



## **Dancing Lab: Oasis Dance Journal** **Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What is an NCCAkrón Dancing Lab?**
  - Dancing Labs are residency environments that bring together two or more artists across geographical distances to be in dialogue. They are space for rigorous play and positive failure around an issue, idea, or field-wide trend. Artists share their working knowledge with each other and develop new ideas through body-based studio practice, personal introspection, and group reflection.
- **Why does MoBBallet invest in the future of dance writing?**
  - MoBBallet's mission is preserving and promoting the legacies of Black artists and addresses the existing and emerging needs of the ecosystem by developing models that reimagine the field and shift its values and culture to make it healthier, more inclusive, more productive, and safer for all. Thus, how artists and dance are written about presently can shape how they are viewed in the future.
  - Oasis Dance Journal will showcase critique and commentary that reflect the evolution and advancement of the dance field through culturally competent and equitable coverage. The power and responsibility that dance writing holds should honor the multiplicity and full spectrum of the field, from genre to culture. It must strive to be as expansive in its capacity to receive and reflect on work as artists are in creating it.

- **Why does NCCAkron invest in the future of dance writing?**
  - Similar to NCCAkron encouraging choreographers to explore and play with craft and form in the studio and on-stage, the need has never been more pronounced for all members of the dance ecology - dance scholars, writers, archivists, curators, presenters, funders, agents, and audience members - to experiment with different formats and platforms to better interpret, advocate for, and distribute the artform. NCCAkron develops such opportunities including, but not limited to, writers clarifying their intent and currency in today's dance ecosystem and for audience members to cultivate curiosity around the form as an ongoing practice.
  
- **Who is the ideal applicant and subsequent participant for this Dancing Lab?**
  - Journalists, critics, and/or essayists who are currently and actively contributing to legacy or digital publications.
  - Individuals who are independently publishing to blogs, substacks, academia, etc
  - You must be eligible to receive taxable income in the U.S and residing and working in the U.S. for the last two years.
  
- **Who else will be in attendance as part of this Dancing Lab and possibly shaping its curriculum?**
  - Editors will be invited to join as participants of this Dancing Lab. They play an important role in dance writing as gatekeepers in the field and it is crucial that they are a part of the dialogue.
  
- **Are there any expected outcomes or written deliverables as part of this opportunity?**
  - Dancing Labs occur without the expectation of a final product. However, selected applicants will be expected to participate in all activities which may include discussions, writing, and other exercises.
  
- **What will I receive if chosen for this opportunity?**
  - Those selected for this communal professional development activity will receive \$1,036 to cover airfare, ground transportation and per diem. The selected applicant is responsible for making their own travel arrangements.
  - This stipend will be split in two installments with the first installment issued at signing of a letter of agreement, and the second at the conclusion of Dancing Lab activities.
  - NCCAkron will arrange and pay for accommodations in Akron (4 nights).

- **When will I know if I am accepted?**
  - Chosen applicants will be notified of acceptance by **May 15, 2026**.
  - Declination emails will be sent by **May 18th** with an opportunity to schedule a meeting for an informal conversation with a NCCAkron team member
- **If accepted, what happens next?**
  - Those selected will receive an intake form with their acceptance letter and will be asked to notify NCCAkron of their participation and complete the form by **May 22, 2026** by 5:00PM ET.
  - Once the intake form is completed, a letter of agreement will be sent via DocuSign along with an electronic w9/EFT form.
  - A Google invite will be sent to attend a logistic meeting via Zoom on **June 4, 2026** from 4:00 PM to 5:00 ET. Accepted applicants

### **Application Requirements**

- **What will the application consist of?**
  - The application will consist of 5 questions, including a 500 word response to a prompt.
  - Applicants will be asked to upload their CV.
- **What are NCCAkron and MoBBallet looking for in the two work samples?**
  - You will be asked to submit (2) two complete published writings:
    - A piece that the applicant is most proud of (Work Sample #1)
    - A piece that the applicant found most challenging to them when writing it (Work Sample #2)
  - Samples can be a critique, commentary, op-ed, interview, review, creative non fiction, or program notes. Applicants will be asked to provide a short two sentences of why they chose to share this work.
  - Work samples can either be uploaded or a website location can be provided, but all links should be current.

### **Important Dates**

- **March 9, 2026**-Application Opens
- **April 9, 2026**-Deadline for accepting applications by 5PM ET.
- **May 15, 2026**-Accepted applicants will be notified via email
- **May 18, 2026**-Declination Letters will be sent to applicants
- **May 22, 2026**-Deadline for selected applicants to confirm participation in Dancing Lab.
- **June 4, 2026**-Logistics Meeting with MobBallet and NCCAkron Staff from 4-5PM ET
- **July 13-17, 2026**-Dancing Lab: Oasis Dance Journal in Akron, Ohio