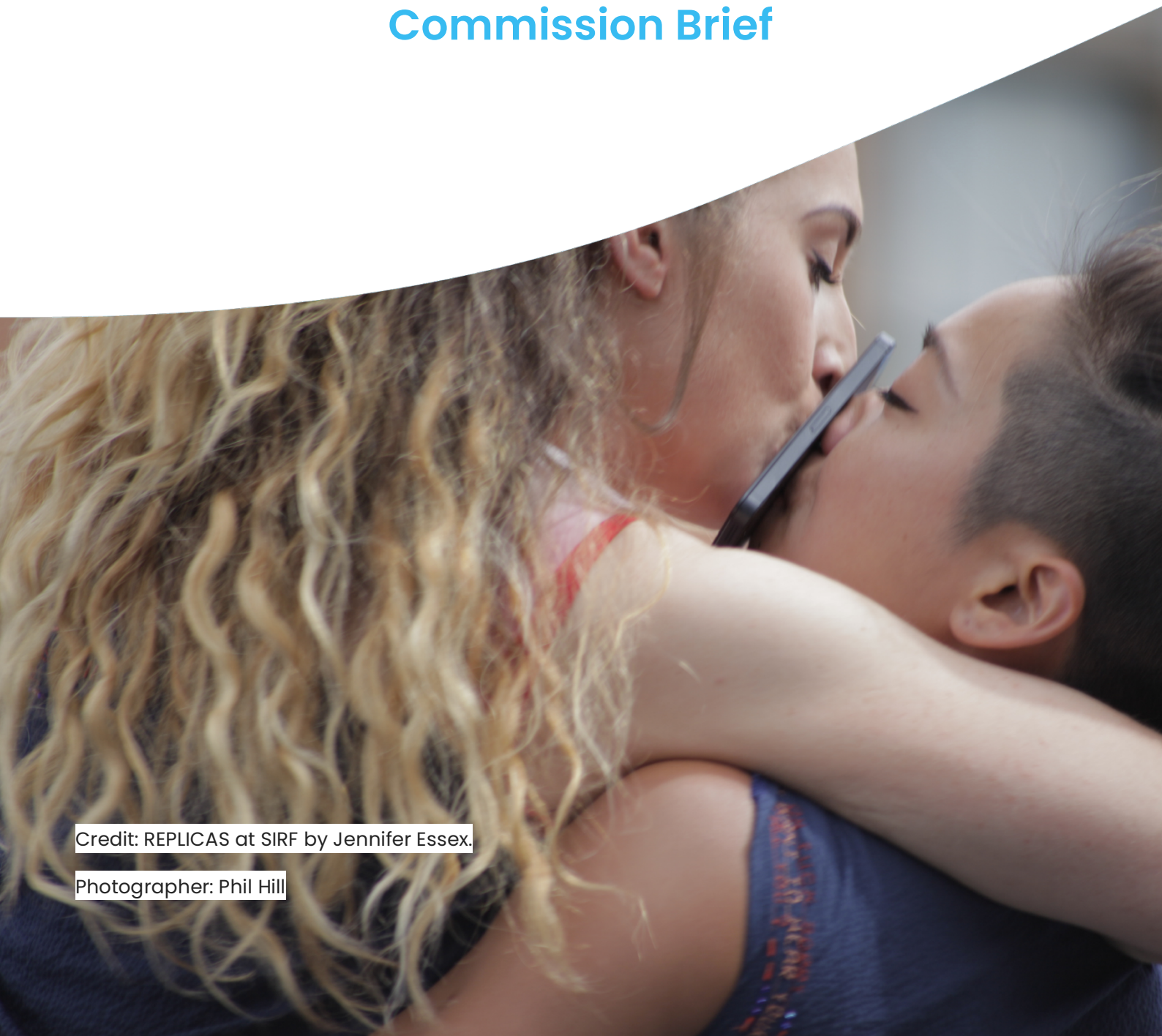


**Move
Ahead**



**TeesDance & SIRF &
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Commission Brief**



Credit: REPLICAS at SIRF by Jennifer Essex.

Photographer: Phil Hill

About TeesDance

TeesDance is a new voice for dance in the Tees Valley. Through innovative programmes, partnerships and advocacy, we strive for excellence by creating opportunities for dancers, choreographers and audiences, fostering creativity, diversity and high-quality provision.

We challenge perceptions of who dance is for and what can be achieved. Dance that makes a difference; developing artistic and aesthetic understanding, cultural awareness, health and well-being, learning and attainment, life and employability.

Our programmes are designed for the dance sector to flourish. By embedding best practice, partnering with freelancers and established organisations, we champion the work of local talent to make work with and for participants and audiences, both new and existing.

We are committed to creating conditions in which dance artists can thrive through establishing strong networks and delivering targeted professional development programmes, platforms and commissions.

Through our work, we are:

- Profiling, celebrating and advocating the importance of dance in all its diverse forms and settings.
- Making high-quality dance accessible to all.
- Supporting the workforce to achieve excellence in dance performance, education and management.
- Improving conditions for dance to be learnt, discussed and seen.

We define dance in this context as all styles and genres of movement focused work, including physical theatre, and circus arts.

Call for Proposals

Move Ahead

TeesDance are commissioning 4 artists or companies to produce new dance work to be delivered in Tees Valley through their MoveAhead commissioning strand of activity. There are 4 commissions available, with each of the commissions built around one of the following Boroughs –

- Darlington;
 - Hartlepool;
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- Redcar and Cleveland;
- Stockton-on-Tees;

Each of the commissions is worth £5,000 with in-kind support of up to £520 (2 days at £260 per day).

Stockton-on-Tees

This document is for those of you wishing to apply for the opportunity in Stockton-on-Tees. TeesDance, in partnership with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SIRF 2025), is looking to support artists to create new dance-based performance works in the wider North East region. TeesDance is committed to creating conditions in which dance artists can thrive in the Tees Valley and one way is through offering commissions with funding support that can be leveraged and working with partners to support the artist to identify additional opportunities to present the commissioned work.

There is one opportunity to receive £5,000 in funding related to Stockton, along with producing support in-kind support from TeesDance. Depending on the scale of the idea the funding can be leveraged against other funds and TeesDance can support this process.

This opportunity is expected to lead to finished work at the end of the process. Please read on for more details on the TeesDance and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council commission.

Theme: In a world where invisible data builds continuously, connecting our every move and rhythm in cyber space, we are drawn to look back at connectivity now, in the past, and what it may look like in the future. The development of the passenger railway almost 200 years ago amplified our ability to connect.

As machines today start to take on more jobs, we are on the cusp of a technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another. In its scope and complexity, the transformation will be unlike anything humankind has experienced before. The theme this year will reflect mechanisation including looking back at seminal moments in history that connected the modern world whilst, questioning what new technological revolution lies just ahead of us. The festival looks back at the most fundamental forms of connection, human and mechanical, whilst also looking ahead to new possibilities.

This brief is to respond to the following provocations and identified themes:




- Energy
- Connectivity
- Transformation
- Mechanics
- Contraptions
- Repetition
- Movement
- Kinematic
- Growth
- Smart Machines
- Robotics
- Virtual Reality

The work can take many forms including dance, pop up interventions, participatory performance, sound, or audio movement installations.

Output: The creation and performance of an outdoor dance performance of between 20–30 minutes in length to be premiered at SIRF 2025. The work should look to be suitable to be performed multiple times per day across the festival period.

Artist Profile: We are looking for artists who are *based in or from* the Tees Valley and the wider North East of England **only**.

What do you get

- £5,000 funding support from SIRF and SBC.
 - Production costs for the on-site presentation of work (including providing sound equipment, lighting, staging/flooring, and on-site infrastructure such as power, fencing, and security) from SIRF and SBC.
 - Producing time – support in-kind from TeesDance to the value of £520.
 - TeesDance will invite programmers and potential future partners to public performances.
 - Invitation to present work in progress at the TeesDance and Moving Art Management scratch platform; *Move: In Progress*.
 - The opportunity to be connected to outdoor collaborators (including international artists/companies) via SIRF's networks.
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- Signposting and support with applying to a variety of new commissioning and touring funds including Without Walls' Creation and Touring Support Open Call. We anticipate applications to open in June 2024 and to close in mid-July 2024.

The commissioned artist agrees to:

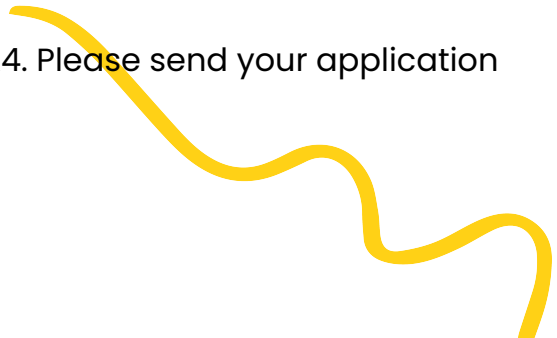
- Offer a minimum of one opportunity for local professional artists/companies to access open rehearsals/talks/workshops/classes they deliver
- Attend meetings with TeesDance team to evaluate progress
- Host a minimum of one sharing of work-in-progress with the TeesDance and SIRF/SBC teams for feedback, mentorship, and guidance
- Take part in TeesDance, SIRF and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's documentation and promotion of the commission. Supply images and copy when requested and in response to deadlines.

How to apply

Within your application, we expect you to explore the following elements of activity and the areas listed within the selection criteria.

- Your name and contact details;
- Any relevant experience – this can include professional, educational, voluntary, personal and lived experience; This can be sent as a CV or link and will not count to your overall page limit;
- Which commission are you applying for;
- Your idea and how it responds to the brief;
- Why you want to make this work;
- Anticipated start and end date;
- Budget outline to include where else you are going to apply for funding;
- There will also be an opportunity to support your application with relevant links;
- You will also be asked to complete an anonymous Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form;
- Please note that evidence of Liability Insurance and Risk Assessments for the work must be available on request.

Your application should be no longer than 2 sides of A4. Please send your application as a Word document or PDF.



The budget, as well as timescales, can be added as a further page or spreadsheet. Any further documents you wish to send with your application can be sent via email.

The deadline for commissions is **Monday 29th April at 10am.**

Please send your applications to aaron@teesdance.org.uk

As each of the 4 x MoveAhead commissions responds to different geographical areas and have slightly differing briefs with different relevant outputs, please ensure your application responds to the specific commission brief.

The Selection Process

All applications will be read by a panel made up of a TeesDance representative, a representative from the relevant Local Authority and a local freelance dance artist. Each panel will shortlist a small number of artists who will be invited to a follow-up meeting either in person or by Zoom to chat about their idea in more detail. Each panel will then select one artist per commission to support as part of this programme.

Selection Criteria

The selection will be based on the following:

- Quality of the idea for the project
- How dance and movement-focused work is integrated into the project
- Deliverability of the project, skills and experience of the people involved, timescale and resources
- Environmental Impact of the idea
- The SIRF commission is only open to artists from the North East of England.

Timeline for selection

Applications open	Wednesday 6 March 2024
Online Briefing about commission which will be BSL Interpreted	4pm-5pm Wednesday 20 March 2024
Application deadline	10am Monday 29 April 2024
Shortlisting notification	Tuesday 7 May 2024
Interviews	Between 10am and 4pm Tuesday 14 May 2024



Provisional dates of activity

Stockton-on-Tees Borough
Council – SRF 2025

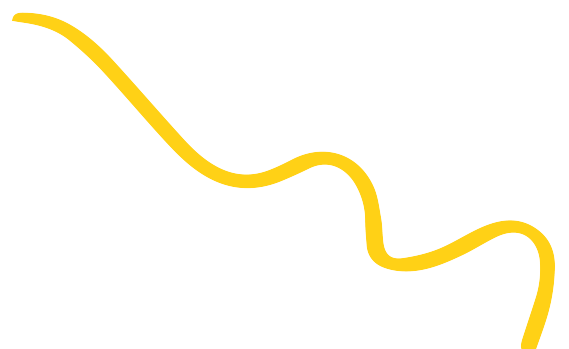
Friday 1 – Sunday 3 August 2025

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We strongly encourage applications from people of Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse backgrounds, as well as those who are D/deaf, neurodivergent, disabled and who identify as LGBTQIA+ or experience barriers due to their socio-economic background. We welcome applicants from all walks of life whether you are an experienced artist or company or consider yourself an emerging artist.

If you require assistance in completing your application form or require submission in a different format please get in touch with Aaron Bowman (he/they) Senior Producer – aaron@teesdance.org.uk

If there are any adjustments that would help support you in your application or during the selection process, please let us know.



Creative
Darlington

DH
DARLINGTON
HIPPODROME

 **DARLINGTON**
Borough Council

 **HARTLEPOOL**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 **Creative**
Hartlepool


 REDCAR & CLEVELAND
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Between
the Tides**

 **SiRF**

 **Stockton-on-Tees**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 **ARTS COUNCIL**
ENGLAND
Supported using public funding by
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TVCA | Tees Valley
Mayor |  HM Government



**Tees
Dance**