

Round Table Dance Berlin

Working Group 1: Infrastructure

PROTOCOL 3

16/05/2018

HAU 3

Coordinators:

Elisabeth Nehring

Simone Willeit

ABSTRACT

The third meeting of Working Group 1: Infrastructure was dedicated to specifying what the dance scene in Berlin currently exists of (in the concrete terms of existing dance houses, performance venues and initiatives) and what it is lacking. A comprehensive list was comprised hereof (see full Protocol). Representatives from selected houses, namely the ones dedicated to dance, will be invited to the next meeting and asked a series of pre-prepared questions regarding how they are currently run and what their plans for the future are. In order to approach the large, well-funded performance houses with the demand for more dance, a clear strategy (including realistic funding proposals) is needed. Here, the question arises, whether the terms should be devised along the lines of 'more dance' (such as 10% of the performance programme must consist of dance pieces) or rather whether it should depart from an aesthetic conception of 'which dance' or 'what kind of dance'. The argument followed that the question of aesthetics cannot be discussed with politicians, but instead concrete proposals are needed. Furthermore, **Sabine Bangert**, member of the political party 'Die Grünen', was present and answered various questions. She postulated that the current climate for arts funding in Berlin is favourable. However, it is important to note that plans devised from a decentralised funding system (instead of a centralised funding system) are harder to pass. Also, it is more likely for proposals regarding the refurbishment of existing buildings to be approved than proposals for the construction of a brand new building. At present, the sites of Tempelhof Flughafen and the Schillertheater are both of interest, as they house a great deal of space that could be used in different ways. What these given structures will become and who will lead their renovation processes is up for discussion. Moreover, in order to succeed in passing plans through government, a clear finance plan stipulating the next 10 years is needed.

After the break the group was split into five sub-groups in order to deepen the understanding of the topics that had been mentioned during the discussion. The following results were presented:

1. **Residencies, Research, Production space**

Stemming from the dilemma of a centralised or decentralised funding system, a mixed finance programme was suggested in which artist residencies can both be subsidised by the dance house or by the artists themselves.

2. **Archive, Discourse, Theory**

A 'lively' archive was proposed, which would consist both of a comprehensive collection of dance research and the presentation thereof in multiple formats, hereby rendering possible the transfer of knowledge through alternative means.

3. **Performances, Guest artists**

The desire was expressed for an open and collaborative structure of performance programming. Berlin's dance houses could work together to host guest artists and organise co-productions.

4. **Mediation, Participative formats**

In the prospective dance house, there needs to be a full department dedicated to audience development and exchange.

5. **The next generation, Ensembles**

Considering the traditional structure of the ensemble, a mobile structure in which the project funding mechanism is applied, is more fitting to our contemporary environment.

Practicalities:

30th of May 2018

6pm at HAU3

This will be the final meeting of Working Group 1: Infrastructure that is open to new participants.

1st June 2018

4pm-6pm at Uferstudios

There will be an information exchange in which all working groups come together to give an update of their status. The focus of this meeting will be informing about each working group's progress rather than extensively discussing topics.

21st & 22nd September 2018

These are the amended dates of the symposium.