



Dance Research Matters Advisory Group

Meeting Name/Purpose	Dance Research Matters Advisory Group
Date	26/05/2022
Venue/Zoom	Zoom - https://ukri.zoom.us/j/91314500172
Time	12pm – 2pm
Chair	Sarah Whatley – Coventry University

Notes

1.	Present	Freya Boulton Chris Bannerman Rachel Krische-Duenas Ann David Lily Hayward-Smith Kat Hawkins Victoria Hunter Kate Marsh Vida Midgelow Clare Parfitt Angela Pickard Efrosini Protopapa Kathryn Stamp Helen Weedon Sarah Whatley Bethany Whiteside	AHRC Note Taker Middlesex University Leeds Beckett University University of Roehampton C-DaRE C-DaRE University of Chichester C-DaRE Middlesex University University of Chichester Canterbury Christ Church University University of Roehampton C-DaRE AHRC C-DaRE The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
	Apologies	Funmi Adewole Kate Elswit Sarah Houston Lesley Maine Emma Redding Tia-Monique Uzor	De Montfort University The Central School of Speech and Drama University of Roehampton Middlesex University Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance The Central School of Speech and Drama

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sarah (Chair) welcomed everyone and introduced new members Rachel, Kathryn, Bethany and Kat. She encouraged all attendees to utilise the full range of communication tools available and acknowledged the need for good Zoom etiquette.

2. Update on #DanceResearchMatters communication, publication, and website

The ongoing development focus for the website will be forward facing. It will include documents, blogs and podcasts and will be used to store Dance Research Matters Advisory Group Notes and Working Documents. Adopting a policy briefing approach will help broaden the audience and spread the word.

Actions

All to submit a short biog and any other relevant documents to upload to Lily (aa2849@coventry.ac.uk) or Kate (ac4988@coventry.ac.uk)

All to make use of the hashtag #DanceResearchMatters

Setting up a twitter page for 'DanceResearchMatters' was a popular idea and was widely supported by the group. The idea of this is to be designed to educate a wider audience about the project.

Action: Freya to investigate social media opportunities

3. Next steps for funding #DanceResearchMatters2

AHRC has earmarked £499,000 for spend in 2023/4 which means internal processes need to happen fast in order to be on track. The first task is to prepare a formal justification document and gain approval from AHRC Senior Management to proceed.

There was a wide-ranging discussion on the nature of how to utilise the possible funding to best achieve the objective of improving the landscape for dance research including:

- 3.1. The need to better understand practice-based and embodied research.
- 3.2. Adopting a network model – generally thought to be a good idea as it would demonstrate the depth and breadth of the sector. The concept of getting this up and running as a pilot was warmly received.
- 3.3. Widening participation and developing a better understanding of the role of independent researchers
- 3.4. The CICP model of devolved funding was discussed and dismissed as not suitable
- 3.5. The need to align with, but not stray into, the territory of other key funders was acknowledged i.e. The Arts Council and their approach to embedding independent artists within projects in order to better understand their needs. Could smaller pots of funding be made available to independent researchers to help shape the plans?
- 3.6. A toolkit for developing understanding of dance research for a broader audience as well as increasing understanding across UKRI
- 3.7. There was also considerable support for supporting the sector from the bottom up and the need to engage and support the next generation of researchers.
- 3.8. Discussions about looking at projects that failed to get funding and/or looking at research that would benefit from continued or further developmental funding was seen to be a positive way to stretch limited resources.
- 3.9. Is it possible to commission members of this group to conduct some of the early leg work for this call? i.e., a Scoping Call

Action

Helen to draft and share initial ideas with the Group to inform the justification document

Clare offered to help with early-stage research to inform this work – Helen to ascertain if this appropriate

4. EDI and Equality Impact Assessment

The group agreed the need to embed EDI across all aspects of this programme from the start. This will include consideration of how disabled dancers contribute to research, intersectionality, decolonialisation and representation across the nations. It must be relevant to all places, spaces and ways in which dance research is conducted including the conservatoires.

The group agreed to establish a set of values under which all the work could be developed so the sector can lead by example and inform other disciplines.

This is also an opportunity to demonstrate the unique aspects of dance as an art form and importance of research to the discipline.

The need to support and build the dance ecology and infrastructure linking across to dance organisations and agencies was seen to be important recognising that many of dance organisations are not well placed to become independent research organisations which is a limitation on routes for PhDs and arts sector led projects. A network that supports the generation of funding bids and in doing so generates a tool kit for others after the end of the network would be beneficial to all.

The need to link to ECR's and REF outcome was also acknowledged.

Actions

A small working group will be established to draft:

- 4.1. A values and principles doc
- 4.2. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) using the UKRI template.

All to let Helen/Freya know if they would like to participate.

5. Agree actions and summarise

Helen encouraged everyone to reach out via email if they have any more suggestions post-meeting.

The group proposed that having a working document that everyone could add notes to may be useful.

Actions

Freya to explore how this can be managed from an IT perspective with the aim to be up and running by next advisory group meeting.

Freya to arrange next meeting date by Doodle poll before the summer holidays.

Sarah agreed the actions and thanked everyone for attending.

