

## **THE AIM AND INTENT OF THE PROGRAM**

The aim of the *DSI Mentorship Program* is to provide funding to dance practitioners seeking a unique and flexible mentorship within dance-movement disciplines as they relate to pedagogy and/or arts practice. Residencies can be short or long term and will aid participants through all phases of development: studying, teaching, creating, advertising, producing, presenting, outreaching, and preserving original works of art.

*DSI Mentorship* programs are intended to provide subsistence allowance to non-professionals and professionals who are emerging artists, to work alongside a professional mentor for the duration of their proposed mentorship. The program will also fund a cumulative final project or goal that can be shared with the public or in whichever way the artists decide. A new addition this year will be a crash course in technology use for the purpose of dance display and preservation.

*DSI* extends this *Invitation to Apply* to all dancers, performers, choreographers, educators, researchers, arts administrators, therapists, and interdisciplinary artists in Saskatchewan who want to advance their careers, work with experienced supporters and specialists in their field of interest(s), and gain access to resources and services provided by our membership.

*DSI* encourages and welcomes applications from diverse backgrounds, including (or ... and is not limited to) individuals who identify as Indigenous, Black, or Persons of Colour (IBPOC); members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, newcomers (including refugees and immigrants), people of varying physical and intellectual abilities (visible and invisible), those who have been marginalized, and all of those who intersect with any of these complex identities or those we have not mentioned. We care about all dancers, so whether you identify as privileged or marginalized, *DSI* is your home.

## **WHAT DSI CAN PROVIDE:**

- Funding to support the partnership between artists/educators;
- Support to artists in the creative development of new work or work-in-progress as well as connect them with wider audiences through outreach and adjunct activities;
- Advertising (through Facebook and E-News), assisted access to office equipment (i.e.: available office space, photocopier, and risers), and some technical support;

- Administrative assistance to help apply for additional funding through public and private grants (whether municipal, provincial, and/or federal), noting that *DSI* will not write grants for you, but may offer support such as feedback, assistance with budgeting, and in form of support letters;
- Technology support such as Gopros, gimbals, ring lights, set lights, computer use, and so much more! We are also hoping to offer a crash course in technology use in dance if this is of interest to the mentorship!
- Other opportunities as determined by the mentorship process.

### **THE POTENTIAL MENTOR MUST BE:**

- A professional or established dancer, choreographer, educator, practitioner, and/or interdisciplinarian in some aspect of the performing arts practitioners (performance art, theatre, film, video, etc.);
- Must be seasoned professionals who can provide personalized support, training, advice, encouragement, and feedback on a regular basis;
- Well versed and recognized in their field of expertise for a least 5 years;
- A member or willing to become a member of *DSI*;
- Canadian citizen(s) or permanent resident(s);
- Intending to pursue their careers primarily in Saskatchewan.

### **THE POTENTIAL MENTEE MUST BE:**

- An emerging dancer, choreographer, educator, practitioner, and/or interdisciplinarian in some aspect of the performing arts practitioners (performance art, theatre, film, video, etc.);
- Must be willing to gain professional development, technical skills, and increased confidence;
- Must be at least 18 years of age, or accompanied by a capable guardian, parent, teacher, counsellor, and/or social worker
- A member or willing to become a member of *DSI*;
- A resident of Saskatchewan;
- Must have a final goal in mind that is outlined in their application;
- Intending to pursue their careers primarily in Saskatchewan.

## **WHAT MENTORS AND MENTEES SHOULD KNOW:**

- *DSI* can provide support in identifying potential mentors and mentees- BUT mentors and mentees must apply together. Please contact the Outreach and Program Coordinator at [outreach@dancesask.com](mailto:outreach@dancesask.com) to request or inquire about this support. \*Tip: if you want to apply for the mentorship, have a conversation with the person you want to have as your mentor. Apply on the website and include a letter of support from that mentor!
- The mentee may apply to be mentored by more than one mentor and at more than one location/institution/organization, although this must be clearly linked to the applicant's training goals and explained in the application. You must also include a letter of support from EACH mentor who has agreed to work with you.
- *DSI* supports research and collaboration between dance-movement artists and those working in other art forms (i.e.: film, animation, music, theatre, visual art), aiming to enhance dialogue, provoke thought, encourage risk, and develop opportunities.
- *DSI* volunteers and associates may apply to the mentorship program, provided they are not involved in deliberations or discussions among the program jury/reviewers and make no attempt to influence jury/reviewer members in the selection of successful applicants. For example, a current or past board member can apply to be a mentor or mentee as long as they keep their application in confidence (with *DSI* staff) as to not influence potential jury/ reviewer members.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Go to <https://dancesask.com/programs/>

Submit the following through the online application portal by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, June 23, 2023:

1. Please submit **one** of the following: A letter of application (not exceeding eight hundred words), or submit a maximum three minute video outlining:
  - Who you will be working with (either mentor or mentee)
  - Your background and primary discipline(s) as a dance-movement practitioner and/or educator;
  - The length of time you will be committing to the mentorship
  - The discipline or aspect of dance-movement art on which the proposed mentorship will focus;

-How & why this mentorship is important in the growth/development of your artistic career;

-Specific milestones/timelines and final outcomes of your proposed mentorship;

-The final goal of your mentorship;

-The amount you are seeking in funding and how these monies will be disbursed- budget or log of expenses (i.e.: subsistence income for yourself, payment to mentor, other expenses) funding cap is \$9,000.00 per mentorship per year;

-Any other details you feel the jury/ review panel would find informative or helpful;

2. One letter of support for mentees applying; this can be from the mentor that has agreed to work with you or from someone else.

3. Your professional resume

\*Please apply only once as a pair. You do not need to submit two different applications. The application can come either from the mentor or the mentee. If you have questions, please contact [outreach@dancesask.com](mailto:outreach@dancesask.com)

We encourage applicants and potential applicants to contact DSI's Outreach and Program Coordinator, Chanz Perry, with any questions regarding the mentorship program. Chanz can be reached at [outreach@dancesask.com](mailto:outreach@dancesask.com) or 306-519-3620.

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

- Support is provided until the entire program budget is depleted.
- Eligible applications will be submitted to *DSI's* Mentorship Program Committee, which serves as a jury to recommend grant allocations.
- A final offering to the community is required in this mentorship. That could be: a video created to share, a final performance/showcase, a zoom talk, an open class, or any other type of offering. Please consider having this in your budget.

### **RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS:**

- Mentorship offers must be accepted within two weeks and agreements signed and returned within 30 days.
- Maintain a consistent engagement scheduled during the tenure of the residency period.

- Recipients must engage in discussions with DSI staff, providing feedback to DSI on the mentorship experience at predetermined intervals throughout the process.
- Any changes to the training program must be submitted in writing to DSI to be approved by DSI.