



Position Profile

CHAMBER DANCE PROJECT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

September 2026



Chamber Dance Project invites applications and referrals for the position of Artistic Director. This is a rare opportunity for a talented and motivated dance professional to work with outstanding artists to collaborate on new and contemporary works for two to three performance seasons a year. Candidates from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Organization

Chamber Dance Project (CDP), dancers & musicians, was founded in New York by acclaimed choreographer Diane Coburn Bruning in 2000 and was reestablished in Washington, DC in 2014. CDP brings together outstanding artists, including a resident string quartet, to collaborate on new and contemporary works for 2-3 performance seasons a year. The company's schedule is built around the off-season for many professional ballet companies, providing meaningful work for professional dancers during their lay-off periods. Following Diane's 2026 retirement, the company is under the interim leadership of acclaimed dancer and rehearsal director Patric Palkens.

CDP's mission is to create extraordinary experiences in contemporary ballet and live music. They do this by:

- Commissioning and performing new and contemporary works by outstanding choreographers and composers
- Performing in collaboration with live musicians
- Performing in intimate venues heightening the audience's experience
- Engaging audiences by providing access to the creative process through open rehearsals and discussions with the artists
- Providing robust programming – master classes, evenings with the artists, and preperformance artist chats – between and during performance seasons
- Providing access to underserved communities who have limited opportunities to see live dance and music
- Providing meaningful work for professional ballet dancers during their lay-off periods

The Opportunity

Chamber Dance Project seeks a dynamic and boldly creative leader to drive the company's evolution forward. This is a part-time position, with a full-time arrangement available for the right candidate. The role is hybrid, combining remote and on-site work, with full-time, on-site presence required in the Washington, DC metro area during key performance periods.



CDP is open to candidates with experience as performers, choreographers, or artistic directors. However, this is a unique opportunity for a candidate who is an accomplished choreographer to create new works to be performed alongside works from the CDP repertoire and by guest choreographers.

Key Responsibilities

Competitive candidates will have the ability to:

- Develop, articulate, and implement a bold artistic vision.
- Develop goals and strategies for the continued success of the organization
- Oversee all aspects of the organization's artistic programming and productions, including the planning and execution of performances, artist events, open rehearsals, master classes, and educational programming.
- Commission new works and license contemporary re-stagings; develop relationships with contemporary choreographers and composers
- Hire, cast, and coach high-caliber artists to ensure high-quality performances in an exceptional environment
- Collaborate with our Principal Musician on all music-related work
- Cultivate collaborative, creative relationships in metro Washington, DC
- Cultivate, attract, and grow funding resources to support all endeavors of CDP and its activities
- Administer the organization's budget and resources, in collaboration with the Company/Production Manager and Board Treasurer, to ensure that they are effectively used to achieve the organization's goals
- Join forces with the Marketing Director to develop campaigns for seasons and programming
- Manage the staff on day-to-day operations with the Company/Production Manager
- Partner closely with the Board of Directors on goals and to further CDP's mission
- Grow our presence locally and nationally, representing CDP to the public, media, patrons, and other stakeholders
- Explore summer performance and touring opportunities regionally and nationally

The Ideal Candidate

Desired experience and skills include:

- At least 12 years of professional dance experience in any or all of these areas: performer, choreographer, artistic director



- Extensive knowledge of and experience in classical and contemporary ballet, and contemporary artists
- Experience and a commitment to working with live musicians
- Substantial experience in running rehearsals in the studio and onstage
- Experience in working with a board and staff
- Working knowledge of budget development, management, and reporting, and the technical and administrative skills to perform those functions
- Add Technical skills/platforms showing admin work- we need them to have had admin work
- Excellent communication skills, including public speaking
- Advanced education in a related field

Locations and Expectations

CDP performs primarily in the Metro DC area, and its offices are located in downtown Washington DC. This is a hybrid position: the Artistic Director may reside elsewhere, but full-time on-site presence is mandatory for rehearsals, performances and other shorter periods. In-person attendance at bi-monthly board meetings is ideal but not mandatory.

Compensation & Benefits

This is a part-time position - 20 hours weekly

- Salary range is \$45,000 to \$55,000 annually, commensurate with experience
- A full-time arrangement is available for the right candidate, with compensation prorated accordingly

Benefits include:

- Flexible weekday work schedule
- Four weeks of paid vacation
- Medical expense reimbursement
- Retirement contribution

The Artistic Director will begin their tenure in early 2027 on a mutually agreeable date.

Application Process

CDP has partnered with Sweibel Arts to identify the exceptional individual who will fill this role. Visit SweibelArts.com/open-positions/ for more information.



Candidates are invited to submit an expression of interest electronically to jobs@sweibelarts.com. No phone calls, please. Choreographers are invited to share two complete works digitally. No highlight reels, please. Dancers are invited to share a video representing their work including teaching and running rehearsals.

A review of prospective candidates will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Finalists will be asked to spend a paid week working with the company during our Jan 2027 rehearsal and performance season.

This is a confidential recruiting process. To learn more about CDP, please visit Chamberdance.org.