Dancers' Career Development

Ambitious for dancers

Impact Report 2025/26

Dancers' Career Development (DCD) enables dancers to have dynamic, sustainable and fulfilling careers on and beyond the stage. We support dancers to expand their skills, networks and qualifications: with increased emphasis on developing and retaining extraordinary talent in the creative industries.

Demand for DCD services remains high: this year we awarded £83,710 more in retraining grants, and saw a 25% rise in Individual Career Consultations, compared to 2024–25.

Our Reach

1,270
Dancers & students directly engaged

Bespoke Guidance

378
Dancers benefitting from one-to-one coaching, mentoring or consultations

Investing in Dancers

£333,173
Awarded to dancers via **94** Grants

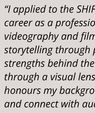
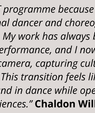
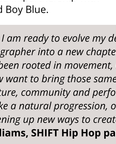
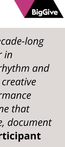


"DCD's work is not only important - it's transformative. As someone navigating the evolving journey from dancer to multidisciplinary creative, the support I received from the DCD team has been invaluable. Their guidance was both personal and practical, delivered with genuine care and a deep understanding of the unique challenges dancers face when transitioning or expanding careers. From one-to-one sessions to tailored advice, I've always felt seen, supported and understood. DCD doesn't just provide resources - they provide reassurance, clarity and community."
Stefanos Dimoulas, Independent Dancer, DCD Retraining Grant recipient

An epic sponsored cycle ride, by ex-Birmingham Royal Ballet dancer and DCD Intern Hamish Scott. Fundraising for DCD and introducing dancers throughout the country to our services.

- £23,000+ raised to support dancers
- 542 miles cycled, Newcastle to London
- 22 dancers/former dancers interviewed
- 12 visits to dance companies and organisations

Tour de Dance
22 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER

Individual Support

- **265** Individual Career Consultations
- **81** Coaching sessions
- **32** dancers mentored
- **6** dancers on SHIFT Hip Hop

Workshops & Events

- **42** dancers attended **3** CPD workshops
- **27** Partner Company workshops/visits
- **339** students attended **16** workshops

Extending Our Reach

- **9** REACH Ambassadors represented DCD across our Partner Companies
- **55** dancers networked with professionals in a range of industries

Our mission is to **enable and empower dancers** to thrive professionally and personally leading up to and beyond their performance careers.
We aspire for all **dancers to be recognised and valued** for their individual and collective contribution to society, during and beyond their performance careers.

Key Objectives 2025-27

1. Improve dancers' life chances & social mobility
2. Broaden DCD's impact & reach, nationally & internationally
3. Invest in dance sector talent development & retention
4. Strengthen DCD's financial resilience
5. Advocate dancers' value to society

Together, we've raised **£20,325** for dancers

Our **Big Give Arts for Impact** fundraising campaign, 17-24 March 2026, raised £20,325 for SHIFT: a career development programme for Hip Hop dancers, delivered in partnership with ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company and Boy Blue.

Arts For Impact BigGive



"I applied to the SHIFT programme because I am ready to evolve my decade-long career as a professional dancer and choreographer into a new chapter in videography and film. My work has always been rooted in movement, rhythm and storytelling through performance, and I now want to bring those same creative strengths behind the camera, capturing culture, community and performance through a visual lens. This transition feels like a natural progression, one that honours my background in dance while opening up new ways to create, document and connect with audiences." **Chaldon Williams, SHIFT Hip Hop participant**

Partner Companies

We are proud to work with our Partner Companies, offering workshops, coaching, retraining grants and mentoring opportunities to their dancers. We are grateful for their continued support, and that of our REACH Ambassadors who promote DCD's offer within their companies.

DCD Partner Companies: **Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Northern Ballet, Rambert, Scottish Ballet, The Royal Ballet.**

Programme partners

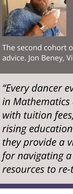
We are proud to be working collaboratively and building partnerships with organisations to support the dance sector, including: One Dance UK, People Dancing, Clore Leadership, Equity, BlackRock, NIDMS, The Open University, Positioning Ballet, Global Leaders Institute and the International Organisation for the Transition of Professional Dancers, as well as vocational Dance Schools and Colleges.

International reach

As a member of the International Organisation for the Transition of Professional Dancers (IOTPD) we awarded **2 grants** to dancers, worth €10,000, and presented at the **Global Perspectives** international symposium.

Opportunities through DCD partnerships

- **5** dancer bursaries for an MBA in Arts Innovation (Global Leaders Institute)
- **Clore Dance Fellowship** for Former Royal Ballet Principal **Zenaida Yanowsky**
- First dancer on BlackRock's Veteran and Elite Sports People Internship: **Tomas Mock**, former soloist at The Royal Ballet (BlackRock is a multinational investment management corporation and the world's largest asset manager)

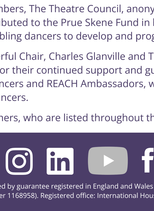


"The experience has been incredibly valuable, not only in helping me grow personally and professionally, but also in shaping how I think about the future of the arts and my place within it. The conversations, connections and support I've received throughout the fellowship have helped me approach important decisions with greater confidence, clarity and perspective. Thank you for investing in my development. I am truly grateful."
Zenaida Yanowsky, Clore Dance Fellow, Former Royal Ballet Principal

Income £716,665



Expenditure £663,214



Total Income	£716,665
Total Expenditure	£663,214
Investment (losses)	-£45,113
NET Income	**£8,338**
Funds at End of Year	
General Funds	£215,025
Designated Funds	£414,334
Restricted Funds	£210,605
Total Funds	**£839,964**

New faces at Dancers' Career Development



Gemma Nixon
Relationship Manager
(temporary cover)



Laura Rolinson
General Manager



Jen Warner
Fundraiser



Sonia Benhamida
Trustee
Managing Director, BlackRock



Georgina Robbins
Trustee
Financial Services Compliance & Risk Consultant



Hamish Scott
Intern: Fundraising & Marketing



"I cannot recommend more highly DCD Beyond Dance - the mentoring programme that helped me rebuild myself from the inside out. After a serious bike accident, I suddenly found myself disconnected from the identity I had built through my dance career. I didn't know what would come next and I couldn't imagine a future outside of movement. That's when I joined DCD Beyond Dance and it was nothing short of life-changing." **Justyna Janiszewska, Independent Dancer, DCD Beyond Dance Mentoring participant**

The second cohort of our **EDI (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) Working Group**: freelance dancers paid to offer direct insight and advice. Jon Beney, Vipul Bhatti, Sarah Blanc, Bradley Charles, Marie-Astrid Mence and Lucy Turner.

"Every dancer eventually faces the daunting question: 'What comes after the stage?' I chose to pursue a BSc in Mathematics and Statistics...this achievement would have been financially out of reach without DCD's help with tuition fees, it was quite literally the bridge to my new life...in Financial Services. In an era of high and rising education costs, DCD's support is invaluable. However, their impact goes far beyond financial backing; they provide a vital ecosystem of networking opportunities and bespoke career advice that are indispensable for navigating a career change. I am living proof of the heights a dancer can reach when given the right resources to re-train" **Tomas Mock, former Soloist with The Royal Ballet**

Funders

We are grateful to the following for enabling us to continue our transformational work during 2025/26:

Royal Opera House Benevolent Fund · The Linbury Trust · The Mackintosh Foundation · Acting for Others · Equity Charitable Trust · Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement · BigGive · Reed Foundation · Theatre Development Trust · Rudolf Nureyev® Foundation · London Ballet Circle · Meadow Grant Productions

Thank you

Thank you to DCD's '73 Circle members, The Theatre Council, anonymous donors, family and friends of Prue Skene who generously contributed to the Prue Skene Fund in her memory, and everyone who has kindly donated to our charity, enabling dancers to develop and progress their careers.

We are also grateful to our wonderful Chair, Charles Glanville and Trustees, Grants Committee, Mentors and EDI Working Group for their continued support and guidance throughout the year.
We thank our brilliant staff, freelancers and REACH Ambassadors, who are committed to delivering and promoting our services for dancers.

We also wish to thank all our partners, who are listed throughout this report.

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Dancers' Career Development is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (registered company number 10137622) and a registered charity (registered charity number 1168958). Registered office: International House, 61 Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3HZ.