

STOMPING GROUND £22,500 COMMISSION CALLOUT 2023/24 Calling for bold and original ideas for outdoor spaces



Pagrav Dance Company, Anthony Zero for BIDF

Stomping Ground, a commissioning group comprised of FABRIC, FESTIVAL.ORG, The Place, Tramway, Strike A Light and presentation partner Sismògraf Festival in Olot, Catalonia, is seeking proposals for bold, original and ambitious dance works made for outdoor spaces. This opportunity calls for artists interested in making compelling work that can grab the attention and imaginations of audiences through presentations suitable for urban, rural, festival or high street spaces.

The chosen project will receive a **£22,500 commission** towards an original work to be presented from **summer 2024 and beyond.**

The commissioning group is interested to hear from artists developing high-quality work that pushes the boundaries of what's possible in outdoor entertainment and prioritises sustainability in the ideas, creation and touring.

A broad range of outdoor practices and presentation formats is welcomed, and creative ambition is prioritised over scale. The goal is to support compelling ideas that have a powerful impact on a broad audience base, and can be showcased in diverse contexts, including but not limited to urban, rural, festival, or high street settings.

This year, the commissioning group is delighted to welcome two new partners: **Strike A Light** and presentation partner **Sismògraf Festival** in Olot, Catalonia. Taking the lead from the Sismògraf's conscious, socially and environmentally responsible programming, all applicants for the 2024 commission are invited to consider social and environmental responsibility in the ideas contained in the work, and in the methods of creation & touring. Projects should demonstrate how they relate in a conscious and responsible way to the landscape in which they are made and performed. This can be the physical landscape, and/or the emotional, social or political landscape.

Ideas should:

- be originally conceived as outdoor works (rather than work which has previously been made for indoor spaces)
- be adaptable to a variety of locations, with the potential to be scaled to different contexts, conceived with touring potential in mind
- respond to, or engage with, the world we're living in now
- consider how outdoor work can engage a mix of committed attendees & passersby
- have an experienced team behind them, some of whom may have strong experience in the outdoor sector

The commissioners are interested in hearing from dance makers who:

- are UK based
- have a track record of making and presenting work in a range of professional contexts
- are interested in how outdoor work can inspire audiences from the broadest range of backgrounds
- are seeking to engage with inspiring artists as part of their creative team (e.g. music, design, theatre, circus) and/or other disciplines (e.g. architecture, town planning)
- might not necessarily define themselves as 'dance makers' but create performance with a strong and distinctive movement element. Applications from artists from other disciplines who use movement in their practice are welcome
- are committed to exploring more sustainable ways of making and touring



Stomping Ground commissions will reflect the range of artists in the UK. Applications from those who are currently underrepresented in the dance sector, including but not limited to, deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists, artists from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, artists who experience racism, artists with care responsibilities and artists who are LGBTQIA+ are strongly encouraged.

COMMISSIONING OFFER

The commissioned artist will be supported on their journey from the beginnings of the idea, right through to production. Alongside the £22,500 commission, the partners can also offer R&D space, marketing guidance, producing and touring support and other guidance.

ELIGIBILITY

UK based artists, who define themselves as having an established practice, and track record of making and presenting high quality work.

Applications from students (unless at PhD level), or artists based outside of the UK will not be eligible.

APPLICATION

Applicants are invited to respond with [an expression of interest](#)

Deadline for applications: **Monday 18 September, 12pm**

Shortlisted applicants will be notified by **Friday 6 October**

The selection is carried out by a panel of producers and programmers from the commissioning organisations, as well as an external artist.

Stomping Ground is a commissioning group comprised of **FABRIC (Dance4 and DanceXchange together), FESTIVAL.ORG, The Place, Tramway and Strike A Light** and presentation partner **Sismògraf Festival**.

--CALLOUT ENDS--



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Notes for Editors:

The Place, London's creative powerhouse for dance development, has been leading the way in dance training, creation and performance for 50 years. In a changing landscape, our vision for the future remains steadfast: We are powering imagination through dance, championing new ideas, embracing risks and creating a dance ecosystem unlike any other in the world, with optimal conditions for dance artists and enthusiasts to realise their full potential. The Place is home to London Contemporary Dance School, an extensive theatre and artist development programme, education projects, a range of classes and courses and a nationwide touring model. As a pioneering dance organisation, we are committed to creating no-barriers access to exciting dance experiences and opportunities for everybody, offering a diverse and dynamic theatre programme for audiences, empowering artists and dance makers and giving young people access to the highest quality opportunities to touch their lives with dance.

FESTIVAL.ORG is one of the UK's most ambitious and prolific outdoor arts producing organisations. We set out to radically raise the ambition, quality and diversity of outdoor performance produced in the UK. Beyond our flagship annual festival Greenwich+Docklands International Festival (GDIF), we manage the nationwide Global Streets network and are a founding partner of the Without Walls and Stomping Ground consortia. FESTIVAL.ORG plays a distinctive, strategic role within the wider outdoor arts sector by devising and producing large-scale work (including ceremony-scale spectacle), working with culturally diverse artists, introducing new artists into the outdoors who might previously have worked in building-based contexts, pioneering new approaches to access and audience engagement and developing new outdoor work with D/deaf and disabled artists.

TRAMWAY is an art space supporting established and emerging artists, both local and international, who focus on experimental and contemporary dance, visual art and performance. For thirty years Tramway has built a reputation for its unique performance and exhibition spaces and ambitious and inspiring programming. It is managed by Glasgow Life, a charity that delivers culture and sport on behalf of Glasgow City Council.

FABRIC is a new strategic dance development organisation based in Birmingham and Nottingham. FABRIC is created from the formal merger of DanceXchange and Dance4, bringing together over 60 years of combined experience. Our vision is to inspire people

through dance, transforming lives, communities and places. We believe dance is remarkable and is vital in shaping the future. FABRIC provides local, national and international leadership, working in partnership with venues, local authorities, education, creative industries and other providers to connect the most extraordinary dance and choreographic practices to the widest possible audience. FABRIC is the producer of Birmingham International Dance Festival (BIDF) and Nottedance.

Strike A Light is a non venue based organisation in Gloucester. We work alongside communities and exceptional artists to produce unforgettable experiences in community spaces that inspires, engages and renews community pride. We combine top-quality, ambitious contemporary artistic work with on-the-ground, relevant community engagement. We bring Gloucester alive with exciting cultural activity that genuinely connects with residents. We are excited by performance that helps create social change, is diverse and champions underrepresented voices.

Sismògraf started in 2008 and between 2014 and 2021 acted as the national festival of contemporary dance and strategic market for the catalan sector. In 2022 we moved artistically from dance to movement, and we started to focus mainly on arts works that express how we inhabit our planet: climate emergency, sustainability, relationship with other beings.