

Dance Artist(s) Opportunity at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre

Call for applications for a Dance Residency - working with Roundhouse Ageless Dancers, Roundhouse Community Dancers, and community at large.

Deadline for Proposals: May 31, 2018 at 4:00pm

Start Date and Duration: 18 months (September-May, 2018-2020, hiatus June-Aug)

Commencing: September 2018

Description

How could Dance Artist(s)-in-Residence animate community spaces and engage the public to recognize the dancer in all of us?

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with 'Made In BC', is launching a call for proposals for a two-year Community Dance Artist(s)-in-Residence at the Roundhouse. This new residency will see a professional dancer/choreographer with a community-engaged practice work together with non-professional dancers of varying experience and ability to create and produce new work in and around an active community centre hub. This call encourages applicants from a range of dance disciplines including but not limited to traditional, cultural, and contemporary dance. The Roundhouse Dance Artist(s)-in-Residence will work formally with two existing but ever-changing groups, Roundhouse Ageless Dancers and Roundhouse Community Dancers (profiled below), and would also have the opportunity to work informally with the larger community, activating spaces both inside and outside the Roundhouse Community Centre (i.e. studio, lobby, Roundhouse Turntable, seawall, beach).

Roundhouse Ageless Dancers

The Ageless Dancers are an inclusive community of older adults who create, practice and perform in ways that honour the aging body, affirming and celebrating the unique experiences of later life. In a series of weekly workshops, adults over the age of 50 explore the creative and interactive potential of their physical, mental, and emotional selves through dance using movement and voice. They have a long history at the Roundhouse with a core group of dancers who have been working together for several years. Established in 2004 by Santa Aloj as *Rhythm, Movement and Memory*, this long-running dance residency has grown and changed as community members worked together with diverse artists including Santa Aloj, Anthony Morgan, Jacci Collins, Naomi Brand, and Jennifer Mascall in collaboration with Nina Patel and Simon Kendall.

Roundhouse Community Dancers

Established in 2000, Roundhouse Community Dancers is a constant and ever-changing group of adult participants that comes together to learn about their bodies and how they move - to dance and perform! They are united by a shared fearlessness and playfulness when it comes to exploring the body, mind, and emotion through dance. They have a long history at the Roundhouse with a core group of dancers who have been working together for several years. Over the years, they have worked with dance artists in diverse practices including contemporary dance, clowning, aerial dance, and flamenco, with artists Julie Lebel, Miriam Colvin, Karen Jamieson, Alvin Tolentino, Jai Govinda, Donna Redlick, Rosario Ensor, Tara Cheyenne, Barbara Bourget, Carolina Bergonzoni, and many others.

Objectives

A community-engaged arts practice is a working collaboration between professional artists and community members who might not have previously thought of themselves as artists. Artists work with participants to help them explore, develop, and present work that is important to them. It recognizes all participants as important contributors to the collaborative group work. This collaboration develops the

skills, community spirit, and artistic sensibilities of those who participate as producers, practitioners, and as audience. This call is open to emerging, mid-career, and senior artists with interest and experience working in community engaged practice, and senior artists who are new to community practice but would like to broaden their practice with this kind of work. Our objectives include:

- To bring together a community of non-professional adult dancers and movers to explore the processes of dance, working with professional dancer/choreographers.
- Especially in the case of the Ageless Dancers, to work with a sensitivity to the aging body.
- To engage non-professional dancers in the 'daily working life' of a professional dance practice through developing choreography, dance, production, and performance.
- To enable a deep and creatively satisfying experience for participants over an extended period of time by evolving and developing a collaborative project rather than teaching a weekly 'class'. This includes conversations and communications with participants outside of regular practice time.
- To facilitate an appreciation and understanding of the roots and richness of dance.
- To foster a broader and deeper respect and understanding of each other for participants, through dancing and learning together.
- To connect a diverse group of people through the creative processes of dance with workshops that enable adults of varying ages and cultures, with a broad range of abilities.
- To connect with other artists who also work in this field of practice with the aim to grow mentorship and discourse in community-engaged practice.

This opportunity would best suit an artist (or artist team) that merges an established practice in community dance with emerging practices, and includes an imaginative, community-engaged dance practice which can engage, provoke, and grow participation in dance. Instruction and creation processes must be flexible enough to adapt to a fluctuating group of participants as well as a dedicated core group, with a range of physical abilities and constraints as well as varied levels of dance knowledge.

Residency Specifics

- The Vancouver Parks Board in collaboration with 'Made In BC', is offering:
 - \$8,000 per 9 month session for the two adult dance projects (4 hours/week in workshops) and other activations with the larger community
 - Based on the needs and interests of the selected Artist(s)-in-Residence, in-kind support through Roundhouse may include access to dance studio space (outside of regular commitments to the Ageless and Roundhouse Community Dancers groups) and/or professional development/facilitation workshops
- This project is 18 months in duration; running from September to May for two consecutive years (including a summer hiatus).
- Participants in Roundhouse Ageless Dancers meet weekly on Wednesdays from 1-3pm (2 hours), and Roundhouse Community Dancers meet weekly Sundays from 2:30-4:30pm (2 hours) in the Roundhouse Dance Studio for the core of this project.

This accumulates to approx. 75 - 90 workshop hours for each of the two groups over 9 months. Additional workshop hours can be available as necessary on a more flexible schedule. Projects will commence in September 2018.
- Projects should culminate in a performance or presentation. This may take place as part of our annual community dance showcase in the Roundhouse Performance Centre, or in other Parks

Board spaces or facilities (indoor and outdoor). Performances may also be presented at lower mainland dance festivals.

- A Roundhouse Arts Programmer will work closely as a liaison for this project as well as facilitating marketing and promotion through Park Board/City of Vancouver and Roundhouse networks and through printed materials.
- These community dance programs are offered to participants free of charge.

Artist(s):

- Develop creative initiatives involving community participants emphasizing social connection, creative expression and art-making processes (including a presence in key cultural events);
- Communicate with participants in and outside practice time in order to ensure engagement throughout the process;
- Share experiences and learning with other artists, facilitators, organizers and scholars involved in community/socially engaged arts practices;
- Work closely with a Roundhouse Arts Programmer who will assist in communicating, organizing, and liaising with participants, Roundhouse and other Parks Board staff and community members, and work with the group on diverse performance opportunities;
- Engage in a regular reporting process with the Roundhouse Arts Programmer;
- Share joint copyright on documentation of the project with Vancouver Park Board and the City of Vancouver.

Application Process

Please pay attention to all page size and amount restrictions. The committee will only consider the stated amount of materials. Make sure your name appears on the top of each page. Plain language is preferred and point form is acceptable.

Please send all information in black ink on white paper suitable for photo-copying.

Do not use type smaller than 11 point.

Do not staple or otherwise bind application pages.

Do not send original documentation materials.

1. STATEMENT ABOUT YOUR INTEREST IN WORKING WITH THIS PROJECT

(maximum two single-sided 8 ½" X 11" pages)

- a) Describe your interest and/or experience working in community dance, with adult dancers of different ages, cultures and levels of dance experience. If you have specific experience working with older adults, please specify.
- b) Describe your feelings about the importance of process and product in community-engaged dance practice. Discuss who benefits, how, and why.
- c) Identify any ethical and ownership issues you feel are pertinent to community-engaged dance.

2. PROJECT PROPOSAL

(maximum two single-sided 8 ½" X 11" pages)

- a) Describe your proposed project. Include any ideas, visions, and creative concepts you feel might potentially be part of your community-engaged dance residency.
- b) Discuss the anticipated rough timeline for project development and production.
- c) What are your strategies for project engagement and responsibility? How will you foster a sense of ownership in this project in participants?
- d) What different approaches would you bring to working with (1) the Roundhouse Community Dancers, (2) Ageless Dancers, and (3) the greater community?
- e) How would your project activate the spaces in and around Roundhouse Community Centre?
- f) Describe possible presentation strategies for performance or production.
- g) Provide any other information you feel is pertinent to the involvement of participants in your project.

3. EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

(maximum two single-sided 8 ½" X 11" pages)

- a) List up to four examples of your creative involvement with community, including committees, projects, volunteer boards, facilitating learning, teaching, or other creative interactions with groups of people. Describe your role and responsibilities for each.
- b) Talk about community dance mentorship and professional community discourse - discuss the way you see mentorship and collegial learning within the dance community playing a role in this project.
- c) Provide the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of two references; these should be people who know your dance work with groups of people.

4. POTENTIAL DISCIPLINE AND/OR MEDIA FOR THE PROJECT

(maximum one single sided 8 ½" X 11" page)

Outline the dance discipline in which you have expertise that you propose for the project; provide information about training (formal and/or informal) in this specific discipline.

5. CURRICULUM VITAE - C.V.

(no size restriction)

Please include a complete C.V. with your application.

6. SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION

Do not send originals. Please include information about items submitted and label all materials with the artist's name. Support documentation (DVD, USB, etc.) will be returned by mail if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope but we cannot accept responsibility for lost items.

Types and Amounts of Documentation:

- a) CD, DVD, and USB sticks must be accompanied by indication of portion to be reviewed. Mini-DVs are not acceptable.
- b) Links to video online are accepted but please preview to ensure links are active and working.
- c) Documentation of performance can also be submitted on paper.

7. DESCRIPTIONS OF DOCUMENTATION MATERIALS

An accompanying list with descriptions and dates of the projects/performances/writings etc. which are portrayed in the documentation is necessary. Please include a description of the specific clip chosen for the selection committee to view/hear.

8. OTHER SUBMISSION MATERIALS

Materials such as copies of reviews, interviews, articles written about projects you have been involved in, etc. may be included with your application.

Deadline for application May 31, 2018 by 4:00pm

Please submit your application to:
Roundhouse Community Dance Artist(s)-in-Residence
Attn: Sarah Cavanaugh, Community Arts Programmer
Roundhouse Arts & Recreation Centre
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver, V6Z 2W3

