

**Dancing Through Time Artists Commissions: Open Call for Proposals  
For UK Based Photography and Lens-based Artists  
(two commission opportunities)**



**Document Contents:**

Introduction/ About the Commissions	Page 2
Dancing Through Time Project Overview	Page 2-3
Budget	Page 3
Who is Eligible to Apply?	Page 3
Key Dates	Page 3
How to Apply	Page 4
Partner Organisations & Funders information	Page 5



## Introduction

### About the Commissions

The *Dancing Through Time* commissions are an opportunity to make new artwork supported by the QUAD/ FORMAT and Déda Teams. Two commissions are available and we are seeking to appoint two UK based photography and/ or lens-based artists to work alongside the *Dancing Through Time* project team (based at Derby QUAD) to each develop a commissioned artwork and/or documentary focused project that will follow, reflect, comment upon and celebrate the *Dancing Through Time* archival and heritage focused project. Information on that project is below.

Your project proposal can cover a range of approaches – such as for example: a focus on the people involved in the dance and music scenes of the time, or perhaps the more ‘underground’/ punk scene and the people who led them (and all things in between – such as Pop, Disco, Mods, Northern Soul and Ballroom). You may want to examine and explore the long-lost music and dance venues that were common in Derby in the 1960s and 1970s or perhaps the impact of social and political climates on the music and dance scenes of the period. It can include interviews with single participants or groups of people. We are open to different approaches, use of the medium and welcome proposals that include moving image, still photography, use of archive, VR, AR and more.

The commissioned projects will be exhibited as part of FORMAT International Photography Festival biennale which will take place between 13 March and 6 April 2025 in various venues in the city of Derby. Some exhibitions may last until June 2025. **FORMAT is organised by and is a partnership between QUAD and the University of Derby**

### ***Dancing Through Time Overview***

***Dancing Through Time: from Pop to Punk in the City of Derby*** is an exciting new heritage project that will explore the social clubs, dance clubs, dance movements and music scenes in Derby from 1960 to 1979/80. This project is a partnership between: QUAD, Derby’s centre for art and film; FORMAT International Photography Festival, and Déda - Derby’s Centre for Dance, Movement and Creativity. The project will celebrate the unique social history of Derby people and places and is generously funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to National Lottery players.

Many people of Derby and Derbyshire and further afield will have memories of Derby’s famous venues such as the Locarno, Clouds (which was previously called Cleopatra’s) and those venues considered more ‘infamous’, such as the Ajanta cinema – venues all now unfortunately long gone, repurposed anew as restaurants, or in some cases demolished, lost to time.

By covering the early 1960s to the late 1970s we will chart the social-economic history of Derby against the backdrop of great societal change in the UK – from the summer of love and a more permissive 1960s, through the dour 1970s – including the 3-day week, political unrest and blackouts, to the rise of Thatcherism and the pending miner’s strike of 1984.

The springboard and inspiration for this project was Roger Smith’s book ***‘We Danced In Derby’*** – Roger is a Derby writer and heritage researcher, whose exciting book wonderfully chronicles more than 40 Derby dance hall, discos, clubs and pubs and other social venues during this period. In addition, we have recently produced the exhibition as part of the ***Dancing Through Time*** project titled ***Jubilee City: Derby Punk in the 1970s***, curated by artist Aaron Williamson who himself was a member of many punk bands in the city of Derby in the mid to late 1970s.

Over the next year until March 2025 QUAD/FORMAT and Déda will be reaching out to various community groups across Derby and Derbyshire to engage with us in heritage of this time – collecting memories and objects from people who were there - and in turn educating younger

generations in the importance of securing these memories for future learning and enjoyment. There will also be the chance for the public to get involved through sharing days, dance workshops, social dancing events and more.

Working together with Derby's Local Studies Library, all items submitted and collected via our public events and open calls will be used to help us build a publicly accessible archive website which will be launched in late 2024.

### **Budget**

A commission fee of £3500.00 (incl VAT) will be provided to each artist as well as a further £1000.00 (incl VAT) budget for travel and accommodation.

Further budget will be agreed between the commissioners and the artist to support the costs of exhibition install during FORMAT25.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

There are no educational requirements.

You must be over 18 years of age.

The project should include or be related to photography or film (we are also interested to hear of any uses of digital technology).

You must be based in the UK and able to travel to Derby/ Derbyshire as much as required.

### **Key Dates**

Open Call Launch	5 April 2024
Deadline for Submissions	5 May 2024, 23:59 GMT
Interviews	w/c 13 May and no later than 17 May 2024 (if you have not heard by the second date, please assume you have not been successful)
Artist Notified of Final Decision	No later than 21 May 2024
Residency	June 2024 – January 2025
Submission of Final Work	End of January 2025
Exhibition of Final Work	13 March – 6 April 2025 (with possibility of dates being extended)

## How to Apply

### In Writing:

To apply please send the following in a SINGLE PDF to [Programme@derbyquad.co.uk](mailto:Programme@derbyquad.co.uk) with '*Dancing Through Time Artist Commission*' in the subject line:

- Your contact details including Name, Address, Email and Phone Number.
- Project Proposal (up to 500 words)
- Artist Statement (up to 400 words)
- 10 x Images or up to 5 examples, with links, of moving image work including captions
- Artist CV (4 pages max)

### By Video:

If you would prefer to submit your proposal via video recording, please make sure the recordings are no longer than 5 minutes in length.

Video recordings should be submitted via WeTransfer to [Programme@derbyquad.co.uk](mailto:Programme@derbyquad.co.uk) with '*Dancing Through Time Artist Commission*' in the subject line

Please note that production values will not be taken into account.

**Please also complete the equal opportunities monitoring form here using code #0007:**

<https://forms.gle/31vgTzLFgqghwkuVA>

We support and provide adjustments for people with disabilities – if you have a disability and need help with the application process or would like to submit your application in an alternative format please get in touch at [Programme@derbyquad.co.uk](mailto:Programme@derbyquad.co.uk)

We particularly encourage applications from disabled/neurodivergent creatives, LGBT+ creatives and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

For any enquires or questions about the Commission or Application please contact QUAD Arts Programme Manager/ FORMAT Director Peter Bonnell at: [peterb@derbyquad.co.uk](mailto:peterb@derbyquad.co.uk)

### **About Derby QUAD**

Derby QUAD is an international centre for engagement in contemporary art and film, based in Derby city-centre. QUAD is a charity focused on intercultural dialogue through supporting diverse audiences to engage, develop skills and contribute to contemporary culture.

[www.derbyquad.co.uk](http://www.derbyquad.co.uk)

### **About FORMAT**

FORMAT International Photography Festival is the UK's largest biennale festival of photography and related media and a leading international platform for supporting the development, production and presentation of ambitious new work by artists in the UK and internationally that includes exhibitions, publicly sited commissions, conferences, talks, workshops, residencies, and the FORMAT International Portfolio Review. FORMAT is based at Derby QUAD, where it is an integral year-on-year offer to local, regional and international audiences. **FORMAT is organised by and is a partnership between QUAD and the University of Derby** [www.formatfestival.com](http://www.formatfestival.com)

### **About Déda**

Déda is a Centre for Dance, Movement and Creativity based in the heart of the cathedral quarter in Derby, connecting locally, nationally and internationally. Déda has 3 studios, a 124-seat theatre and produces Derby Festé - an annual international outdoor street arts festival. We are a band 2 Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation and a registered charity (1053633). We attract 54,000 visitors to our building each year. [www.deda.uk.com](http://www.deda.uk.com)

### **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in the strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, the Heritage Fund aims to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.

The Heritage Fund helps protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

The Heritage Fund is passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy. [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)