Home Alone, Balletto di Roma © Matteo Carratoni
Sunny, Emanuel Gat / Awir Leon © Dajana Lothert