CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Elevate Chicago Dance 2022
About the Festival

Elevate Chicago Dance, a city-wide festival produced by Chicago Dancemakers Forum, returns for its third iteration in October 2022. Elevate invites proposals for public performances and other activities by Chicago-based dancemakers to present at a range of spaces as part of the festival.

- **Dance Presentations:** Presenting opportunities include performances, films, excerpts, installations, and in-progress sharings by up to 20 Chicago-based dancemakers and collectives/companies highlighting the wide-ranging dance happening in Chicago today.
- **Professional Interactions:** Activities include industry workshops and panels designed and led by local artists. In addition, the festival provides environments for artists to meet one another, to engage in dialogue with writers, and to develop relationships with local, regional, and national presenters.
- **Contributing to the Pandemic Recovery and Offering Multiple Models of Audience Engagement:** Elevate 2022 is designed for the pandemic environment, honoring where artists are and offering virtual and/or in-person engagement.
- **Engaging Dance Writing:** To expand the impact of the festival, Elevate 2022 is working with dance writers to reflect, archive, and engage with the dancers, presenters, and audiences throughout the festival.

**Dates: October 13-16, 2022**

**Current Festival Locations:**
Big Marsh Park, Chicago Cultural Center, The Dance Center at Columbia College Chicago, and Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center

Selected artists will work with festival organizers to arrange the appropriate site for their projects.
About the Opportunity

Compensation:
All participating artists will be paid an honorarium that meets Working Artists and the Great Economy (W.A.G.E.) requirements.

Who can submit a proposal?:
Elevate 2022 invites ALL dancemakers, dance crews, companies, collectives, or collaborations whose lead artist identifies with the following statements to submit a proposal for festival participation:

- I am currently and actively engaged in dancemaking in the Chicago Metropolitan Area (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, or Will County).
- I am 18 years of age or older.
- I have clear ideas about my dance work including potential audiences, ideal types of venues/platforms, and the presentation principles that best align with my values. I am ready to discuss my dance work with peers, audiences, presenters, and/or curators.

Available Opportunities:
If you meet the criteria above, you can submit a proposal by June 1 with up to two of the following:

- **Full-length, staged performance (20-70 minutes) with technical production** at either Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center or The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago.
- **Work-in-progress sharing or excerpt indoors**.
- **Outdoor dance work** at Big Marsh Park (site-specific work and/or promenade performance) with no technical production. Note: Wheelchair accessibility is limited.
- **Dance for the camera or screen**, dance film/video, or an episode of a dance-themed audio podcast. Note: Work may be screened online and/or in-person.
- **Indoor performance-based installation or full-length work without technical production**, which could include installations for dance presented through Virtual Reality or Augmented Reality technologies. Note: These will not have a seated audience.
- **Land/labor acknowledgement or ritual** that includes an element of dance and is specific to one of the following locations: Big Marsh Park, Chicago Cultural Center, The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago, or Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center.
- **Communal dance activity** such as a cypher, peña, open session, jam, ball, battle, dance down, or dance party.
- **Industry panel or workshop** for/with other local dance artists.
About the Process

Curatorial Process:
The festival is curated by a selection panel from an open call process and by individual invitation. The team at Elevate Chicago Dance 2022 will identify the proposals for festival participation by consensus through a one-round process, guided by the criteria below. Elevate Chicago Dance 2022 team members: festival programming staff, local dance artists, and festival venue representatives. Note that diversity and equity will be factors in the festival selection; curation of Elevate Chicago Dance may take into consideration a balance of race, ethnicity, local geography, identities, age, and dance discipline/form.

Selection Criteria:
Elevate Chicago Dance 2022 is open to individual dancemakers, companies, collectives, crews, and collaborations demonstrating dance/movement as a significant part in their work. A competitive proposal demonstrates the following:

- **DISTINCTION (40%)**: The proposed dance presentation and/or activity (as evidenced by the proof of concept) effectively communicates. Successful communication can be evaluated by the applicant’s use of time, space, body, and senses in concert with a clear concept. Application demonstrates a combination of an original and clear artistic vision, distinctive artistic voice, and defined area of artistic inquiry. For proposed workshops, battles, jams, etc. priority will be given to activities demonstrating a generosity of sharing and aiding individual and collective resources that contribute to healthy dance ecologies and community wellness.

- **CAPACITY (30%)**: The artist(s) demonstrates both readiness and the capacity to produce the proposed performance and/or activity. The proposal demonstrates the ability to meet venue parameters in order to ensure the project’s successful presentation.

- **TIMING (30%)**: The proposal resonates with the current moment in which we are living and/or is a compelling example of dance being made in Chicago today. In addition, the applicant establishes being at an important juncture or catalytic moment in their artistic trajectory, and conveys how being part of Elevate 2022 may advance them in their chosen path and goals.
How to Submit Your Proposal

To be considered for the festival, submit your proposal using the Submittable platform. The proposal process is intentionally flexible. You have the option to complete the online form (with no word-count limits or minimums) or to upload a file that you create (i.e., a video, PDF, PowerPoint, etc). Whichever method you choose for your proposal, include the following information for no more than two projects:

1. Artist resume or brief overview of your dancemaking practice within the last few years.
2. Brief description(s) of what you’d like to do and why.
   a. Remember, programming will be organized into different venues and online platforms, so please indicate how your work is suited for a certain setting.
   b. Be sure to address the 3 points of selection criteria (Distinction, Capacity, Timing) in your proposal.
3. Duration of each of the proposed projects
4. Number of performers (dancers, musicians, etc), if proposing live performance.
5. Any technical equipment or particular production needs for each of the proposed project(s).
   a. Alternatively, you can upload a tech rider in the supplemental material section.
6. Proof of Concept: URL to a video excerpt of proposed work or an example of dance work that is relevant to the proposed project(s)
7. Supplemental Material (optional): Could include things such as articles, reviews, TV/radio appearances, still images, social media comments from a past performance.

Deadline for proposals: Submit your proposal via Submittable no later than Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 6pm CT. If you have questions regarding this call for proposals, please contact info@chicagodancemakers.org.

Lucky Plush Productions (Kara Brody, Michel Rodriguez Cintra, A. Raheim White, Melinda Jean Myers, Jacinda Ratcliffe, Rodolfo Sánchez Sarracino, Meghann Rose Wilkinson) performance at “Elevate Chicago Dance 2018” at the Chicago Cultural Center | Photo by William Frederking
In its design and implementation, Elevate Chicago Dance 2022 will be closely aligned to Chicago Dancemakers Forum’s belief statements.

We believe . . .
Dance matters.
Artists are the heart of a thriving society.
Dance in Chicago merits broad recognition.
Dancemakers need support structures that are tailored specifically to them.
Artistic process is as valuable as artistic product.
Advancing a multitude of voices and genres gives dance its fullest expression.
Connectivity and collaboration are key to growth and progress.