

DANCE EAST

MOVE | BE MOVED



CHAIR OF THE BOARD

DANCEEAST.CO.UK

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

VOLUNTARY

- › Strategic leadership of one of the UK's foremost dance organisations
- › Minimum of 4 meetings per annum
- › Attendance at performances and events
- › Applications close Wednesday 17 June at 5pm
- › Interviews w/c 29 June
- › Attend Board meeting Monday 14 September
- › First Board meeting as Chair Monday 30 November



CHAIR'S WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the role of Chair of DanceEast.



We are seeking a visionary leader who will champion DanceEast. The Chair will strategically spearhead the organisation into the future, working closely with the Chief Executive & Creative Director and the trustees.

This is an opportunity to lead one of the most significant organisations in the UK's national dance infrastructure. DanceEast is the home of dance in the East of England and plays an important role in the cultural life of people of all ages and backgrounds living in Ipswich, across Suffolk and beyond.

The Chair will have a passion for the arts. They may be an avid enthusiast for culture or an arts professional with experience of working in the creative sector. Either way, they will be inspired by the transformational

power of dance and must be committed to DanceEast's vision and energised by our mission.

The right person for the role will be a good convenor and an excellent listener who will galvanise an ambitious Board of Trustees, ensuring excellence in all aspects of charity governance, and compliance with the current regulatory framework.

These are challenging times for arts organisations in the UK and while DanceEast is well managed and financially stable, the Board is aware that we need to remain agile and be proactive in seeking new sources of income by exploring sustainable operating models.

Now is an important moment in DanceEast's history. The organisation welcomed Anthony Missen as its new Chief Executive & Creative Director in October 2025 and has recently embarked on a business planning process. The incoming Chair will play a lead role in defining the organisation's direction of travel for the next decade and beyond.

If this could be you, please get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

SHREELA GHOSH
Chair of the Board of Trustees

ABOUT DANCEEAST



Established as Suffolk Dance in 1983, DanceEast has more than 40 years of experience in bringing the best artists, performances, and participatory dance opportunities to East Anglia. We pioneered the establishment of a rich dance ecology in this rural region, and raised £9million for the purpose-built Jerwood DanceHouse which opened in 2009.

Today, DanceEast is a national centre for dance creation, and the home of dance in the East of England. From our state-of-the-art building on the Ipswich Waterfront, we operate in our region and beyond, and the impact

of our work is felt locally, regionally, and nationally.

We are guided by our **vision of a world where everyone can benefit from the vital and life-enhancing power of dance.**

Our **mission is to create new and exciting ways for people to move or be moved, through experiencing dance at its very best.**

We promote dance as an avenue for self-expression, discovery, and fulfilment, to enhance health and wellbeing, and to unite people and communities.

WE WORK THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

We work through more than 100 partnerships annually including English National Ballet, Akademi, National Youth Dance Company, National Dance CATs, Britten Pears Arts, and Sadler's Wells.

WE WORK WITH PEOPLE ACROSS THE REGION

Our outreach activities engage children, young people, and people experiencing long-term health challenges. We also seek to involve people facing disadvantage and those under-represented in arts engagement. We remove barriers and address needs to give more people the opportunity to experience the highest quality dance, for the greatest benefit of all.

WE CHAMPION THE UK'S DANCE SECTOR

We are the UK's engine room for dance creation. We nurture artistic talent, invest in and premiere new work, and grow audiences for dance. Artists we work with include: Luca Silvestrini's PROTEIN, Far From The Norm, Jasmin Vardimon Company, Shechter II, Chandenie Gobardhan, Dickson Mbi, Jess and Morgs, Joseph Toonga, Stopgap Dance Company, and more.

DanceEast is a company limited by guarantee [03463592] and a registered charity [1066825].



OUR IMPACT IN 2024-25

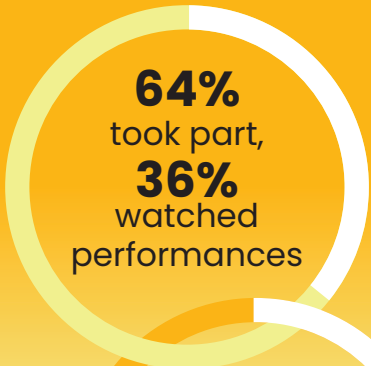
We reached beyond the Jerwood DanceHouse into Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. We involved more people with life-changing dance, recording:

59,775

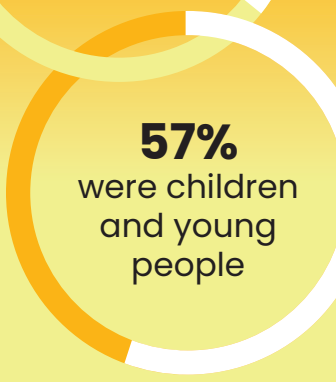
ATTENDANCES FROM...

32,836

PEOPLE



64%
took part,
36%
watched
performances



57%
were children
and young
people

WE DELIVERED

1,954

TAKE PART SESSIONS

WORKED WITH

51

SCHOOLS

PROGRAMMED

33

THEATRE
PERFORMANCES

AND

3

REGIONAL
FESTIVALS.

HOSTED

64

ARTISTS AT THE
DANCEHOUSE!

HELPING MORE PEOPLE MOVE AND BE MOVED, IN IPSWICH AND BEYOND



THE JERWOOD DANCEHOUSE

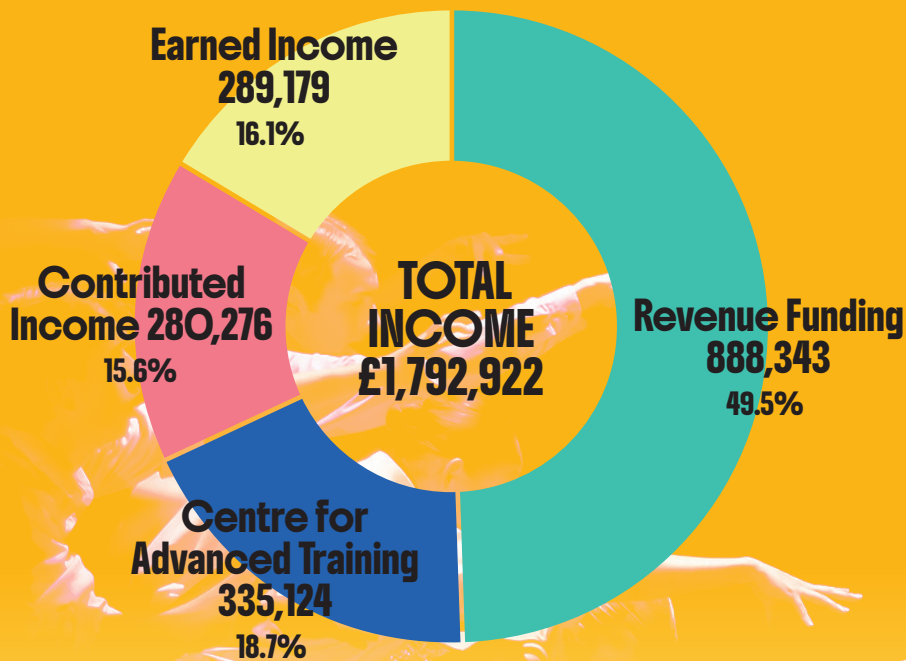


The Jerwood DanceHouse is one of the best facilities for dance in the UK, with a 181-capacity theatre, café, five outstanding studios, and a state-of-the-art green-screen and virtual production facility. A member of the European DanceHouse Network, it is one of only five DanceHouses in the UK, and the only one outside a major city. It is a linchpin in the UK's cultural infrastructure.

The DanceHouse is a dynamic international dance hub where artists explore, create and present work, and a thriving community hub with performances, classes, workshops,

and more. It is an extraordinary asset in the delivery of our programme and a symbol of aspiration and investment for Ipswich and the Eastern region.





OUR FUNDING

DanceEast receives an annual core grant of £880,000 from Arts Council England as a part of its National Portfolio Investment Programme, which provides regular funding to cultural organisations using money from central government and the National Lottery. This annual core grant is guaranteed to March 2027. We are about to enter the preparation and application phase for the next National Portfolio period, which will last from April 2027 for up to four years.

DanceEast operates on a mixed financial model, with different sources of income making our annual programme possible.

Revenue funding relates to the core grant from Arts Council England, and regular investment from Ipswich Borough Council. Contributed Income relates to fundraised income from grants through trusts and foundations, and donations. Earned Income relates to ticket sales, classes and hires. Centre for Advanced Training relates to annual income from Department for Education towards access grants to our pre-vocational dance training programme.

Our Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for 2024-25 can be seen [here](#).

WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US

- › “We are a low-income family, and the child attending is disabled. I am unable to work more hours than I already do because of my daughter’s needs. The bursary is vital in ensuring that X gets to attend. She absolutely loves the creative class, and her confidence has increased so much! It also improves her social and emotional skills... This is vital for our family, and we are very grateful.”

PARENT OF BURSARY RECIPIENT
- › “[DanceEast] actually understand you as an artist... not just the work, but you as a person.”

JOSEPH TOONGA, ROYAL BALLET CHOREOGRAPHIC RESIDENCY 2023/24
- › “I’m always learning something. There’s not been a session that I’ve not picked up something new or grown in a certain avenue.”

DANCEEAST CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TRAINING STUDENT
- › “When I was diagnosed with Parkinson’s... I couldn’t live independently... It was the Dance for Parkinson’s class, which allowed me to become an independent person again... I don’t need to see my GP so often, or my neurologist or the Parkinson’s Nurse. I don’t fall over so often so I’m less likely to trouble A&E.”

DANCE FOR PARKINSON’S PARTICIPANT



DANCEEAST'S SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



© Fotini Christofilidou

Anthony Missen is DanceEast's Chief Executive & Creative Director. Anthony trained at Northern School of Contemporary Dance and worked internationally as

a dancer. He co-founded Company Chameleon in 2007 and grew it into an internationally renowned touring company with a hub in Manchester. Anthony has movement directed

plays at national institutions, and for the BBC and Netflix. He joined DanceEast in October 2025.

The Chief Executive & Creative Director is managed by and works closely with the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Anthony leads and works closely with three experienced department heads who form DanceEast's senior team. Together they are the key decision-making group for the organisation.



Bill Armitage

**HEAD OF
OPERATIONS
& RESOURCES**

Bill joined DanceEast in 2011, having worked in a number of multi-arts venues for over 20 years. He is passionate about contemporary dance.



Tom Bowes

**INTERIM HEAD
OF CREATIVE
PROGRAMMES**

Tom Bowes has worked in the dance sector for over 15 years and believes in widening access to high-quality dance experiences.



Bryony Hope

**HEAD OF
COMMUNICATIONS
& DEVELOPMENT**

Bryony has been a cultural sector fundraiser since 2013 and has secured millions in investment. She believes in the power of storytelling and the importance of demonstrating impact.

GOVERNANCE AT DANCEEAST

The Chair manages DanceEast's Board of Trustees, which has eight members with a range of expertise. DanceEast's Board can have up to 12 members. Alongside Chair recruitment, we are seeking new Trustees with marketing, communications, PR, business, cultural and charity sector, dance, and environmental expertise. Current Trustees include:

- › **Isis Clunie (young trustee)**
- › **Fleur Derbyshire-Fox**
- › **Sarah Gamblin**
- › **Shreela Ghosh (Chair, outgoing)**
- › **Margaret Holder**
- › **Daden Hunt**
- › **Magnus Spence**
- › **Ben Morton Wright.**

DanceEast is established under a Memorandum of Association. The Board's primary responsibility is to fulfil the objectives of the Memorandum of Association, a copy of which is available on request. The Board also ensures appropriate legal, fiscal and other policies and procedures are in place and enacted.

Working with the Chief Executive & Creative Director and Senior Leadership Team, the Board is responsible for articulating DanceEast's vision and values and setting the organisation's strategic framework. The Board is providing stewardship and input into the current Business Planning process.

The Board meets four times annually to monitor progress and agree strategies and priorities. The Board receives a narrative report from the SLT covering all areas of the operation together with the management accounts and other relevant documentation. The Board is supported by several subcommittees. Representatives of Arts Council England and Ipswich Borough Council have the right to attend Board meetings as observers. Trustees engage beyond quarterly sessions through providing advice and input, attending events and meetings, and acting as ambassadors for the organisation.



CHAIR OF THE BOARD

ROLE DESCRIPTION

LOCATION: Ipswich, Suffolk.

TIME COMMITMENT: Approximately 18 days per year (1 – 2 days per month)

- Four Board meetings per year
- Regular meetings with the Chief Executive & Creative Director, and Trustees as required
- Board away days focused on long-term strategic planning, every 12 –18 months
- Attendance at performances and events.

REMUNERATION: The role of the Chair of the Board is voluntary.

TERM: Three years, with the opportunity to stand for re-election for a further term.

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE: The Chair will lead and galvanise an ambitious Board of Trustees, ensuring excellence in governance, compliance with charities legislation and regulatory best practice.

The Chair will be inspired by the transformational power of dance, and arts and culture more broadly. They must be committed to DanceEast’s vision and energised by our mission. Together with the Chief Executive & Creative Director, Trustees, and Senior Leadership Team (SLT), the Chair will shape the strategic direction of DanceEast for the future.

We welcome applications from all interested candidates, including those who do not meet the full criteria but feel they can make a substantial, positive contribution in the role.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

- › Lead the board in identifying key strategic decisions, including the long-term financial strategy, to be agreed and delivered
- › Ensure the Board operates within DanceEast's charitable objectives, agrees the purpose and values of the organisation and remains focused on them
- › Ensure timely and well-founded decision-making that advances the values and purpose of DanceEast
- › Ensure that decisions are taken in the best, long-term interests of DanceEast, and that the Board has collective ownership
- › Work with the Board and Chief Executive & Creative Director to further DanceEast's strong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion
- › Work with the Board, Chief Executive & Creative Director and SLT to set annual KPIs
- › Monitor the progress of the organisation in light of the strategic objectives
- › Encourage Trustees to actively engage with and support the organisation's fundraising efforts, and support where possible, the identification and cultivation of potential donors and investors.

GOVERNANCE

- › Chair Board meetings effectively and efficiently, and make sure that follow up actions are communicated and monitored
- › Ensure the Board fulfils its legal obligations and complies with charity and company law including financial oversight, risk management, safeguarding and all other regulatory requirements
- › Manage potential conflicts of interest to ensure probity and that there is appropriate transparency
- › Review Board composition to ensure the right balance of skills, and lead on Trustee recruitment, induction and development
- › Build an effective, high performing Board team, supporting the work of the sub-committees; facilitate good relationships and promote collaborative working
- › Ensure Board members are equipped to carry out their duties, identifying any learning, development, support, information, or advice that may be needed
- › Lead Board away days focused on strategic planning and Board development.



ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

- › Develop and maintain a productive and supportive working relationship with DanceEast’s Chief Executive & Creative Director
- › Work with the Chief Executive & Creative Director and Head of Operations & Resources to schedule and plan Board meetings and ensure the provision and dissemination of relevant information to the Board in a timely way
- › Ensure the organisation has in place appropriate policies, systems and procedures to operate legally and effectively
- › Develop good relationships with the SLT, enabling DanceEast to deliver consistently and to a high standard

- › Conduct the annual appraisal of the Chief Executive & Creative Director and ensure that SLT members are collectively held to account for achieving the agreed strategic objectives
- › Relate any concerns of the Board to the SLT.

EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

- › Inspire confidence and build positive relationships with DanceEast’s key stakeholders regionally and nationally
- › Be a brand ambassador for DanceEast and act as a spokesperson for the charity when it is appropriate
- › Act as an advocate for the organisation where it is appropriate
- › Represent the organisation at external events or meetings.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES/ QUALITIES

We are seeking a Chair who lives in the East of England with:

- An enthusiasm for and a commitment to DanceEast, its mission, vision and strategic objectives
- Appropriate leadership skills, experience and qualities to lead a significant organisation in the UK dance sector with a national profile
- Strong networking skills and willingness to mobilise their network(s) for the benefit of DanceEast
- An ability to donate to the charity at any level, and to galvanise others to contribute to the continued growth and success of DanceEast
- An understanding of and a strong commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

The Chair will have:

- A demonstrable track record of achievement in a relevant sector (arts, business, academia, public service, etc)
- Knowledge of the cultural sector in the East of England and some understanding of the context in which DanceEast operates
- Experience of charity governance and working with a Board of Trustees, including experience of

- chairing and convening meetings
- Experience of strategic leadership working with a charity, company or another organisation
- An entrepreneurial outlook
- Expertise in financial management and oversight
- An understanding of philanthropy and partnership development, and the ability to identify opportunities in the East of England
- A track record of building lasting strategic partnerships
- An ability to foster and promote a collaborative team environment
- Strong inter-personal skills and the ability to motivate colleagues.



© Rachel Cherry

HOW TO APPLY



DanceEast's Board of Trustees has appointed a nominations committee to support the Chair recruitment process. To organise an informal conversation or meeting with a member of the nominations committee, contact HR@danceeast.co.uk.

Applications should take the format of no more than two sides of A4 accompanied by a CV. Applications should be emailed to HR@danceeast.co.uk by 5pm on **Wednesday 17 June**. Candidates will be required to complete an equal opportunities monitoring form.

- **CLOSE DATE: WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE AT 5PM**
- **INTERVIEWS: W/C 29 JUNE**
- **ATTEND BOARD MEETING (SHADOW): MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER**
- **FIRST BOARD MEETING AS CHAIR (HANDOVER): MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER**

VISIT DANCEEAST.CO.UK TO FIND OUT MORE