# SHALEIGH DANCE WORKS, INC.

# GUEST ARTIST

## INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

ShaLeigh Dance Works (SDW) pioneers dance-theatre experiences that radically redesign what is possible in performance—advancing accessibility not as accommodation, but as artistic practice.

Founded and directed by ShaLeigh Comerford, SDW creates original performances and community-engaged artistic initiatives that explore perception, connection, and what becomes possible when people gather across difference. Through disability-led collaboration, multisensory artistic innovation, and shared creative practice, SDW develops new approaches to dance-making that expand artistic leadership, creative participation, and access to the arts.

Based in Durham, North Carolina, SDW's work is guided by five core values:

**Honor** – *We cultivate dialogue, dignity, and integrity through open expression and mutual respect.*

**Interconnectedness** – *We recognize that our individual and artistic lives are deeply linked to the well-being of others and lead with that awareness in every collaboration and community relationship.*

**Communal Responsibility** – *We translate that awareness into action, showing up consistently for our communities and committing to change that is meaningful and sustainable over time.*

**Collaboration** – *We create work with, by, for, about, and within our communities.*

**Equity** – *We strive to be allies in the dismantling of all systems of oppression everywhere.*

These values are intrinsic to SDW and guide how we work and interact with each other and our core communities.

## OPEN CALL FOR DANCERS & MOVEMENT ARTISTS

### enVISION: Beyond | 2026–2027 Creative Development Process

## POSITION SUMMARY

ShaLeigh Dance Works (SDW) is seeking dancers and movement artists to join the ongoing development of *enVISION: Beyond*, a disability-led, multisensory dance-theatre project exploring perception, accessibility, and what becomes possible when artistic creation is shaped by diverse ways of experiencing the world.

Building upon *enVISION: Sensory Beyond Sight* (2022) and *enVISION: The Next Chapter* (2024), this next phase of development moves beyond traditional assumptions about performance by investigating how stories can be experienced through touch, vibration, movement, proximity, relationship, and shared sensory experience.

While *enVISION* engages a broad team of artists, advisors, and community collaborators, movement remains at the heart of the creative process. We are seeking dancers who are excited to contribute not only their technical and artistic skills, but also their curiosity, creativity, and willingness to help shape the future of the work.

The project brings together dancers, artists, accessibility practitioners, and community collaborators in a collective creative process that positions accessibility not as accommodation, but as a source of artistic innovation.

Selected artists will participate in rehearsals, workshops, accessibility training, community engagement activities, and the collaborative development of new performance material leading toward the project's 2027 premiere.

# ABOUT enVISION

*enVISION* is a disability-led dance-theatre initiative that explores accessibility as a source of artistic innovation. Developed in collaboration with Blind, Low Vision, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, and sighted artists, the project investigates how stories can be experienced beyond traditional assumptions about vision and hearing.

Building on *enVISION: Sensory Beyond Sight* (2022) and *enVISION: The Next Chapter* (2024), *enVISION: Beyond* continues this research through the development of multisensory performance, tactile engagement, audience participation, and collaborative creation practices that challenge conventional approaches to dance-making and performance. At the heart of the project is a commitment to shared authorship, artistic curiosity, and the belief that accessibility can expand—not limit—the possibilities of performance.

# QUALIFICATIONS

Ideal candidates will possess:

- Strong movement practice and creative capacities
- Curiosity, adaptability, and a willingness to engage in collaborative creation
- Interest in accessibility-centered artistic practice
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work within a team environment
- Commitment to fostering inclusive and welcoming spaces
- Desire to develop skills related to disability culture, accessibility, audience engagement, and inclusive performance methodologies
- Strong alignment with SDW's mission and values

Previous experience with disability arts, accessibility, community-engaged performance, or movement mentorship is welcomed but not required.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

Selected artists may:

- Attend regular rehearsals, workshops, and development activities in Durham, NC
- Participate in accessibility and Movement Mentorship training
- Collaborate in the creation and refinement of new performance material
- Engage with community members, advisors, and artistic collaborators
- Contribute to a culture of openness, respect, curiosity, and shared learning
- Support SDW's commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and collaborative artistic practice
- Interest in participating in a long-term creative development process

Specific schedules and project commitments will be shared with selected applicants.

# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Artists selected for the process will have opportunities to develop skills in:

- Movement Mentorship
- Inclusive and accessibility-centered performance practices
- Collaborative creation and devised performance
- Audience engagement and participatory performance
- Multisensory artistic methodologies
- ShaGa, SDW's evolving movement practice rooted in self-discovery, healing, and embodied awareness

# COMPENSATION

All selected artists will be compensated for rehearsals, performances, training activities, and project-related engagements.

Compensation rates vary based on project activities and available funding. Detailed compensation information will be shared with artists selected to participate in the process.

# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

SDW provides equal opportunities to all applicants and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, veteran status, or any other protected characteristic.

We strongly encourage applications from artists of all abilities, identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences.

Reasonable accommodations are available throughout the application and participation process.

# APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To be considered, please submit:

- A brief letter of interest describing yourself, your artistic practice, and why this project resonates with you.
- A resume
- A link to a video reel, movement sample, or recent work

Please send materials to:

ShaLeigh Comerford
Executive Artistic Director
shaleigh@shaleighdanceworks.com

**Subject Line:**
First Name Last Name – enVISION Open Call

**Application Deadline:** August 31, 2026

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the summer. Early submissions are encouraged.

Selected artists will be contacted in September 2026 regarding next steps and participation opportunities.