

OUT THERE CALL FOR WEST COAST EXPERIMENTAL DANCE MAKERS

Application launches January 7, 2025

Application Due February 14, 2025 | 11:59PM

[Application Link](#)

[OUT THERE Application Workshop #1](#)

[OUT THERE Application Workshop #2](#)

Velocity Dance Center is proud to announce a call for OUT THERE. OUT THERE is an annual, two week dance festival that bolsters West Coast movement artists for their lineage of making work that innovates our field. This festival is for artists that have the audacity, bravado, and experimental spirit, to vision their work to new scales.

OUT THERE showcases two different weekends with two different artists each weekend— a new, thirty minute work by a Seattle Artist which is made in residence at SFD+I and the Seattle premiere of an existing thirty minute work by an artist from the West Coast Region. This structure fills the need in our community for shared, regional discourse and connection to Seattle artists and touring opportunities for artists in the greater West Coast Region.

This festival is part of Velocity's **Regionally Emerging Creative Incubator** and is recommended for artists who have participated in festival style shows before and are looking to build regional audiences around their work and expand their skills on the following:

- **Artistic mentorship:** mentorship and community support to make artistically innovative projects.
- **Financial resources:** fees to pay yourself, your collaborators, and your project expenses.
- **Reciprocal Relationship building:** understanding your part in the larger ecology, and how to work collaboratively to connect and sustain your career within your ecosystem of artistic collaborators, local and national presenters, funders, and audiences.
- **Business development:** how to manage projects and undertake long-term collaborations and career planning.

As Velocity, we love to throw around the word **experimentalism**. But what does it mean? We are interested in experimentation as a context we provide to audiences and art makers to hold new, innovative ideas that push their form into new places. Experimentation can take place in any dance form and doesn't have a singular look to us. If you have more questions about "experimentalism" feel free to reach out to Shane (shane@velocitydancecenter.org).

PROGRAM COMMITMENTS

(meetings are all over zoom unless specified)

All four OUT THERE artists will work together as a cohort during scheduled meetings to collectively, with the Velocity Team, help vision the overall show and the artist's work. We believe the cohort structure is for artists of all levels and experience and can lead to more meaningful community engagement, long lasting relationships, and more intentional festival curation.

MEETINGS

These meetings *can be rescheduled to work with the needs of the cohort.*

Individual Meetings | March | Individual Goal Setting

Meeting 1: May 29 | 3 – 4:30PM: Orientation

Meeting 2: Jun 26 | 3 – 4:30PM: Residency Planning (Seattle Artists)

Meeting 3: Aug 14 | 3 – 4:30PM: Marketing/Production

Meeting 4: Sep 11 | 3 – 4:30PM: Virtual Technical Showing

Individual Meetings: Sep | TBD: Long Term Artistic Goals

RESIDENCY

A valuable component of this program is that selected Seattle-based artists receive a residency to make their new works at the Seattle Festival of Dance + Improvisation. This is a required component for Seattle-based artists. Artists from outside of Seattle are not required to complete this residency but are welcome to have a residency as well.

Residency at SFD+I: Jul 13 – 20 | around 40 hours of rehearsal (Required for Seattle Artists)

Cohort Gathering at SFD+I: Jul 16 | 6 - 7:30PM (Required for Seattle Artists)

Cohort Residency Showing: July 18 | 5:30 – 7PM (Required for Seattle Artists)

TECH + SHOW COMMITMENTS

2 Artists in WEEK I: Sep 29-Oct 5 2025

Seattle Artist Tech Time: Sep 30 | 3-7pm

Out of Town Tech Time: Oct 1 | 12:30-4:30pm

Dress Rehearsal: Oct 1 | 6-10pm

Show 1: Oct 2 | 7:30pm (call at 6:30pm)

Show 2: Oct 3 | 7:30pm (call at 6:30pm)

Show 3: Oct 4 | 7:30pm (call at 6:30pm)

2 Artists in WEEK II: Oct 6-12 2025

Seattle Artist Tech Time: Oct 7 | 3-7pm

Out of Town Tech Time: Oct 8 | 12:30-4:30pm

Dress Rehearsal: Oct 8 | 6-10pm

Show 1: Oct 9 | 7:30pm (call at 6:30pm)

Show 2: Oct 10 | 7:30pm (call at 6:30pm)

Show 3: Oct 11 | 7:30pm (call at 6:30pm)

Velocity will provide a Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, administrative and marketing support, and the front of house staffing for the performances.

PAYMENT

The fee for both Seattle Artists and out of town artists are the same, despite slightly different expectations. Seattle artists are expected to be in residence at SFD+I and out of town artists will need to cover travel and housing expenses for their project.

Velocity is committed to helping artists vision funding structures for their work and are available to help OUT THERE Artists cultivate donors and apply for additional funding to support their work. During the duration of the residency, OUT THERE artists can be fiscally sponsored by Velocity to accept donations and grants on the artist's behalf for a reduced administrative fee of 2%.

Seattle Artist Fee Payment Schedule:

July 2025: \$1000

October 2025: \$2000

Total of \$3000

Out of Town Artist Fee Payment Schedule: *(schedule can be negotiated)*

October 2025: \$3000

Total of \$3000

ABOUT THE APPLICATION + PANEL PROCESS

This application will close on **February 15th at 11:59pm**, and we are not able to accept late applications. The curating team is comprised of Velocity Curating Artist in Residence Amy O'Neal, Creative Producer Shane Donohue, Executive Director Erin Johnson, and Communications Manager Joseph Hernandez. Panelists will review each application and score proposals using the below criteria, with scores from strongly meets criteria - somewhat meets criteria - does not meet criteria.

The eight highest scoring applications will be advanced to a discussion stage, where the panel will curate three projects for this year's performance, two from Seattle and two from the greater West Coast region. Beyond scoring, the curators' will be selecting based on what three pieces together create a varied and exciting collection of works for the event. The Velocity Curating Artist in Residence and the Velocity Creative Producer will be available to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.

Criteria	Description
1. Eligibility	Proposal demonstrates that the artist is (1) A current residents of WA, OR, CA, AK, HI, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands and BC over the age of 18 (2) An artist from any disciplines working in movement performance (3) Available for all dates listed (4) New Work or New Work to Seattle. For artists residing in WA, the proposed piece must be a new piece that has not been performed before. For Artists who reside outside of WA, the work needs to be an existing work that has never been performed in Seattle before.
2. Artistry	Proposal articulates a 30 minute concept that is compelling and shows artistic excellence.
3. Impact /Individual	Proposal demonstrates that the artist has a strong foundation in making and sharing work, and that their involvement in OUT THERE would help them to reach their current artistic and career goals.
4. Impact /Community	Proposal articulates how the artist plans to work in collaboration with the cohort to vision and execute a shared program. This project will help build audiences for Velocity and for the artists involved, while inciting dialogue and exchange. This artist has articulated their experience with audience development.
5. Feasibility	Proposal clearly articulates a concept for a work that is achievable, given both the artist's experience and skills, time, resources, and showing structure available.

Further Clarifications:

Within Criteria 1 -

- “available for all dates” - We mean that you are available to be present either physically or in some cases virtually for the entire duration of the dates listed. Selected applicants will set their rehearsal schedule during the residency, but they must be available for all meetings, technical/dress rehearsals and performances.
- “New Work or New Work to Seattle” - For artists residing in WA, the proposed piece must be a new piece that has not been performed before. For Artists who reside outside of WA, the work needs be an existing work that has never been performed in Seattle before.

Within Criteria 2 -

- “Artistic Excellence” - Artistic excellence is seen in those who bring curiosity and rigor to their work, have a process for refining their work, seek influence, and pursue feedback to improve their craft.

Within Criteria 5 -

- “Feasibility” - OUT THERE performances take place October, in a live theater context. We encourage you to think expansively about what your piece can be, but your proposal will be strongest if you articulate and help us understand how this proposal will exist within this context, and consider what is achievable given the resources and timeline.

A note on work samples:

The goal of this work sample is to give panelists a chance to see some of what you write about expressed through your work. Panelists will watch a total of five minutes of your video as indicated by a timestamp in the Work Sample Description.

For local Seattle Artists making a new work, we require two videos—a proof of concept of a complete work, and a video of movement research for the proposed work. While for Out of Town Artists, we require one, proof of concept video of the proposed existing work.

For the proof of concept video, it should show the work from beginning to end and can be a work of any length, you will indicate a timestamp for the video. If the video is longer than you would like to share, please note the timestamp you would like the panel to watch (five minutes per applicant). In the Work Sample Description section of the application, Out of Town Artists should note any proposed shifts to the work. For example, if the work is too long or would change in audience orientation. For Seattle Artists, please note how this work is related to your proposed, new work.

For the work in progress video, we encourage Seattle Artists to create content that feels connected to where you are and what you would create now, even if it's filmed in your living room. Panelists will be looking more at your ideas and expression, and less at the production value of the performance or video. Help us to get a clearer sense of what your idea could be when materialized. Jump off the page!

1. Contact Information

Name:

Pronouns:

Working Title of Project:

E-mail:

Phone:

Check your state of residence:

*

WA

OR

CA

BC

AK

Guam

American Samoa

Northern Mariana Islands

Are you over the age of 18?

*

Yes

No

Are you available for the dates listed above?

Yes

No

Other...

Are you eligible to work and be paid in the USA?

*

Yes

No

Please click which show dates you are available for.

Week 1

Week 2

Use the following questions to inform the panel about your proposed work.

- 1. Who are you?** (150-200 words) *Introduce yourself to us.*
- 2. What work are you proposing?** (750-1000 words) *We recommend addressing the following: How long is the work or how long do you vision the work, who is in the work, what is the artistic vision behind the work? Why do you feel this work would benefit from the split bill structure of OUT THERE? For Seattle Artists, how would your work benefit from the residency structure?*
- 3. What are the brass tacks of the work?** (500 words) *In this section we are looking at the feasibility of your project. Please touch on technical needs: sound, projection, lights. How many dancers are there? What is the general cost of your work? If the scope of your work is larger than Velocity's stipend for this project how will you work with Velocity and your community to ensure equitable pay for the collaborators on your project?*
- 4. Why do you make work?** (300-500 words) *In this section, we are looking at the impact this project has on you. How does your work benefit you? How would your participation in OUT THERE benefit you? Tell us about your choreographic and movement perspective. What are your influences and/or lineages? How have these perspectives guided your past work and how do you see this guiding your future work? Additionally, please touch on your artistic, and administrative/financial goals.*
- 5. Who is your work for?** (300-500 words) *How does your work engage in larger, communal contexts: i.e. societal or political? How does your work impact the communities you work within? How does your work serve community and engage with audiences? For artists outside of Seattle, why is it important for this work to come to Seattle?*
- 6. Work Sample:** *For local Seattle Artists making a new work, we require two videos—a proof of concept of a complete work, and a Work in Progress video of movement research for the proposed work. While for Out of Town Artists, we require one, proof of concept video of the proposed existing work.*

Proof of Concept Videos should show the work from beginning to end while **Work in Progress Videos** can be the beginning of an idea. Panelists will only watch 5 minutes of your total work. If you would like to indicate what you would like the panelists to prioritize, please indicate the timestamp in the Work Sample Description. Please see the “notes on work descriptions” for more information.

If the online video is password protected, remember to provide the password.

7. **Work Sample Description including work title, year premiered, collaborators, and their roles.** Give the panel insight into what they are watching and how it connects to your proposal for OUT THERE. (300 words max)

8. **Upload your CV and/or Biography.**

Skill Building (this section will not be scored as part of your application)

These questions are asked at the beginning and end of the program and are a way for us to measure the program’s impact on the participants.

Rate the following statement from strongly disagree to strongly agree “I have access to artistic mentorship.”

I have access to financial resources to make my work

I have meaningful to Seattle relationships that will help me sustain my artistic career

I have meaningful national relationships that will help me sustain my artistic career

I have access to the tools to manage projects and undertake long-term collaborations and career planning

On a scale from 1-10 (1 being not knowing much, 10 being knowing a lot), how do you rate your skill in planning technical scopes for your work?

On a scale from 1-10 (1 being not knowing much, 10 being knowing a lot), how do you rate your skill in individual budget management?

On a scale from 1-10 (1 being not knowing much, 10 being knowing a lot), how do you rate your skill in navigating the relationship between artist and institution?

On a scale from 1-10 (1 being not knowing much, 10 being knowing a lot), how do you rate your skill in marketing and communications for your work?

On a scale from 1-10 (1 being not knowing much, 10 being knowing a lot), how do you rate your skill in audience cultivation?

Demographics (this section will not be scored as part of your application)

All demographic questions are OPTIONAL and will not be considered by the committee during the selection process.

These questions help Velocity better understand the make-up of our community and how we can best serve you. They also help us represent our community to grant-making organizations and donors in order to raise funds necessary to continue running programs like Next Fest NW and more.

All responses to this section will be kept confidential. All response data is stored in a password protected electronic format. The demographic responses in this survey may be publicly shared, as outlined above, but will never disclose your personal identity. By continuing with this section, you acknowledge you've read and agree to these terms.

Please select your age group.

1. 17 or younger
2. 18 to 24
3. 25 to 34
4. 35 to 44
5. 45 to 54
6. 55 to 64
7. 65 to 74
8. 75 or older

With which gender identities do you identify?

Question Type

Check all that apply.

Agender

Cisgender

Female

Genderfluid

Genderqueer

Male

Non-binary/third gender

Transgender

Two-Spirit

A gender not listed

Prefer not to answer

Other...

With which of the following racial designations do you identify?

Check all that apply.

Black or African American
East Asian
Indigenous/Native American or Alaska Native
Native Hawaiian
Pacific Islander
South Asian
White
Mixed
Multi-racial
Prefer not to answer
Other...

Do you self-identify as Hispanic/Latino?

Yes
No
Prefer not to answer
Other...

Do you identify as LGBTQ+?

Yes
No
Prefer not to answer
Other...

Do you identify as BIPOC?

Yes
No
Prefer not to answer
Other...

Do you identify as a person living with a disability?

Yes
No
Prefer not to answer
Other...

If you answered "Yes", would you like to share the nature of your disability?

We are asking this question solely to best understand how to hold a safe space for all. All answers are held strictly confidential.

Total household income?

1. \$100,000+
2. \$75-80,000
3. \$50-75,000
4. \$40-50,000

5. \$20-40,000
6. <\$20,000
7. Prefer not to say