

OUT THERE CALL FOR WEST COAST EXPERIMENTAL DANCE MAKERS

THIS FORM IS OPEN 365 DAYS A YEAR. AFTER 9/1 @11:59PM PST, THE CURATORIAL PANEL WILL REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

Sign up for a one on one meeting Shane Donohue [here](#).

Velocity Dance Center is proud to announce a call for OUT THERE 2027. OUT THERE is an annual, two week dance festival for West Coast movement artists who make work that innovates our field. This festival is for artists that have the audacity, bravado, and experimental spirit, to push their work to new scales.

OUT THERE festival comprises two different weekends with two artists each weekend who share their work through a split bill with: a new, 30-minute work by a Seattle artist and the Seattle premiere of an existing 30-minute work by a visiting artist from the West Coast Region. This structure fills the need in our community for shared, regional discourse by connecting Seattle artists and audiences to artists in the greater West Coast Region.

This festival is part of Velocity's **Regionally Emerging Creative Incubator** programs 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.

VELOCITY'S CURATORIAL STATEMENT

This statement guides how we make choices and how we invite artists into collaborations with us. It's a living commitment—evolving as we do.

At Velocity, we support dance driven by experimentation—not defined by a specific style or aesthetic, but by a commitment to research, risk, and inquiry. Our curatorial approach is rooted in our values: artist leadership, equity and inclusivity, leading with relationship, curiosity and rigor, and liberation for all. We support artists that work to shift harmful or outdated norms. We prioritize depth, clarity, and process over product. To us, excellence means thoughtfulness, innovation, and resilience.

We are drawn to artists who experiment with how dance is made, shared, and experienced. We want to know how you're working not only with movement, but with process, collaboration, and engagement with intended communities. We seek artists researching deeply within their movement form, considering the social and political realities shaping their work, and the many ways performance can communicate and have impact—before, during, and after the show. We're also interested in artists

reimagining how work gets made: experimenting with new strategies, challenging models of authorship and power, and reshaping how we plan, fund, and talk about dance.

At Velocity, we curate to cultivate. We see artist development as a relationship that grows over time. Our programs are designed to support this ongoing process, allowing us to build trust and understanding, deepen our collaboration, and expand the scope of our shared work. We believe meaningful partnerships require mutual investment, shared risk, and shared reward. When we curate, we're not only thinking about what's ready now—we're also thinking about how we can grow with an artist so we're ready to take on larger, more ambitious projects together when the time is right.

Our decision-making is collaborative and led by artists. Curation at Velocity is led by the Executive Director and the programming staff, and often includes the wider Velocity staff and invited community artists, who serve either as project-based panelists or more long-term advisors. We prioritize hiring administrators who are artists themselves, so that our processes remain artist-led.

PROGRAM COMMITMENTS

Both Seattle-based and visiting OUT THERE artists will work together as a cohort during the following scheduled meetings to collectively plan the performances with the Velocity Team. 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 framing.

MEETINGS

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

Meeting 1: January 2027 Orientation (Seattle Artists with Regional Artists)

Meeting 2: February 2027 Fundraising Planning (Seattle Artists + Regional Artists)

Meeting 3: May 2027 Marketing/Fundraising Check-in (Seattle Artists with Regional Artists)

Meeting 4: September 2027 | 3 – 4:30PM: Virtual Technical Showing (Seattle Artists with Regional Artists)

TECH + SHOW COMMITMENTS

WEEK I: Sep 27-Oct 3 2027

Each work will have 8 hours of tech time with Velocity's Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, and Technical Director.

Dress Rehearsal: Sep 29 | 6-10pm

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

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

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

WEEK II: Oct 5-11 2027

Each work will have 8 hours of tech time with Velocity's Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, and Technical Director.

Dress Rehearsal: Oct 6 | 6-10pm
Show 1: Oct 7 | 7:30pm (call at 6:30pm)
Show 2: Oct 8 | 7:30pm (call at 6:30pm)
Show 3: Oct 9 | 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 plan additional 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 an administrative fee of 6%

In-town Artist Fee Payment Schedule:

July 2027: \$1075
October 2027: \$2075
Total of \$3150

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

October 2027: \$3150
Total of \$3150

ABOUT THE APPLICATION + PANEL PROCESS

This application will close on **September 1st at 11:59pm**, and we are not able to accept late applications. This year's curating team is Velocity Curating Artist in Residence Nia-Amina Minor, Creative Producer Shane Donohue, Communications Manager Joseph Hernandez, and Artist Circle Member, Jody Kuehner. 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 four projects for this year's performances, two from Seattle and two from the greater West Coast region. Beyond scoring, the curators will make their selections based on what four pieces together create a varied and exciting collection of works for the festival. 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 resident of WA, OR, CA, AK, HI, UT, ID, NV, 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 to Seattle. For Artists who reside outside of the Greater Seattle Area, the work needs to be an existing work that has never been performed in Seattle before. (5) Eligible to work in the USA (Velocity cannot provide Visas for any artists or collaborators).
2. Artistry	Proposal articulates a compelling previously premiered concept that clearly translates to an approximately 30 minute movement based presentation within a shared bill. The work should align with Velocity's Curatorial Statement.
3. Impact to 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 to 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. This artist has articulated a clear benefit to Seattle.
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 to Seattle" - For Artists who reside outside of the greater Seattle Area, the work needs to be an existing work that has never been performed in Seattle before.

Within Criteria 2 -

- "Artistry" - Artistry 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 the proof of concept video, it should show the work from beginning to end and should be a full work of at least 30 min, 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.

1. Contact Information

Name:

Pronouns:

Working Title of Project:

E-mail:

Phone:

Check your state of residence:

*

WA (not Greater Seattle Area)

OR

CA

BC

AK

UT

ID

NV

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 I: Sep 27-Oct 3 2027

WEEK II: Oct 5-11 2027

Both

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

1. **Who are you?** (150-500 words) *Introduce yourself to us. This section pertains to the criteria of "eligibility". Tell us about your choreographic and movement perspective. Let us know about your background and dance making experience.*
2. **Title of the Work:**
3. **Work Description for Audiences:**
4. **Technical Requirements for the Work:** *In this section we are looking at the feasibility of your project. Please touch on technical needs: sound, projection, lights. How many dancers/collaborators 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? If your project is not currently 30 minutes in length, how would you adapt the work to fit the shared bill structure?*
5. **How would your participation in OUT THERE benefit you?** *In this section we are looking at the criteria, impact to self. How does the structure of OUT THERE help you and your work?*
6. **How do you see this work benefiting community in Seattle?** *In this section we are looking at the criteria, impact to community.*
7. **Media for Work:** *For Out of Town Artists, we require one, proof of concept video of the proposed existing work and your press kit for the work. This should include promotional photos and videos and any performance photos and videos. Please link to a Google Drive folder with all of the necessary materials.*

If the online video is password protected, remember to provide the password.
8. **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)

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."

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

Rate the following statement from strongly disagree to strongly agree "I have meaningful local to Seattle relationships that will help me sustain my artistic career."

Rate the following statement from strongly disagree to strongly agree "I have meaningful national relationships that will help me sustain my artistic career."

Rate the following statement from strongly disagree to strongly agree "I have a firm grasp and understanding over the business side of my art making"

Rate the following statement from strongly disagree to strongly agree "I have access to the finances to manage projects and undertake long-term collaborations and career planning."

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 OUT THERE 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