

Tanztriennale
June 14 – 21, 2026
Hamburg

Open Call
COUNTER BALANCE – Residencies for research and creation

Deadline: August 31, 2025

Counter Balance is a new residency format for research and creation as part of the first edition of the Tanztriennale in June 2026 in Hamburg. It is an invitation for tandem residencies in two areas:

- **Cross experimentation** – Exploring across dance genres, dance cultures and dance styles. Meaning, creating a partnership of exploration between different dance heritages (i.e. Breaking, Butoh, Ballet, Whacking, Kathak, Social Dances, New Circus, forms of Freestyle and Improvisation or the evolution of a contemporary dance language in relation to indigenous dances, to name a few).
- **Breaking borders** – Exploring dance in relation to sectors outside of the dance field. Meaning, partnering with a practitioner from another sector (i.e. neuroscience, early education, new technologies, urban planning or construction, etc.)

The goal of these residencies is to provide space for experimentation in relation to developing the art form outside of the common dance making bubbles and production pathways. Additionally, they are to provide an opportunity for conventional dance canons to be examined and challenged through collaborative, cross genre and cross cultural inquiry and to trigger exploration in the role dance may play in a larger societal context.

The Counter Balance residencies provide two different residency formats for exploration:

- **Research:** 4-week tandem research with the opportunity to present the outcomes of the exploration in a form that feels relevant to the discoveries during the Tanztriennale week from June 14 – 21, 2026.
- **Short Creation:** 6-week residency towards a short creation under 30 minutes. The outcome will be presented at Staatsoper Hamburg – Opera Stabile Studio Stage during the Tanztriennale week from June 14 – 21, 2026.

The residencies will take place between January and June 2026 and may unfold in up to two different locations with selected residency partners throughout Germany and with our partners Kampnagel Internationale Kulturfabrik GmbH, K3 | Tanzplan Hamburg and Hamburg Ballett.

Unfortunately, not all partner locations are fully accessible. We therefore strive to match any access needs as best as possible to the appropriate spaces.

What is Tanztriennale?

The first edition of the Tanztriennale will engage and invite dance professionals and the general public to reflect on and experience the many facets of dance and the role it can play

in daily life, whether it be through seeing and doing or reflecting and discussing. We will highlight dance in all its potential and to engage with dance not only as a performative art form for the stage, but also for its distinct ability to nourish more cohesive societies and to stimulate new approaches for reinvention and transformative thinking. The notion of coming together will play out in several realms – across dance cultures, across generations, across diverse backgrounds.

The Tanztriennale will unfold in two phases in Hamburg, Germany across 2025 and 2026. The first phase will be dedicated to building communities of dance professionals and local citizens through various formats. The second phase will be an invitation for dance professionals and the public to join us from near and far for a vibrant and immersive week of dance in Hamburg on June 14 – 21, 2026.

Who is eligible to apply for Counter Balance?

Individuals of all age groups at any stage of their professional career are eligible to apply.

Applicants based in Germany and from abroad are welcome.

Applicants not able to apply: students (with the exception of those pursuing a doctorate).

Only two individuals can form a tandem; applications from collectives and bigger teams can not be accepted. A tandem in this sense means either two dance artists from different dance backgrounds or a dance artist and a practitioner from another field or sector.

Applicants must commit to the duration of each residency category: 4 weeks for the Research residency, 6 weeks for the Short Creation residency. The time periods can be divided into separate 2-week blocks and do not need to be consecutive.

Each tandem must pick one format only, meaning a residency or a short creation. There is no limit to how many tandems one can be a part of.

Applicants must be available during the main week of the Tanztriennale from June 14 – 21, 2026 in Hamburg.

Applicants should be interested in engaging in exchange with other dance professionals and local audiences through open studios or public presentations. The timing of these exchanges will be defined together in a way that supports the artistic process.

Applicants should be interested in reflecting their work and peer-exchange, as well as working in a self-organized manner.

Good English skills are required.

What is included?

Research

- Fee in the amount of 5.000,- EUR gross per person (taxes and per diems included). The fee also covers your presence and sharing the outcome of your research at the Tanztriennale from June 14 – 21, 2026.
- Studio or research space with basic in-house technical support for 4 weeks maximum.

- Accommodation for 4 weeks maximum if the applicant is not a resident in the location city of the residency space.
- Travel costs: applicant's resident city to the destination of the residency space, between the residency locations within Germany, from the destination of the residency space back to the applicant's resident city.
- For your presence at Tanztriennale from June 14 – 21, 2026 we cover travel, accommodation and entrance fees.
- If necessary, visa costs will be covered.
- We offer an access budget of up to 1.000,- EUR gross per person to support any accessibility needs related to participating in the residency.

Short Creation

- Fee in the amount of 7.500 EUR gross per person (taxes and per diem included). The fee also covers your presence and presentation (2 shows) at Tanztriennale from June 14 – 21, 2026.
- Studio space with basic in-house technical support for 5 weeks + 1 week of in-house technical support on stage before the presentations.
- A modest production budget is provided for the presentation of the Short Creations at the Opera Stabile. To make the presentation accessible to people with access needs, an additional budget of up to 2.000,- EUR is available (e.g. audio description, sign language interpretation).
- Accommodation for 6 weeks maximum if the applicant is not a resident in the location city of the residency space.
- Travel costs: applicant's resident city to the destination of the residency space, between the residency locations within Germany, from the destination of the residency space back to the applicant's resident city
- For your presence at Tanztriennale from June 14 – 21, 2026 we cover travel, accommodation and entrance fees.
- If necessary, visa costs will be covered.
- We offer an access budget of up to 1.000,- EUR gross per person to support any accessibility needs related to participating in the residency.

If there is an interest to work with local communities, the Tanztriennale will offer support in building contacts and relations when possible.

These residencies can be combined with additional funding pursued by the applicants.

Two tandems will be selected for each format, meaning two residencies and two short creations. The announcement of the outcome will be in October 2025.

How can I apply?

Deadline: August 31, 2025, at 11:59pm (CET)

The application can be made either in English or German through the online form:

[Application form English](#)
[Application form German](#)

We seek to support access to facilitate the participation of the widest range of people possible. If you need help in navigating the application form or need to send in your application in another form (i.e. audio file, video), you can contact us via mail or phone.

E-Mail: residency@tanztriennale.de
Fon: +49 1512 9575070

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Info-Sessions

For dance artists interested in applying for the Counter Balance open call, the Tanztriennale team offers two online info sessions (each approximately 45 minutes):

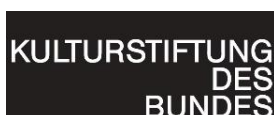
Tuesday July 15, 2025, at 1:00pm (CET) English
Tuesday July 22, 2025, at 1:00pm (CET) Deutsch

Please register with your full name and desired date via residency@tanztriennale.de.

Following each session, we will add relevant questions and responses to our website: www.tanztriennale.de. Stay tuned!

You can also request to be added to our newsletter to stay updated on the events and activities of the Tanztriennale.

The Tanztriennale 2026 is being produced by Tanztriennale Hamburg e.V., initiated by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation) and is funded as a cultural beacon by the Federal Cultural Foundation and the Behörde für Kultur und Medien Hamburg (Ministry of Culture and Media Hamburg). The Federal Cultural Foundation is funded by the Beauftragter der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media).



Der Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien



Hamburg

Behörde für
Kultur und Medien