



The Helen Parlor Dance Bursary

Background

The Helen Parlor Dance Bursary is a legacy project in memory of Helen Parlor.

Helen Parlor, reputable dancer, choreographer, artistic director and founder of MÓTUS, passed away in May 2023. Helen had elevated dance in Milton Keynes, creating pathways for dance professionals, creating dancers of the future, using arts to energise communities, and bringing exceptional work to Milton Keynes for the public to experience.

Partners

The Helen Parlor Dance Bursary is made possible thanks to the generosity of the public and a three-way partnership between Milton Keynes City Council, MK Community Foundation and MÓTUS Dance.

The Bursary

The recipient of the Helen Parlor Dance Bursary 2026-27 will be awarded £1000.00, in two payments. They will also receive two one-hour mentoring sessions from a mentor who has extensive experience working in the dance field.

Applications are open to anyone living or working in Milton Keynes who work in the field of dance. They can be dancers or choreographers aged 16+ and of any background.

Priority will be given to those who live and work in the city but applications will also be considered from individuals not based in MK but who are proposing to work or perform in Milton Keynes, whose work will benefit the local community.



Application Process and Criteria

Applicants can apply in writing or by video. You will need to:

1. Complete the Application Form, either in writing or by sending a video answering the form's questions
2. Include a link to your work or of a previous piece you have presented
3. Provide contact details for a Project Ambassador: someone who can act as a referee and confirm the quality of work and approach of the applicant.

Shortlisted applicants will take part in short interviews with the selection panel.

Applicants' project and mentoring should be complete by end of April 2027.

The scoring of the bursary submissions will be as follows:

1. Live in Milton Keynes or surrounding areas
2. Works in Milton Keynes or is planning to bring work to Milton Keynes
3. Can demonstrate aims for progression in their dance career
4. Would be an advocate for the values held by Helen Parlor and MÓTUS Dance

Key Dates

27 May	Applications open
1 July	Applications close (9:00am)
8-9 July	Shortlisted applicants take part in panel interviews
13 July	Helen Parlor Dance Bursary recipient notified
15 July	Helen Parlor Dance Bursary 2026-27 awarded

Enquiries

Please contact information@motusdance.co.uk if you have any queries or require the information in a different format.

