

TANZ KÖLN

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Open Call for Papers

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Cologne, once renowned as a city of dance with numerous national and international successes, plans to establish dance, alongside opera and drama, as an independent artistic division at Bühnen Köln from the 2024/25 season on. For this purpose, Stadt Köln is advertising the position of a directorship in a transparent competition process, combined with a call for submission of a meaningful concept for the artistic and organizational profile of the new dance division yet to be founded. The aim of the call is to permanently establish Cologne as a creative hub for dance with international appeal.

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Artistic orientation and structure

The future dance division should be permanently based in Cologne, produce here and position itself as a strong, progressive force within the dance landscape of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. It should also gain clear international visibility through collaborations and potential guest performances. Within Cologne, it should have a strong presence, develop an artistically innovative identity and become the integrative focal point for activities of the Cologne dance scene.

The appointed director will be free to design a management and structural model within the budget. Extensive artistic networking and a high level of expertise in the international field of arts and culture are particularly required. The director should develop a new concept that takes into account the artistic history of dance in Cologne and the status quo and continues it in a sustainable way. The aim is to provide groundbreaking impulses for the further qualitative development of contemporary dance.

Applicants are asked to formulate a vision for networking the dance division within the creative and cultural landscape of Cologne and North Rhine-Westphalia. Additionally, proposals should be made for an artistic engagement with the urban identity and social reality of a city like Cologne, with over a million inhabitants, through dance. Collaborations with other artistic disciplines and relevant cultural institutions are especially desirable. The focus should lie on promoting young artists, interdisciplinarity, diversity and cultural participation as well as on artistic research, collaboration with scientific institutions and the involvement of the independent scene in Cologne.

Depot 1 in Cologne Mülheim will serve as the central production and performance space for the planned dance division from 2024/25, with performances also possible in other venues of the Bühnen Köln. A budget of approximately 3 million euros per season has been earmarked for production and personnel costs for the dance division. Additionally, third-party funds are expected to be raised through sponsors and funding programs, as well as touring activities.

Process and dates

The establishment of the dance division to be founded in Cologne will be announced as an invitational competition. Stadt Köln asks for the written submission of a meaningful short concept of the artistic vision and the presentation of a possible artistic management or artistic directorship for the dance in Cologne until 2023/11/30, consisting of a maximum of 5 DIN A4 pages, in German or English.

A jury appointed by Stadt Köln and chaired by the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of Arts and Culture of Stadt Köln will select up to 8 applicants from the submitted concepts. These will then be invited to develop a more comprehensive concept within 10 weeks based on a more detailed briefing (including documents on the organizational and financial structure of Bühnen Köln, as well as a tour of the Depot in Cologne Mülheim) and to present it to the jury in person. For the creation of this detailed concept, a fee of 9,000 Euros is provided for the invited participants. The final decision on the appointment of the directorship of the dance division will be made by the main committee of the Stadt Köln council on the basis of the jury's proposal following the presentations of all invited applicants.

The dance division is to be established in 2024/25 in order to realize its first season in 2025/26. Schauspiel Köln's collaboration with the associated company Ballet of Difference will end with the 2023/24 season. However, the program of the Tanz Köln guest performances could continue.

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We look forward to receiving innovative and creative proposals from all over Europe that will help re-establish dance in Cologne as a prominent artistic genre with international appeal.

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Queries may be directed to Patrick Wasserbauer: geschaeftsfuehrung@buehnen.koeln

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Please send your application documents (max. of 5 DIN A4 pages, max. 10 MB) digitally to: geschaeftsfuehrung@buehnen.koeln

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