

Introducing Miroslava Gonzalez, Recipient of the 2026–27 Helen Parlor Dance Bursary

MÓTUS is delighted to announce Miroslava Gonzalez as the recipient of the 2026–27 Helen Parlor Dance Bursary, supporting the development of a new community-focused dance project inspired by the experiences of mothers across Milton Keynes.



Now in its third year, the Helen Parlor Dance Bursary celebrates the legacy of MÓTUS co-founder and former Artistic Director Helen Parlor, whose vision transformed the city's dance landscape through artistic excellence, community engagement and an unwavering belief that dance should be accessible to everyone. The Helen Parlor Dance Bursary provides a £1,000 bursary alongside professional mentoring from leading dance artists, choreographers and producers, enabling recipients to develop new work while strengthening Milton Keynes' growing dance ecology.

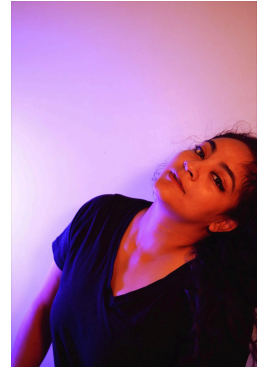
Originally from Mexico and now based in the UK, Miroslava Gonzalez is a contemporary dance artist whose practice explores identity, belonging and social change through choreography, improvisation and community engagement. A graduate of the University of Roehampton's MFA in Choreography programme, she has spent more than a decade developing creative projects with young people and communities, creating spaces where people feel seen, connected and empowered.

Through the bursary, which supported by Milton Keynes City Council and Milton Keynes Community Foundation, Miroslava will develop *I Made Room for Her*, a new contemporary dance project exploring motherhood, identity and healing. Working alongside mothers in Milton Keynes, the project will use creative movement workshops and conversation to shape a new choreographic work, culminating in a community sharing that celebrates participants' experiences while fostering connection and belonging.

Read on for a short interview we conducted with Miroslava, getting her thoughts on receiving this award and what she has planned!

How do you feel about receiving the Helen Parlor Dance Bursary?

I am incredibly honoured to receive the Helen Parlor Dance Bursary. It will allow me to develop *I Made Room for Her*, a contemporary dance project exploring motherhood, by listening first. **I'm excited to spend time with mothers in Milton Keynes, creating spaces where movement, conversation and creativity can come together.** Knowing that this bursary continues Helen Parlor's legacy of bringing dance into everyday life makes it even more meaningful.



Tell us about the importance of investing in local artists.

Opportunities like this invest in much more than individual artists - they invest in the stories, relationships and shared experiences that shape a place. They give artists the time and support to build genuine connections, collaborate with local people and create work that grows from and belongs to the communities around them. That kind of investment leaves a lasting impact long after a project has finished.

What do you have planned with this exciting project?

Through *I Made Room for Her*, I plan to work alongside mothers in Milton Keynes to explore identity, healing and rediscovery through contemporary dance. The project will include creative movement workshops where participants' experiences and reflections help shape the choreography, culminating in a community sharing.

What do you hope to achieve through this work?

I hope the project creates space for mothers to feel seen, heard, and connected, while fostering a greater sense of belonging and solidarity among mothers across the local community.

