

# U.DANCE 2024

## REGIONAL PLATFORMS AND NATIONAL FESTIVAL

### APPLICATION PACK

This 2024 Application Pack contains all the information you need to know if you are applying for a U.Dance Regional Platform in 2024, and for consideration for the U.Dance National Festival 2024.

If you require this document in larger print or another format, please contact [u.dance@onedanceuk.org](mailto:u.dance@onedanceuk.org).

## CONTENTS

- 3 What is the U.Dance Programme?
- 4 2024 Eligibility and Access
- 4 U.Dance Regional Platforms
- 5 Regional Platform Contacts
- 6 U.Dance National Festival 2024
- 7 U.Dance Regional and National Criteria
- 8 Application Process
- 10 Music for U.Dance on Screen entries
- 10 Group Leader Considerations



Lothian Youth Dance, U.Dance National Festival 2023.  
Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.

# WHAT IS THE U.DANCE PROGRAMME?

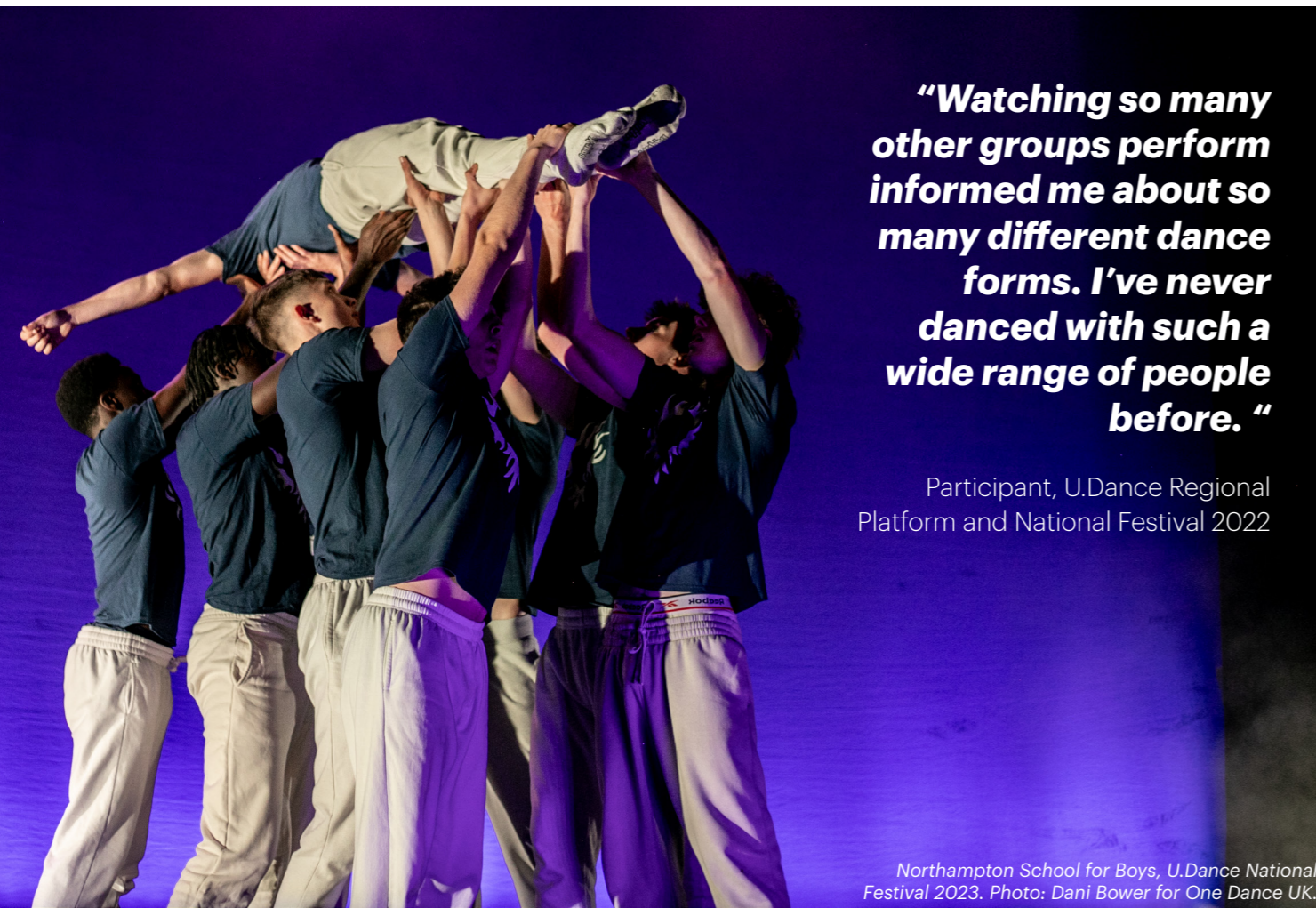
**U.Dance is a national programme of events offering high quality dance opportunities to young people. Each year, our nation's young dancers can explore their creativity, learn more about dance careers, and experience the thrill and sense of achievement of performing!**

One Dance UK and partner organisations are working to present an exciting dance festival programme for young people aged 11 to 19 (and disabled young people up to the age of 25) in 2024.

U.Dance 2024, at Regional Platform and National Festival level, offers an incredible opportunity to be part of showcases demonstrating the breadth of youth dance choreography and performance, and where possible will offer workshops and industry insight with leading dance professionals.

One Dance UK and partner organisations aim to present youth dance that is high quality, innovative and ambitious. We want applications to best reflect the commitment and creativity of your work. Groups from a variety of settings are welcome to take part, including:

- School and college groups
- Youth dance companies
- Private dance schools
- Individuals



**“Watching so many other groups perform informed me about so many different dance forms. I’ve never danced with such a wide range of people before.”**

Participant, U.Dance Regional Platform and National Festival 2022

Northampton School for Boys, U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.



U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.



U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.

# 2024 ELIGIBILITY AND ACCESS

U.Dance is a fully inclusive programme celebrating dance for and by young people. Dance in all its forms is eligible at U.Dance - whether you do hip hop/street dance styles, jazz, theatre styles, ballet, South Asian dance styles, contemporary dance, folk dance, you name it: U.Dance is for everyone!

To be considered for U.Dance Regional Platforms and the U.Dance National Festival in 2024, groups/individuals can:

Create and submit a screen dance piece for consideration in the 'U.Dance on Screen' strand, with no upper limit on dancer numbers

OR

Create and submit a piece made for the stage, for consideration in the 'U.Dance on Stage' strand, with a maximum of 30 dancers.  
The following eligibility criteria also apply:

- Pieces must only include dancers who are aged 11 to 19 years (or up to and including age 25 for disabled dancers) on 31 July 2024.
- Pieces must be between 2 and 7 minutes in duration.
- Groups/individuals must be based in the UK and involve dancers who live in the UK.

One Dance UK and partners strive to make U.Dance Regional Platforms and the U.Dance National Festival welcoming and inclusive events. We encourage applications from young people with disabilities and underrepresented groups, and we welcome conversations with group leaders around how we can support you and your group make the most out of your experience.

## Financial considerations

Taking part in U.Dance Regional Platform and U.Dance National Festival activity is free, however we appreciate that there are various other costs involved, including travel, accommodation, food and costuming.

All U.Dance partners are committed to making the programme accessible for all and can advise on fundraising ideas and other ways to help those in particular need access the events.



# U.DANCE REGIONAL PLATFORMS

## ENGLAND, NORTHERN IRELAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES



Between February and April 2024, exciting U.Dance events will take place across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

**Collectively these are referred to as 'U.Dance Regional Platforms.'**

They offer a brilliant opportunity to showcase your dancers' work and connect and learn from other dance groups in your area.

The structure and exact timeline of each U.Dance Regional Platform is unique, and each will have its own application and selection process. Please contact your U.Dance Regional Platform representative for details using the contact information below.



*Sterran Touring Company, U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.*



*U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.*

A selection panel will select a small number of groups from each U.Dance Regional Platform to have their work showcased at the U.Dance National Festival 2024. Further information relating to the National Panel and criteria are detailed later in this Application Pack.

You are welcome to apply if you wish to showcase your group's work at a U.Dance Regional Platform only, and not be considered for the U.Dance National Festival.

# REGIONAL PLATFORM REPRESENTATIVES

If you are unsure which contact is most appropriate, please email [u.dance@onedanceuk.org](mailto:u.dance@onedanceuk.org) and the team will be able to direct you.

## ENGLAND

REGION	ORGANISATION	MAIN CONTACT	EMAIL
East	DanceEast	Zoe Ablitt	<a href="mailto:zoe.ablitt@danceeast.co.uk">zoe.ablitt@danceeast.co.uk</a>
North East	Dance City	Cheryl Baty	<a href="mailto:cheryl.baty@dancecity.co.uk">cheryl.baty@dancecity.co.uk</a>
East Midlands	FABRIC	Jessica Ashley	<a href="mailto:jessica@fabric.dance">jessica@fabric.dance</a>
West Midlands	FABRIC	Jamaal O'Driscoll	<a href="mailto:jamaal@fabric.dance">jamaal@fabric.dance</a>
North West	The Lowry	Daisy Howell	<a href="mailto:daisy.howell@thelowry.com">daisy.howell@thelowry.com</a>
London	Trinity Laban	Colette McAskill	<a href="mailto:c.mcaskill@trinitylaban.ac.uk">c.mcaskill@trinitylaban.ac.uk</a>
South West	Exim Dance	Laura Nightingale	<a href="mailto:laura@eximdance.org.uk">laura@eximdance.org.uk</a>
South East	South East Dance	Sarah Kearney	<a href="mailto:sarah.kearney@southeastdance.org.uk">sarah.kearney@southeastdance.org.uk</a>
Yorkshire	Yorkshire Dance	Ione Barton	<a href="mailto:ionebarton@yorkshiredance.com">ionebarton@yorkshiredance.com</a>

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Mags Byrne, DU Dance  
[mags@dudancenicom](mailto:mags@dudancenicom)

## SCOTLAND

Lauren Ferguson, YDance  
[lauren@ydance.org](mailto:lauren@ydance.org)

## WALES

National Youth Arts Wales  
[nyaw@nyaw.org.uk](mailto:nyaw@nyaw.org.uk)



NYDC England, U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Brian Slater Photography.



TIN Arts Young People's Creative Group, U.Dance National Festival 2023.  
Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.

# U.DANCE NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2024



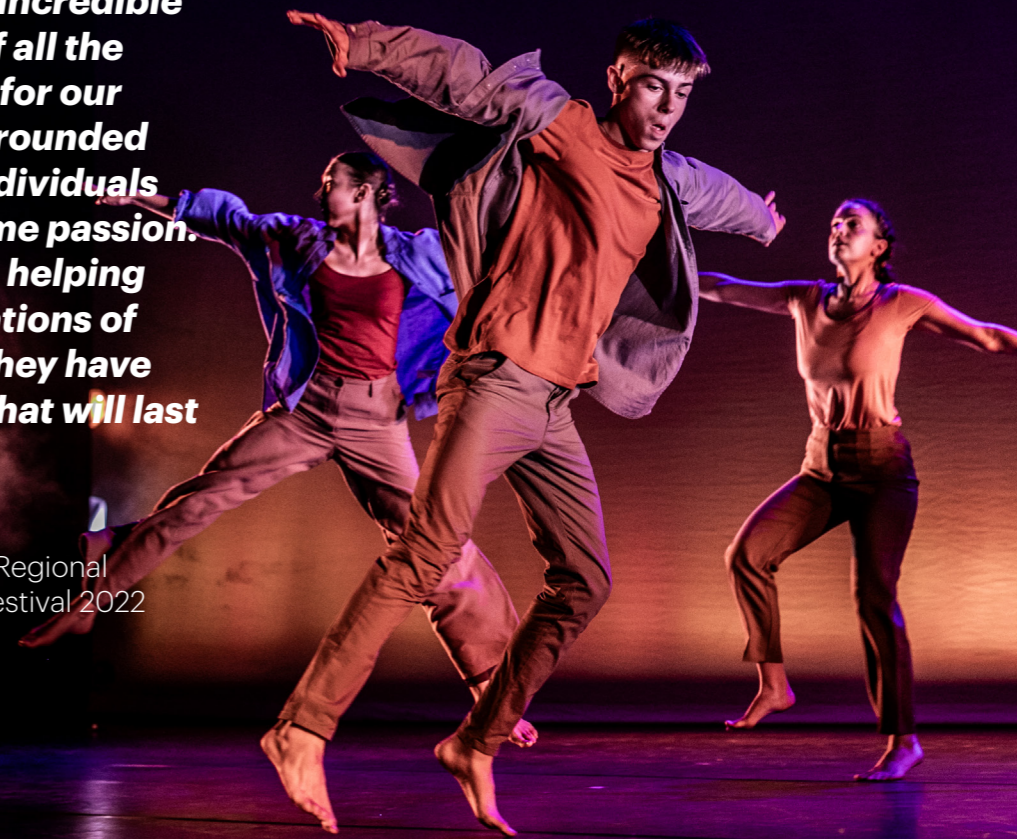
The U.Dance National Festival 2024 is One Dance UK's flagship youth event, providing the focal point for the U.Dance framework. The festival will showcase the incredible range and talent of hundreds of young dancers through selected entries from both stage and screen, with additional digital elements so all young dancers around the country can experience the thrill of the festival.

The U.Dance National Festival 2024 is scheduled to be held in July 2024, with final dates and location still to be confirmed. It promises to be a stunning and exciting showcase of the UK's youth dance talent, with groups from each U.Dance Regional Platform being selected along with special guests, as well as incredible opportunities for young people to meet, learn from and dance with some of the country's leading dance professionals.

More details will be shared in the coming months from One Dance UK and event partners.

***"It was so inspiring to be able to watch the incredible talent and work of all the other groups and for our dancers to be surrounded by like-minded individuals who share the same passion. It is so valuable in helping to raise the aspirations of young dancers. They have made memories that will last a lifetime."***

Group Leader, U.Dance Regional Platform and National Festival 2022



Lothian Youth Dance, U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.

# U.DANCE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CRITERIA

## Groups are reviewed based on the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate excellence in performance
2. Present excellent and engaging choreography\*
3. Show dancers taking clear ownership of the choreography, which is appropriate for their age and experience\*
4. Demonstrate respect and consideration to all (demonstrated through both the group's conduct and the appropriateness of performance content).

*\*A note on choreography: Excellent work selected for the U.Dance National Festival in previous years has been created by group leaders, teachers, young people, professional choreographers and any number of collaborations. There is no preferred 'type' of choreographer and no weighting in the selection process is given to who created the piece.*

The selection panel at Regional Platforms will create a shortlist of groups that meet these criteria. These shortlisted groups will then be reviewed alongside those from other shortlisted groups from across the UK.

## U.Dance National Festival Programming Considerations

The selection Panel will consider all shortlisted work and select dance pieces for the U.Dance National Festival which combined as a performance programme will:

1. Reflect the diversity of dance styles practiced by young people across the UK
2. Create an interesting and varied performance
3. Showcase excellent and authentic work from range of settings

The selection panel for both U.Dance on Stage and U.Dance on Screen is made up a pool of approximately 10 youth dance experts from across the UK, with specialisms spanning a wide range of dance styles and settings. The panel lineup is being finalised, and will be announced in early 2024.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

## STEP 1. PIECE CREATION

**October 2023 – January 2024**

Your piece should be created to fulfil one of the following application strands:

**U.Dance on Stage** – a dance piece that is designed to be performed live, on stage, in front of a live audience.

**U.Dance on Screen** – a screen dance piece that is designed to be viewed in this medium i.e. specifically created to be viewed on screen.

## STEP 2. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

**November 2023 - February 2024**

Complete and submit your U.Dance Regional Platform organisation's application form and submit your piece for consideration. Find contact details on page 6.

Each U.Dance Regional Platform may have different requirements for submission – e.g. some may ask for a recording of the final piece and others may be able to accept work in progress. Please check the requirements from your U.Dance Regional Platform carefully.

Application deadlines vary and are available via your U.Dance Regional Platform organisation.

If you would like your piece to be considered for the U.Dance National Festival ensure you tick the relevant box on the application form. This option is available for both U.Dance on Stage and U.Dance on Screen submissions.





Ground Breakers, U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.

### STEP 3. REGIONAL PLATFORM SELECTIONS AND PERFORMANCE February - April 2024

U.Dance Regional Platforms will take place between February and May 2024. They may include a live or digital showcase, industry information and workshops. Please contact your U.Dance Regional Platform representative for further details.

Members of the selection panel will watch the U.Dance Regional Platform performances and/or films. They select approximately three groups from each U.Dance Regional Platform (from those which indicated an interest in selection) which will be shortlisted for U.Dance National Festival 2024.

### STEP 4. U.DANCE NATIONAL FESTIVAL NATIONAL PROGRAMMING April - May 2024

U.Dance selection panel will then meet in early April 2024 to review videos of all shortlisted pieces, and make final selections to programme the U.Dance National Festival 2024. Selections are based on the National Programming Considerations listed above.

Groups will be informed by One Dance UK if they have been programmed for the U.Dance National Festival by mid April 2024.

### STEP 5. U.DANCE NATIONAL FESTIVAL 2024 12 - 14 July 2024 in Liverpool!

Join the UK's young dancers for a summer celebration of dance! Your group might be selected to be part of the national showcases on stage or screen, and other exciting opportunities at this unique event.

# GROUP LEADER CONSIDERATIONS

## APPLYING FOR THE U.DANCE NATIONAL FESTIVAL

When you apply for the U.Dance Regional Platform you will be asked whether you wish to be considered for shortlisting and selection for the U.Dance National Festival. This is completely optional, however if you select this option you must commit to taking part in the U.Dance National Festival if selected.

The organisers of U.Dance Regional Platforms will check in with each group once details of the U.Dance National Festival 2024 are released so you can make an informed decision on whether your group opts in for consideration for shortlisting and selection. To spread representation, groups who were selected to represent their region at the U.Dance National Festival in 2023, will not be eligible for selection in 2024 (regardless of whether they attended or not). These groups are, however, strongly encouraged to apply for their Regional Platform.

If you have any specific queries please contact [u.dance@onedanceuk.org](mailto:u.dance@onedanceuk.org).

## SAFEGUARDING CONSIDERATIONS

One Dance UK and partners prioritise the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people. All groups taking part in U.Dance Regional Platforms and the National Festival are expected to share this same commitment.

All groups must be able to demonstrate that adults working with children and young people have undergone safer recruitment procedures to ensure their suitability to work with children and young people. U.Dance Regional Platform and National Festival partners follow NSPCC safer recruitment guidance, therefore the following requirements apply to all Group Leaders and Supervising Adults:

- Each adult should be in possession of an Enhanced DBS certificate (or equivalent) which has been viewed and checked by an appropriate person from the organisation they are representing.
- Ideally each adult should be registered on the DBS Update Service, with checks being made regularly by an appropriate person from the organisation they represent. If the adult is not registered on the DBS Update Service, then the certificate must have been issued within the 3-year period prior to the event.
- All adults should have their original DBS Certificate with them at the event.
- Two satisfactory references must have been received for each adult, including from their most recent employment that involved working with children/young people.
- Each must have undertaken training on safeguarding children and young people within the two-year period prior to the event. One Dance UK, Safer Dance and High Speed Training have partnered to offer this free online training [here](#).

Group Leaders and Supervising Adults must be aged 21 or above at the time of the event and must match the gender identity of the group members.

If the group includes participants of compulsory school age, then one or more adults accompanying the group may need to be in possession of a Chaperone Licence. These can take some time to process so we recommend you apply for this the time of submitting your U.Dance Regional Platform application. There must be a ratio of 1 Licenced Chaperone to a maximum of 10 children of compulsory school age. You can find out more here: [Become a licensed chaperone for child performers](#).

**Please note: this does not apply to groups from schools or colleges who are attending the event following their 'school trip' protocols.**

# MUSIC

## THE BELOW GUIDANCE APPLIES TO U.DANCE ON SCREEN ENTRIES

With some U.Dance on Screen pieces being streamed online at U.Dance Regional Platforms and at the U.Dance National Festival 2024, there are strict rules and legal requirements surrounding music licensing and rights. This is different to using music solely in class or on stage. This ensures musicians and composers are credited and compensated appropriately for their work. This matter is taken very seriously and PRS (the music copyright collective) can, and often does, take legal action where music has been used without permission, even in charity and educational settings.

Groups entering for U.Dance on Screen should not assume they can use any piece of music for free – the rights must be secured, and the rules vary depending on if your piece will be performed live or streamed online. U.Dance partners are unable to pay to secure rights to any music accompaniment to pieces, and will not be able to stream the piece online if the rights are not secured.

See One Dance UK's [Digital Music Licensing Best Practice Guide here.](#)

If you are creating a piece of screen dance, options include:

- Using royalty-free music. Various online libraries are available, with some options listed on the Digital Music Licensing Guide via the link above
- Using original music composed solely for the piece
- Contacting the music publisher of the piece and accessing rights directly with them, and providing evidence of this with the application

If music rights are not secured, for the online showcase the U.Dance Regional Platform organiser will overlay the track with similar royalty-free music.



Shiamak Davar International, U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.



U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.

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# GROUP PERFORMANCE

**ASSESSMENT** for  
**GROUPS** of any size  
in **MOVEMENT** and **DANCE**



**GROUP PERFORMANCE FROM RSL AWARDS EXEMPLIFIES OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT SOLUTIONS WHILST SUPPORTING BOTH ACCESS AND ENJOYABILITY OF CREATIVE ARTS EDUCATION.**

The flexible approach to group assessment from Entry Level to Level 3 in Music or Movement and Dance enhances our already pioneering Graded Exam offering. These Group Performance qualifications are designed to champion a range of performers and the communities they represent, including members of a wide-variety of different backgrounds, cultures and orientations.

## PERFORMANCE focussed

These unregulated qualifications promote performance and communication skills and facilitate the assessment of any style, genre or ensemble.

## GROUPS of ANY size

Performers can be assessed as a collective (ensembles of any size) or individually as part of a group (groups of up to 12 candidates). At Entry Levels (Music only), candidates are individually graded for their participation in group collaboration via internal teacher assessment.

## REPERTOIRE flexibility

There are absolutely no limits on the materials to be performed as part of a Group Performance assessment. Flexibility means that candidates can enjoy the benefit of selecting repertoire from their favourite bands, artists, choreographers, or even perform their own compositions and choreography.

### Settings could include:

- » Dance studios
- » Youth groups
- » School ensembles
- » After-school clubs
- » Part time music / performing arts schools and groups
- » Dance or theatre companies that produce dance or movement pieces
- » Bands, choirs and other ensembles taking part in events (battle of the bands, festivals, dance competitions etc)
- » Private music / performing arts tuition services
- » Charities
- » Centres with SEND provisions
- » Social Clubs





U.Dance National Festival 2023. Photo: Dani Bower for One Dance UK.



**THANK YOU FOR READING.  
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR APPLICATION!**

**For further information, please contact the One Dance UK team:**

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**Email:** [info@onedanceuk.org](mailto:info@onedanceuk.org)  
[u.dance@onedanceuk.org](mailto:u.dance@onedanceuk.org)

**Web:** [www.onedanceuk.org](http://www.onedanceuk.org)

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**Paul Hamlyn  
Foundation**

**[www.udancedigital.org](http://www.udancedigital.org)**

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