



Hidden Door Dance Open Call For Applications 2026

We are delighted to be accepting submissions for works for the 2026 Hidden Door Festival where dance or movement is the main art form.

This open call invites proposals for two existing dance works to be presented during the festival, running from 3rd to 7th June 2026. The two selected works will be performed each night of the festival, for a five-night run.

We welcome proposals in a wide range of formats, including site-specific, promenade, pop-up, and other experimental approaches, as well as more traditionally staged end-on performances. Artists may also use this opportunity to reconfigure existing work for a site-responsive context.

For 2026, Hidden Door imagines the festival space as a myth in the making - a shared architecture shaped by the works presented.

Within this shared world, we are seeking two dance works that respond to one of our two strands. These strands are offered as open points of entry rather than fixed categories, and proposals may sit within one strand or move between both.

For more traditionally staged works, we will be seeking performances between 20 and 40 minutes in length, for work presented in other formats we are open to different lengths.

Strand 1: Movement, Objects, and Temporary Structures

This strand invites dance works that engage with objects, materials, or architectural structures in their choreographic thinking.

We are interested in work that explores relationships between performers and material.

This strand connects to ideas of temporary structures, portable architecture, and the festival as something that is continually assembled and dismantled.

Strand 2: The Body as Archive, Memory, and Residue

This strand invites dance works that approach physical performance as a site of memory.

We are interested in work that engages with the idea that bodies carry impressions of the spaces they

have moved through. This may include work that explores memory, absence, or imagined histories.

This strand connects to movement being something remembered, reused, ritualised, or shaped by previous lives.

Our Festival

Hidden Door believes strongly in supporting new, emerging, and breakthrough talent, and particularly looks to support dancers and choreographers working at establishing their careers in Scotland.

As a multi-arts festival often running programmes not only of Dance but also Music, Visual Art, Theatre, Spoken Word, and Moving Image, we aim to bring new audiences into contact with art forms that they may not be so familiar with, and so we look to build our programme around work that we feel will work well with this aim in mind. By bringing to life interesting disused spaces we work to create an exciting and accessible way for audiences to explore and discover new artistic voices in Scotland, and we strive to create high-impact, memorable events that will engage audiences and be great fun for the performers too.

Working with Hidden Door

Hidden Door is committed to paying artists fairly. Fees will be discussed individually with each selected applicant, and contracts will be issued once engagement is confirmed.

All artists will be paid **above Equity rates** for both rehearsals and performances.

To ensure fair pay within our available budget, we recommend that proposed works involve **no more than four performers** and are **performance-ready, requiring only a limited rehearsal period**.

We particularly welcome applications from those who identify as having characteristics currently under-represented in the Scottish dance sector.

If you have any access needs and wish to discuss how Hidden Door can support your application and/or wish to discuss any aspect of the accessibility of the building we will be using for the Hidden Door venue, please get in touch.

Due to the small team and voluntary nature of Hidden Door unfortunately we will not be able to provide feedback to those not selected.

Application format

When completing your application please do not worry too much about the use of grammar, spelling, or formatting - these will not influence the outcome, we are interested in you and your work.

All the main questions can also be answered via video if you prefer.

If sending video responses please provide either links for downloadable files (e.g. via Wetransfer) or Google Drive file links.

For videos of your choreographic or performance work please send Vimeo, Youtube or Google Drive file

links, rather than files to download.

The deadline for applications is midnight on Monday 23rd March. We expect applicants to be informed of the outcome by 6th April.

Please click 'Next' to begin your application.

About you

Your full name

Name

Working name or group/company name (if different from above)

Contact email address

Contact phone number

Phone number

Where are you currently based?

(Please note Hidden Door is only able to accept submissions from artists/companies based in the UK)

Please provide a short description of you/your company's practice (max 1500 characters)

About Your Proposed Work

Which of the festival themes does your project resonate with? Please select one or more of the following options:

- Strand 1 — Movement, Objects, and Temporary Structures
- Strand 2 — The Body as Archive, Memory, and Residue

Please describe the work for prospective audiences

Max 1600 characters or 120 second video. If you would like to answer this question by video, please provide a downloadable link in the box above. The filename should include the full name provided as part of your application ().

Why would you like your work to be part of the 2026 Hidden Door programme?

Max 1600 characters or 120 second video. If you would like to answer this question by video, please provide a downloadable link in the box above. The filename should include the full name provided as part of your application ().

How do you intend that the work will be presented at Hidden Door? eg pop-up, roaming, end-on staged.

Max 400 characters or 30 second video. If you would like to answer this question by video, please provide a downloadable link in the box above. The filename should include the full name provided as part of your application ().

Has the work been performed elsewhere?

- Yes
- No

Is there anyone else involved in the project?

- Yes
- No

How many performers will be involved?

Please input numbers only.

Please let us know of any specific technical or production requirements of the performance.

Max 1200 characters or 90 second video. If you would like to answer this question by video, please provide a downloadable link in the box above. The filename should include the full name provided as part of your application ().

What is the duration of the work in minutes?

Please input numbers only.

Budget

We would like an indication of the costs of your proposed performance. Please list the main costs you foresee, and an estimated amount for each cost. This can include performer fees (please indicate the number of performers), other creative fees for project collaborators (eg choreographer, musician), travel, transport, and rehearsal days (maximum 2). Please see our Guidance Notes for more information. This is just an estimate at this time and we will work with the selected artists to finalise budgets.. There is no need to include costs for lighting, sound equipment, or video projection equipment as these will be organised by Hidden Door.

If you do not anticipate any costs, please write 'None' in the 'Description' column.

Project Costs

Click 'add item' to include additional lines, up to a maximum of 20.

Description	Category	Total Cost (Excluding VAT)

**Total Project Cost:
£0.00**

Do you have any other funding in place already (or pending) for this project, including in-kind support? If yes, please give details and the approximate amount that would go towards the total above.

Supporting Materials

If you have a promotional pack for your work please attach it here.

If you have a technical specification for the work please attach it here.

Please upload a copy of your artist CV (.PDF, .doc or .docx).

You may attach up to three files with images of the work. Images must be in JPG, PNG, or PDF format, with a maximum file size of 10MB per image. Please ensure you name the files with your name/your company's name.

Examples Of Your Work

Please provide links to any examples of your work online.

Provide a link to a short video of the work (5 mins max). This should be a continuous part of the performance rather than a promo edit. If it is a recording of a full show please point us to 5 minutes to watch. Studio rehearsal footage is also accepted.

Your website

Instagram

Vimeo / Youtube / Other video platform

Other

Submit Your Proposal

Thank you for completing the application form.

To submit your proposal, **please click on 'Submit' below.**

You will receive a copy of your application by email.

We expect to inform applicants of the outcome by around 6th April.

Best wishes,

Hidden Door