

About FCD

Foundation for Community Dance (FCD) works to support the development of community dance in the UK and internationally. Our vision is for a world where dance is part of everyone's life, our mission to make engagement with dance important to individuals, communities and society.

What we do

We support a network of over 1,700 individuals and organisations – some 4,600 like-minded professionals and supporters – including dance artists, organisations and teachers; colleges and universities; funding and policy organisations and local government. We do this through:

- **Providing information and support** including a magazine, newsletters, an information-packed website, insurance scheme and Criminal Records Bureau disclosures.
- **Representing the sector and advocating on its behalf** across national and local government, arts policy makers and funders, and other sectors of the arts.
- **Leading strategic development programmes** that include: training events, conferences, publishing, networking opportunities and campaigns. Currently our focus is on: dance, health and well-being; London 2012; inter-cultural dialogue; disability; international profile and workforce development.

Benefits of membership

We offer a range of Membership schemes, open to all individuals and organisations involved in community and participatory dance at a professional level. Membership of the Foundation for Community Dance offers some brilliant benefits, which are all about supporting you in your work:

- Three issues of Animated magazine and access to an extensive on-line library
- An information-packed website and e-newsletters
- Access to public liability insurance and a CRB disclosure service
- Reduced rates for FCD events and professional development programmes
- A listing in our on-line members directory

It's about more than what you get, it's about what you're part of. FCD's leadership of the community dance network provides a platform for exchange, critical debate and peer learning, exposure to diverse dance practices, making new contacts, expanding professional horizons, your profile and professional identity. It is an invaluable resource for anyone working in community dance, and creating opportunities for people to participate in dance.

Annual subscription fees range from £17.50 – £160.

From the editor

Ken Bartlett, Creative Director,
Foundation for Community Dance

Dance takes the lead

As soon as London was awarded the 2012 Olympics we began to explore the potential opportunities for dance artists working with communities, and for those communities to engage with dance in the context of 2012 and the upcoming Cultural Olympiad promised in the bid.

It's very easy with the current downturn in the economy to be cynical about the Olympics, and the cultural element built into the enterprise. The Cultural Olympiad, even before the credit crunch, was never going to be a cash cow for the arts, and an article in the Guardian of the 25 March gathered together a group of the arts 'great and good' to dismiss the opportunities offered by the Cultural Olympiad. Dance has not been included specifically within the major projects of the Cultural Olympiad, but in the past six months representatives from across the wider dance sector have been meeting to develop proposals to change that. Our early thinking has been received positively by the people at 2012, so watch this space.

The Arts Councils of the UK have established Artists Take the Lead, a series of high profile commissions across the UK. We certainly hope that dance will feature amongst them. What we are urging is that the community dance sector seizes all the opportunities on offer as a way to raise the profile of community dance artists, the work and the communities that participate, wherever they arise.

In this issue we feature the perspectives presented at Going for Gold, our members meeting held in Birmingham at the end of February 2008. These demonstrate that there are some very real opportunities for dance to take the lead – but don't expect anything to be offered on a plate, just go out and get pushy about it. We also bring you up to date with our plans for a National College for Community Dance, and offer some reflections about how we non-disabled people view disabled performers in dance and how dance can contribute positively in the field of dementia.

**Available in alternative formats on request
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