

# **Ideas Incubator Lab: Information and FAQs**

## **Welcome from ENB**

English National Ballet brings world class ballet to the widest possible audience through performances across the UK and on eminent international stages; its distinguished orchestra, English National Ballet Philharmonic; its digital platforms Ballet on Demand and BalletActive; being a UK leader in creative learning and engagement practice, building innovative partnerships to deliver flagship programmes such as Dance for Parkinson's; and through talent development initiatives including Ballet Futures which looks to create a more diverse and inclusive future for the artform.

English National Ballet continues to add ground-breaking new works to its repertoire whilst celebrating the tradition of great classical ballet, gaining acclaim for artistic excellence and creativity. 2019 saw the Company enter a new chapter in its history with a move to a purpose-built state-of-the-art home in East London, allowing a renewed commitment to creativity, ambition, and connection to more people, near and far, than ever before. English National Ballet has partnered with Chisenhale Dance Space (CDS) to co-curate its Ideas Incubator Lab 2025 as part of ENB artist support scheme Shared Ground.

## **About Chisenhale Dance Space**

Chisenhale Dance Space (CDS) has been making space for artists to lead, experiment, and create for over 40 years, serving marginalised dance artists from Tower Hamlets, London, and across the UK. CDS is led by the CDS Artist Community, 230 independent artists invested in building community, developing their practices, and advocating for progressive change in the arts. They are committed to anti-racist and anti-ableist practice, and together seek

to challenge how work is made and who gets to make it, with an emphasis on inclusion, equity, and process over product. CDS's programmes are artist-led, centred on the belief that artists best understand their needs and are key drivers of change in the sector and they offer a responsive framework of opportunities and peer support tailored to the challenges artists face.

## **Ideas Incubator 2025**

### **The Offer – what is it?**

**Ideas Incubator Lab** forms part of English National Ballet's artist support scheme, **Shared Ground** and will take place from **Wednesday 29 January – Friday 31 January 2025** at **English National Ballet's studios, Mulryan Centre for Dance**. The programme has been co-curated in collaboration with **Chisenhale Dance Space (CDS)**, its aim is to give time and studio space to Choreographers and Dance Artists interested in developing their practice and taking part in a creative exchange.

Each season focuses on a specific theme with January's Ideas Incubator **focused on developing disability-led, inclusive and integrated practice**.

**Choreographers** will be supported by a disabled and/or neurodivergent mentor who is experienced in disability-led, inclusive and integrated practice. Choreographers and mentors will have dedicated time to discuss plans and goals. Each choreographer will have full use of a rehearsal studio with 4 dancers (selected through an application process) in the space to collaborate, test and exchange ideas. Feedback will be provided by

the mentor alongside facilitation support with the aim of introducing a creative dialogue between everyone in the space. The final day will conclude with an informal sharing and networking opportunities.

The mentors for this season's Idea's Incubator are:

**Annie Hanauer** (she/her)

Annie is an award-winning contemporary dance artist who choreographs, performs extensively, and facilitates dancing in many different settings. She has worked across countries and contexts for 16 years, with an established presence on international stages.

As a disabled artist often working with other disabled/crip collaborators, Annie is interested in how bodies in motion can joyfully disrupt ideas of normativity, and how performance can be a space to challenge societal assumptions connected to the body.

**Kimberley Harvey** (she/her)

Kimberley is an independent disabled dance artist - performer, choreographer, teacher (and sometimes writer!). As a performer she works in contemporary dance and physical theatre across a variety of settings and contexts. Kimberley has her own dance company, [Subtle Kraft Co](#). Their work centres around relationships in their various forms with connection, communication and curiosity being at the heart of all they do. She choreographs work mainly for live performance and film.

Kimberley had a professional relationship with Candoco Dance Company for 15 years, including as a dance artist and teacher, working nationally and internationally. Most recently, she was the Director of Artist Development and Young People until October 2023. She was an Artist Advisor for Sadlers Wells (2021-2023) and

was the co-curator of the DanceAble Symposium 2022 & 2024 alongside Irene van Zeeland as part of Holland Dance Festival. Kimberley will be continuing her relationship with Holland Dance Festival as their 'Expert Collaborator' for Europe Beyond Access 2.

## **Who is it for?**

This opportunity is for choreographers who identify as disabled, d/Deaf, neurodiverse, and/or are living with a long-term health condition and/or invisible health conditions. One choreographer role is reserved for an artist who is part of the CDS Artist Community.

**Choreographers** are asked about their practice and how they would benefit from Ideas Incubator. **Dance artists** will work with a choreographer and their mentor to collaborate, test and exchange ideas. The creative dialogue between everyone in the space will share insights into how to develop inclusive and integrated practices. The final day will conclude with an informal sharing and an opportunity to network.

**Selected independent choreographers and dance artists are offered a fee for participating in Ideas Incubator (inclusive of expenses).**

Priority will be given to applicants who identify as disabled, d/Deaf, neurodiverse, and/or are living with a long-term health condition and/or invisible health conditions, and dance artists with significant knowledge and interest in developing disability-led, inclusive and integrated practice.

We welcome applications from dance artists from **any dance background**.

## When is it?

**Wednesday 29 January – Friday 31 January 2025, 10am – 6pm.**

Each choreographer will have full use of a rehearsal studio which offer state of the art facilities:

- Studio size = 15m wide x 15m deep
- Harlequin sprung dance flooring
- Surround sound speakers with smart phone dock
- 55” screen
- Piano available on request
- Natural light from floor-ceiling windows
- Mirrors and ballet barres on 2 – 3 walls (mirrors can be covered)
- A separate, adjacent breakout/quiet space and accessible toilet

## How to apply

**Applications open on Monday 9 December and close on Monday 6 January at 10am.** Applications must be submitted in the following ways:

- Written format via the [online application form](#) on our website.
- A video or audio recording with a duration of 7-8 minutes, emailed to [becky.david@ballet.org.uk](mailto:becky.david@ballet.org.uk). Download application questions [here](#).

Applications from artists who meet the criteria outlined will be considered via a selection process managed by members from ENB’s Engagement team and from Chisenhale Dance Space.

Successful applicants will be notified by Tuesday 7 January. Upon confirmation of an artist residency, you will be required to agree to

the code of conduct at ENB for all guest artists and sign a letter of agreement. Details to be sent upon confirmation of a successful application.

## **Mulryan Centre for Dance**

English National Ballet's studios, Mulryan Centre for Dance, are located on London City Island in East London. Our address is:

Mulryan Centre for Dance  
41 Hopewell Square  
London, E14 0SY

The closest tube station is Canning Town station which is fully accessible. There is a lift from the station to street level (Bow Creek exit) and lifts on both sides of the red bridge that take you to London City Island.

There are multiple Blue Badge spaces around the Island for drop off. If you require parking, we can provide a parking permit for the duration of your time with us.

As you arrive at the front of the building the central entrance has a pull to open door. Alternatively, to the right of this there is a single, automatic door. There is a buzzer on a post next to this to press to request this door to be opened.

The building has flat level access throughout and there are two lifts, as well as stairs to the upper floors. The lift has a handrail, as well as low-level ridged and illuminated buttons. There is a smooth, hard floor surface in the foyers. The reception desk has a lowered area

suitable for wheelchair use. An accessible toilet is located in the ground floor foyer.

You can find a visual description of how to reach the Mulryan Centre for Dance [here](#).

For more information about our building please visit our website [here](#).

## **FAQ's**

### **Do you have to work in a classical dance style to apply?**

This offer is open to choreographers and dance artists working in all dance styles.

### **Is there an expectation of a performance outcome at the end of the process?**

No, this opportunity is focused on professional development, however there will be an informal sharing at the end of the residency if you wish to share something about your process.

### **How can I share my access rider?**

You may upload your access rider through the application form. Access riders **are not** considered in the shortlisting process. Sharing your access rider allows us to ensure we can meet your needs, there is no obligation to share an access rider at the application stage. If you wish to share your access rider in a different format, please contact [becky.david@ballet.org.uk](mailto:becky.david@ballet.org.uk).

### **Can I apply for both choreographer and dance artist roles?**

Unfortunately, on this occasion you cannot apply for both roles. The application form will ask you which role you wish to apply for, and you may select only one.

**Are there other opportunities to be involved if my application is unsuccessful?**

Yes, on the final day, Friday 31 January, there is an informal sharing which is free and open to all.

**Are there age restrictions for this programme?**

You must be 18 or over to apply for this opportunity.

**Can I apply if I am a dancer in training?**

This opportunity is for professional artists. Unfortunately, we cannot accept applications from students in formal education or those in vocational training.

**Contact**

For further information relating to this opportunity, please contact [engagement@ballet.org.uk](mailto:engagement@ballet.org.uk) or call 020 7590 2921.