

JOB DESCRIPTION

Role: Chance to Dance 25/26, Area Coordinator(s)

Contract Type: Freelance position, various locations

Reports to: Chance to Dance Programme Manager

Role Context

The mission of the Royal Ballet and Opera (RBO) is to enrich the cultural life of the nation by growing the public enjoyment and appreciation of exceptional ballet and opera.

We aspire to be a global centre of excellence for the great art we produce and for the inclusive way we do it. We want to grow our reputation still further, demonstrating our social and environmental responsibility.

We are home to three of the world's great performing art companies: The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. We tell stories that speak to the universal themes that move us all, from the great works of the past to new commissions, reflecting contemporary culture and concerns. Our theatres are in London's Covent Garden but our work is accessed and experienced across the UK and globally through touring partnerships, cinema programmes, radio, TV and online streaming.

We are a National Portfolio Organisation, supported by the British public via Arts Council England, and a registered charity, receiving donations from those who share our ambitions.

About RBO Learning and Participation (L&P)

Learning and Participation (L&P) is central to RBO's mission to enrich the cultural life of the nation. An extensive programme, based at our Covent Garden and Thurrock homes and across England, aims to inspire creativity and give people of all ages the chance to discover, question and respond to the power of our artforms.

The L&P programme is distinctive in its scale and ambitions, involving more than 50,000 annual participants across three strands:

- an award-winning, multi-disciplinary National Schools Programme including a dedicated schools' website(www.roh.org.uk/schools), which encompasses our role in supporting important school and pupil outcomes via our RBO Schools classroom schemes and teacher training, as well as a programme of work in the East of England,
- talent development work through opera and ballet training networks, and
- enriching participatory events in our Covent Garden home.

About Chance to Dance

Chance to Dance (CTD) is the RBO's flagship young talent programme. As the longest running access programme in the Ballet sector, since 1991 CTD has introduced over 30,000 children to ballet. In 2018, after 27 years of London centric delivery, the RBO made a commitment to build a national model to expand access. Launching in a new area of England each season, the programme has now delivered residencies across Essex, the West Midlands, Doncaster, the North East, Bradford and Luton. We aim for all children to leave the programme with a love of dance and new-found appreciation for Ballet. Some CTD graduates have gone on to join vocational schools and are working within the creative industries as performers, teachers, and choreographers in professional companies across the sector. In 25/26, CTD will be delivered in the following Chance to Dance areas.

- Blackpool
- Luton
- Bradford
- North East.

The programme works in partnership with 5 Primary Schools and 5 private dance schools in each area to deliver a programme of activity across a 4-year residency. We offer a professional development opportunity for our Associate dance artists alongside offering a creative programme of workshops and performance opportunities for selected children. Phase one of the residency focuses on artist development and talent identification and the second phase, on talent development and affecting systemic change.

Main Purpose of the Role

The Area Coordinator role will support the CTD Programme Manager in the delivery of the programme in each area, and act as the main conduit between the programme manager, Primary Schools, Associate Dance schools and all artists per cohort. While the CTD Programme Manager manages the planning and delivery of the programme across all residencies; the Area Coordinator provides administrative support and leads on all impact monitoring and liaison with teachers and artists in their assigned cohort. They will also be expected to take on event support responsibilities in their assigned area and may be required to support events at the Royal Opera House.

The Area Coordinator commitment is a total of 40 days (up to 8 hours a day), which should be spread across the deliverables roughly as one day a week for 40 weeks across the 25/26 season. Regular check-ins with the Chance to Dance Programme manager will be in place to discuss proposed grouping of days around events and busier periods across the season.

The desire is that each area coordinator (4 in total) is local to each delivery area to build on specific knowledge and networks, however, please note most of the role can be covered by remote working. Some travel may be necessary to both Covent Garden and other CTD areas. Travel expenses will be paid.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Strong commitment to the value of arts and cultural education
- An awareness of the education landscape on a national and/or local level
- An awareness of the UK dance sector both public and private on a national and/ or local level
- Experience of project management and facilitation, with a collaborative approach
- Experience of managing stakeholder relationships
- Experience of monitoring impact and evaluative practices
- Excellent communication and organisation skills
- Familiar with the content of RBO Schools Programme and the repertory of the Royal Ballet (desirable)
- A local understanding of creative and cultural opportunities for the education sector (desirable)

Note: This Job Description reflects the current situation. It does not preclude change or development that might be required in the future.

The rate of pay for this work is £250 per day, or £10,000 for the entire contract.

To declare your interest, please send an up-to-date CV and supporting statement (no more than two sides of A4) detailing your relevant experience and two referees to chancetodance@roh.org.uk by, Monday 4th August at 9.00am 2025.

If you have a strong rationale for working with one particular cohort, please include this in your supporting statement.

Interviews are likely to be online on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th August 2025

If you would like an informal discussion about the role ahead of applying, contact Laura Bray (Chance to Dance Programme Manager) via the above email contact

The Royal Ballet and Opera is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment in which everyone can thrive. We particularly welcome applications from those who are from a global majority background and/or those who are disabled, as they are under-represented within our organisation.