



Call for applications for the position of

Director of the Maison de la Danse and of the Dance Biennale, co-director of non-profit body La Biennale de Lyon

The Maison de la Danse in Lyon and La Biennale de Lyon are two leading institutions on the local, national and international dance scene. They are run by two complementary teams with a common commitment: inviting the widest possible audience to discover new choreographic work in all its diversity and creativity.

MAISON DE LA DANSE

A unique establishment in France and Europe, the Maison de la Danse produces and presents choreographic work. Its mission? Hosting dance for all – dance in all the forms and techniques dedicated to developing choreographic culture.

Each season, the venue hosts around 30 companies: artists of international renown and others with a regional reputation. It is particularly attentive to the work of the region's National Choreography Centres (CCN). The venue stages at least 130 performances per season, and supports creative teams by arranging residencies and significant co-production resources that are set to grow in the coming years when a new facility, the Ateliers de la danse, enters service.

Programming aside, the Maison de la Danse runs a programme of activities around outreach and arts & cultural education: public rehearsals, meet-the-artist sessions, actions to increase the general public's exposure to dance culture, education actions, inclusive actions, and more.

The Maison de la Danse is also the bridgehead for the Resource Hub for Arts & Cultural Education (PRÉAC) in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (AURA) region. The "Dance and Movement Arts" PRÉAC, a platform for interaction between the region's arts & cultural education actors, holds an national annual seminar to train resource leads, as well as several related events in the region.

In 2016, the Maison de la Danse was granted European Creative Hub status by France's Ministry of Culture. As such, it supports dance companies touring abroad and aims to build stronger linkages between research, creation, production, performance and outreach, by strengthening collaborative ties with the region's organisations and public authorities; and by developing partnerships with institutions and professionals across Europe. This strong European dimension is one of the reasons why the Maison de la Danse was asked to create an artistic project for the official kick-off of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January-June 2022).

A "connected venue", the Maison de la Danse leads the Numeridanse.tv project, which gives access to a unique video bank: filmed performances, documentaries, interviews, feature films, dance videos, and more. All genres, styles and forms are represented: butoh, classical, neoclassical, baroque, Indian, African, flamenco, contemporary, traditional, hip hop, tango, jazz, circus arts, performances... Embracing memory and innovation, it is a gateway to the world of dance where you can learn its history; find out about a style, choreographer or company; prepare pupils before they attend a performance; or deepen your dance culture.

The Ateliers de la danse, a new building close to Maison de la Danse in Lyon's eighth arrondissement, will be completed in 2025. Comprising two studios with tiered seating (capacity: 40 and 100) and a modular 450-seat theatre, this facility will give Maison de la Danse a new space for creating work, and a space that complements the existing facility.

The Ateliers de la danse will thus expand the dance hub currently formed by the closely-connected Maison de la Danse and Dance Biennale.

To deliver its remit, the Maison de la Danse has an annual operating budget of €6.5m and currently has 39 permanent staff, 33 on permanent periodic contracts (CDII) (including front of house staff) and 18 full-time technical staff on secondment from Lyon City Council.

LA BIENNALE DE LYON, A NON-PROFIT BODY

The purpose of La Biennale de Lyon, which has non-profit status, is to devise and stage the Dance Biennale and the Contemporary Art Biennale. Though focused on sustaining the biennale's existence and visibility, this body is also involved in building two arts hubs around dance and contemporary art. To do so, it develops synergies with Maison de la Danse and with maclyon respectively; these are set out in partnership agreements between the non-profit body and each of the two establishments.

Since 2019, the non-profit body has been run by two co-directors (the directors of the Dance Biennale and the Contemporary Art Biennale), assisted by the executive director & administrator. The Biennale de Lyon team has 22 permanent staff, plus several hundred fixed-term staff who work on both biennales. In addition, four permanent Maison de la Danse staff also work for the Dance Biennale.

La Biennale de Lyon's average budget is €8.5m, of which 40% is self-generated (ticket sales, philanthropy, etc.).

THE DANCE BIENNALE

Founded in 1984 by Guy Darnet, the Dance Biennale was then headed by Dominique Hervieu from 2012-2022. Since its inception, it has made an ever-growing mark on the French and European arts scene, becoming one of the world's premier dance events.

The Dance Biennale, which runs for three weeks in September in odd-numbered years, has three pillars aligned with its public partners' culture policies:

- Programming that showcases high-quality new work to the public and professionals (roughly 65 productions per edition) and thus helps to structure the region's dance sector (artistic, technical and financial support for new pieces and co-productions; international promotion of artists; fostering the emergence of fresh talent; stakeholder networking).
- Actions to expand the event's audience and involve local communities, thus helping to develop arts & culture as drivers of social inclusion (the Défilé, arts & cultural education, meet-the-artist sessions, amateur practices, revitalisation of deprived districts, etc.).
- Actions to embed dance and build bonds at metro-area and regional scale, to ensure a dance offering spread across the region (performances in 40-plus towns, and partnerships with nearly 80 venues).

The Dance Biennale and its Défilé are one of the region's flagship events. The Biennale attracts 110,000 people on average, and its audience is growing all the time. The Défilé, founded in 1996, has become an emblematic occasion, involving more than 4,000 amateur participants who undertake a long period of preparation overseen by professional choreographers, and perform for more than 250,000 spectators.

An event with tremendous cultural reach worldwide, the Dance Biennale helps to make the region a top hub for creating and presenting dance, while also retaining an intensely festive atmosphere: the Dance Biennale truly symbolises the fusion of high artistic standards and popular appeal.

The Dance Biennale is an integral part of the Dance Hub, and has very close ties with Maison de la Danse and upcoming facility Ateliers de la Danse.

To deliver its remit, the Dance Biennale has a budget of €7.5m.

JOB DESCRIPTION

While embracing the legacy and history of the Maison de la Danse and the Dance Biennale, the new director will be free to develop a project with a strong and distinctive artistic identity, combining all aesthetic aspects of dance and movement arts. In view of this, the judging panel may select a professional artist with a national and international reputation. However, as the Maison de la Danse and the Dance Biennale have no remit to fund projects that involve creating, producing or presenting work for a director-artist, the applicant will describe in their cover letter how they envision the link between their creation/performance activities and the present role.

For the Maison de la Danse, which represents 64% of their working time, the new director will be expected to:

- Formulate the artistic and cultural project, displaying innovation both artistically and in the relationship with local, regional, national and international partners;
- Attract the widest and most diverse audience to demanding, popular and specialist programming that gives rise to series of performances;
- Share the resources at their disposal and assist local, regional, national and international dance companies;
- Fit into, and develop partnerships with the other operators, in the cultural network of Lyon and the metro area, in conjunction with regional, national and international networks, by further developing the European Creative Hub and thus promoting Lyon's international reputation;
- Develop a dynamic economic operating model, for example by attracting philanthropic entities and individuals;
- Execute projects aimed at all audience groups, including young people and families, as well as arts & cultural education projects;
- Continue to develop La Maison's video policy, especially Numeridanse.tv, by producing, managing and publishing audiovisual archives;
- Oversee the upcoming Ateliers de la danse project;
- Manage all aspects of the venue: artistic, administrative and budgetary.

For the Dance Biennale, which represents 36% of their working time, the new director will be expected to:

- Devise the Dance Biennale's artistic and cultural project across all its aspects, including the Défilé, and particularly its programming and its development outlook;
- Maintain the event's regional, national and international reputation;
- Bring together the widest and most diverse possible audience around demanding, popular and specialist programming;
- Involve communities in the metro area and across the region;
- Foster the development of social cohesion and cultural mixing.

For the co-directorship of La Biennale de Lyon, the new director will be expected to:

- Jointly manage all aspects of the non-profit body: administrative, HR, budget, artistic, etc.

For both entities, the new director will be expected to:

- Ensure that the Maison de la Danse and the Dance Biennale have complementary artistic and cultural projects with appropriate linkages;
- Build a Dance Hub identity around the Maison de la Danse, the Dance Biennale and the Ateliers de la danse;
- Align their respective audience development and retention policies;
- Develop relations with all artistic and cultural partners at local, national and international level, thus continuing the current dynamic;
- Practise environmental responsibility and gender equality;
- Display skills in business administration, financial management and employee dialogue;
- Achieve the philanthropic-revenue targets set each year.

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Experience of running a cultural establishment and of staging an event with an international reputation;
- Expertise in creating new dance work;
- A strong understanding of the French and international network for making and presenting new work, and of the French and international choreography scene in all its diversity;
- Proven skills in administration, the management of (preferably cultural) facilities, and team management;
- An ability to bring together two professional teams, partners and the public around a large-scale project;
- HR skills in order to manage teams carefully;
- Proficiency in French and English.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Applicants must submit in French the following by **14 March 2022**:

- A CV presenting their experience, particularly in managing a cultural venue or event;
- A letter (4 pages at most) explaining their motivation and outlining the project they envision for Maison de la Danse and the Dance Biennale.

The new director will be appointed as soon as possible, and **start by 1 September 2022**.

Applications should be emailed to the following addresses:

- recrutement.direction@labiennaledelyon.com
- recrutement.direction@maisondeladanse.com

They will then be forwarded to:

- The Chairman of the Board of Directors of Maison de la Danse;
- The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of La Biennale de Lyon;
- The City of Lyon Deputy Mayor for Culture;
- The Lyon Métropole Vice-President for Culture;
- The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Council Vice-President for Culture and Heritage;
- The Director of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes regional directorate of cultural affairs (DRAC):

In the days after you submit your application, you will receive confirmation of receipt.