

COOPERATIVE DANCE PROMOTION OF THE FEDERATION

for the sustainable strengthening of the art of dance in Germany

DANCE IN GERMANY

Dance - as an artistic process and as a cultural activity - is an essential part of our social life. It connects people of all generations, regardless of origin and social status, cultural or religious background - in urban as well as in rural areas. Dance lives from physical and aesthetic diversity and does not distinguish between disabled and nondisabled artists. Diversity and inclusion are therefore central themes.

Around 60 ballet and dance theatre ensembles work at the municipal and state theatres, and approximately 1000 ensembles, artistic collectives and projects produce in the independent sector. Annually, over 2000 choreographic productions are developed with more than 10.000 dancers, reaching millions of viewers. The Corona pandemic has shown the power and creativity with which dance can connect people and what our society is missing if dance is no longer possible, dance can no longer be experienced.

Dance has gained growing recognition as an art form in its own right in recent decades. Local, state and federal governments, as well as foundations and sponsors, support dance as part of their various programs. However, in order to do justice to its development potential and to sustainably improve the often precarious working conditions of dance creators, it is necessary to more comprehensive and long-term financial support.

For this reason, the existing federal dance funding instruments TANZPAKT Stadt-Land-Bund and NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK (NPN) should be expanded and supplemented by an INITIATIVE DANCE FUND as a **cooperative dance funding program of the federal government**. In this way, dance funding in Germany can be strengthened in a structurally sustainable way and made more efficient through synergetic strategies of cities, states, the federal government and the dance scene.

PILLARS FOR A STRONG ART OF DANCE

TANZPAKT STADT-LAND-BUND: Strengthening and securing structures in dance

So far, there are only four dance houses in the whole of Germany. The ensembles at the state, municipal and state theatres are usually the third and smallest sector with the lowest pay for their artists. Independent ensembles usually must scramble from one production to the next on the basis of short-term project funding.

Even the payment of minimum wages is unattainable for many of them. Important stakeholders for a vital dance infrastructure, such as production offices, state associations as well as competence and information centres have hardly been included in the funding spectrum so far. A financial support comparable to institutional funding with long-term planning security is an indispensable prerequisite for the creation of fair working conditions in the dance scene.

Since 2012, the federal, state and local governments have been engaged in an intensive exchange in order to better and more sustainable support for dance. Developed in dialogue with experienced cultural policy actors in the dance scene.

In 2017, they launched TANZPAKT Stadt-Land-Bund, an exemplary cooperative, multi-year funding model for all artistic disciplines in Germany, as an extremely successful pilot project. From individual artists to ensembles, from production offices to transnational networks, the Tanzpakt funding makes

it possible to lead one's own work to excellence for three years on a secure financial basis. The external evaluations of TANZPAKT that have already been carried out have shown that it is a groundbreaking model for other art for other artistic disciplines as well as its effectiveness and reach in every respect. *The funding will grow to €6 million per year in cooperation with the federal, state and local governments.*

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK: Sustainability and Visibility of Productions

At the heart of dance as an art form is the creation of a work, usually in ensemble form or as part of an artistic collective. The participants work flexibly and highly professionally around the world and form project-oriented artistic communities for the duration of the production over a period of several months. Ideally, a successful production goes on tour nationally and internationally after the premiere.

The large investment in rehearsals and production resources is more sustainably utilized when increased numbers of performances are added through additional co-production venues and guest performances. In addition, there is a great development potential in regional touring and in further exploring medium-sized and smaller towns as well as rural areas. To support ecological and resource-oriented production and resource-based production, it is important to develop models for lower-emission and more efficient mobility.

As early as 1999, the NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK (NPN) succeeded in establishing a federal state cooperation with the goal of winning over mostly municipally funded organizers to invite dance/theatre productions from other federal states to guest performances, and to do so at obligatory minimum fees. Later, the very successful international co-production funding was added. NPN is an actively managed project that has developed artistic exchange systems through financial incentives and continuously expands the presentation opportunities for dance from/in Germany. It ensures adequate remuneration for artists by guaranteeing minimum fees and by expanding the scope and expanding dance's sphere of influence - most recently by promoting performances in analogue and digital media.

So far, the federal government has only provided a budget of 960,000 euros annually for this efficient distribution and co-production system for dance throughout Germany, which is matched by up to 70% through co-funding: With an increase in federal funding to €4 million annually, the impact of this funding instrument will be significantly increased.

INITIATIVE DANCE FUND: New perspectives for the artistic base

High-quality choreographic and dance works require daily training, time for reflection and for the development for reflection and for the development of new ideas as well as a high degree of reliable work continuity. Due to the physical focus of the art form, dancers are generally confronted with significantly shorter professional careers than other artists and have a high risk of injury without being able to fall back on appropriate insurance. Grants for one or several years enable dance artists to manage phases of their career in a self-determined way - from the start of independent work to further development in an international context, the upheavals in the mid-career phases and the transformation of artistic structures in old age.

However, it is not only the individual artistic basis that needs to be strengthened, but also the art form as such. More than 80% of the federal government's cultural budget goes toward preserving the nation's cultural heritage. In Germany, however, 20th century dance is still a largely untapped cultural heritage with limited public visibility. In order for future generations to experience dance in

its multifaceted history and as a reservoir of diverse bodily knowledge, it is necessary to can be experienced, dance heritage must be included in this funding canon.

The public's interest in not experiencing stage works in a history-less space, but in discovering connections and lines of development, as in a contemporary museum, is great. Digital funding for innovative archiving projects and media productions will ensure the long-term visibility of dance as a cultural heritage. As part of the general project funding provided by the Federal Cultural Foundation or the Performing Arts Fund, federal funding is also available for dance for individual projects. What is missing, is a flexible funding instrument that can respond specifically to dance's development needs. Building on funding programs of the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland (DTD) in the area of cultural and creative industries and in NEUSTART Kultur, an initiative fund for dance is to be created under the auspices of the DTD. ***With the experience gained from the Corona crisis, the new INITIATIVE FUND DANCE to be established will react to the specific needs of dance creators and dance institutions in the connection between cultural and creative industries, art production and science. The fund should be fed with approximately 5 million Euro per year to achieve that.***

FEDERAL COOPERATIVE DANCE FUNDING

The federal government promotes art and culture and the national cultural heritage in a variety of ways. The Federal Film Fund has for many years been an exemplary, comprehensive program that focuses on the entire process of creation, production and distribution in conjunction with the state film funds.

With Tanzplan Deutschland, the NPN's guest performance and co-production funding, and the cooperative dance funding instrument TANZPAKT Stadt-Land-Bund, dance has shown what effective and sustainable structural funding can look like. To support the dance scene in the Corona pandemic, three experienced dance funding institutions operating nationwide have joined forces: the DACHVERBAND TANZ DEUTSCHLAND, DIEHL+RITTER and JOINT ADVENTURES. Together, in close collaboration with the BKM they have conceived a cooperative dance promotion program, which, as an aid program for dance within the framework of NEUSTART KULTUR, with a total volume of € 70 million, has been very successful throughout Germany.

All three organizations have established long-standing, trusting partnerships with cultural administrations and politicians at the municipal, state and federal levels. This strong network is the basis for synergistic cooperation with the aim of creating dynamic, needs-based dance funding in close exchange and cooperation between the federal, state and local governments. and local authorities.

An appropriately resourced cooperative federal dance funding program strengthens the proven funding instruments TANZPAKT and NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK and complements them with a new INITIATIVE DANCE FUND. It sends a powerful signal to municipalities and states - with the encouragement to continue to work effectively for dance and its structures in the post-Corona period.

In the 20th legislative period of the German Bundestag, this goal is to be achieved together with municipalities, and the federal government to achieve this goal.

Concept development: With this working paper, the Dance Funding Initiative Group is updating the concept "Dance Pact City-Country-Federation" (developed in 2014). Dance actors with many years of experience in cultural policy work together in the initiative group: Federal German Ballet and Dance Theatre Directors Conference, Dachverband Tanz Deutschland, Diehl+Ritter gUG, K3 - Centre for Choreography | Tanzplan Hamburg, National Performance Network, nrw Landesbüro Tanz, Tanzbüro Berlin, TanzSzene Baden-Württemberg