

PRESS RELEASE

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TANZPAKT RECONNECT Jury recommends 91 projects for funding, awarding around 11 million euro

By announcing a second call for applications for TANZPAKT RECONNECT, the non-profit cultural organisation Diehl+Ritter is once more supporting the professional dance sector in Germany, which has been hit hard by the pandemic. TANZPAKT RECONNECT is part of the emergency funding programme for dance that has been developed for the NEUSTART KULTUR initiative by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. As well as improving working conditions and promoting artistic quality, this second funding round focuses particularly on supporting independent dance ensembles in Germany.

On 28th and 29th September, the jury considered 175 applications from 12 federal states. The jury members finally recommended 91 projects for funding, allocating a total of around 11 million euro. Compared to the previous call for applications, the proportion of projects selected for funding increased considerably, surpassing 50%.

Statement by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Minister of State Prof. Monika Grütters:

“Even after the end of lockdown, the dance sector still has to cope with restrictions on rehearsals and performances. Following on from the much-needed coronavirus rescue programmes, the federal government is continuing its support via various funding initiatives, as it has done since before the pandemic. These include TANZPAKT RECONNECT, with which the government sends a positive signal for the future of dance in Germany.”

Statement by the jury members Claudia Feest, Sven Neumann, Georg Reischl and Nicole Strecker:

“As members of the jury, we welcome the continuation of the TANZPAKT RECONNECT initiative within the framework of NEUSTART KULTUR. It supports a sector that has suffered more than most art forms in the pandemic, being inherently international and relying on the close proximity of bodies. Without support measures such as TANZPAKT RECONNECT, dance artists – many of whom already work under precarious conditions – would not be able to survive economically in this crisis. Individual artists, ensembles, associations, production companies, archives and creative learning initiatives submitted captivating and creative proposals for how to continue their work in these conditions. Cutting-edge formats were developed, promising artist collectives were formed and new collaborations were planned across state borders.

For us as a jury, it is therefore important to provide funding that secures livelihoods, preserves the diversity of the German dance scene and creates opportunities for future development: Stabilise – support structures – facilitate innovation. In making our decisions, we also focused on the national distribution of funding and on participatory and inclusive formats. This is to help preserve the diversity and excellence of an art form whose innovative impulses are irreplaceable in the German cultural landscape.”

Madeline Ritter, Artistic and Executive Director of Diehl+Ritter gUG, points to the future:

TANZPAKT RECONNECT is part of “NEUSTART KULTUR”, an Initiative of the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media

The pandemic clearly showed that long-term structural funding programmes have an important role to play in enabling us to react flexibly in a crisis. Extending and expanding the NEUSTART KULTUR funding for TANZPAKT RECONNECT until the end of 2022 has given dance ensembles and many other actors in the German dance scene a degree of security, allowing them to continue with their work. It is now vital that they are further supported with regular funding from the TANZPAKT Stadt-Land-Bund programme over the coming years.

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