

## Dance Limerick Environmental Policy and Actions

### Policy Statement:

Dance Limerick is dedicated to fostering a sustainable future by prioritizing environmental stewardship in all aspects of our operations. We recognize the significant role we play in inspiring change through artistic expression and through our actions as a company. We are committed to minimizing our ecological footprint and promoting sustainable practices. Recognizing the historical and cultural significance of our venue and its surroundings, we are committed to protecting and preserving the natural environment, including the adjacent graveyard. We aim to foster a sense of environmental responsibility among our staff and stakeholders by encouraging them to respect and appreciate the natural surroundings. This environmental policy outlines our commitment to environmental protection, sustainability, and responsible resource management. This Environmental Policy and Actions is a working document and will be reviewed and updated at regular intervals.

### KEY AIMS and ACTIONS

#### Energy and Resource Efficiency

In our Church Space, we strive to optimize energy consumption and resource efficiency through the following initiatives:

- We joined the SMARTLAB project in Limerick led by UL with Limerick Council, funded by SEAI which supports us to understand more about how our buildings use energy project.
- We have invested in energy-efficient theatre lighting systems and regularly maintain and upgrade equipment to maximize energy efficiency and minimize energy waste.
- New insulation and heating systems have been installed in the Church Space to increase efficiency and reduce energy consumption.
- We encouraging staff and visitors to switch off lights, computers, and other equipment when not in use and making use of natural lighting to minimize electricity consumption. We have already swapped to using predominantly led lighting within the buildings.
- We will investigate and regularly checking for leaks, to minimize water consumption.
- We currently promote the use of recycled and environmentally friendly office supplies and materials, such as recycled paper and eco-friendly cleaning products.

#### Waste Management

We are committed to:

- Implementing a comprehensive waste management system.
- Encouraging performers, production teams, and audiences about the importance of waste reduction and responsible waste disposal.

- Encouraging the use of reusable or recyclable materials and minimizing the use of single-use items during performances and events.
- We have implemented recycling programs and provide clearly labelled recycling bins throughout our premises.
- Encouraging staff to embrace paperless initiatives and digital documentation whenever possible.
- Disposing of electronic waste responsibly through appropriate recycling channels.
- Prioritizing the purchase of products and materials with minimal packaging or made from recycled materials.

### **Digital Waste and Environmental Footprint**

Dance Limerick recognizes the environmental impact of digital waste and is committed to minimizing our digital environmental footprint. We acknowledge that the management of digital resources, such as emails, websites, and cloud storage, can have significant energy and resource implications. Therefore, we are dedicated to implementing practices that reduce digital waste and optimize our digital operations.

### **Email Management**

To minimize digital waste associated with email communication, we will:

- Encourage staff to adopt responsible email practices, including regular email decluttering, deleting unnecessary emails, and organizing emails into relevant folders.
- Promote efficient email communication by using concise and clear messaging to minimize unnecessary back-and-forth correspondence.
- Educate staff about the importance of email sustainability and encourage them to prioritize essential information over excessive attachments or large file sizes.
- Encourage staff to unsubscribe from unnecessary mailing lists and promotional emails to reduce the volume of incoming emails.
- Implement email archiving strategies that adhere to best practices, ensuring that important correspondence is preserved while unnecessary data is regularly deleted.

### **Cloud Storage and Data Management**

While recognizing the convenience and accessibility of cloud storage, we are mindful of its environmental impact. To minimize unnecessary resource consumption and digital waste associated with cloud storage, we will:

- Evaluate our data storage needs.
- Regularly review and delete outdated or unnecessary files from cloud storage to free up space and minimize resource consumption.
- Prioritize efficient file compression techniques to reduce the size of stored data.
- Implement data backup and retention policies that align with best practices to avoid excessive duplication and unnecessary storage.

### **Staff Engagement and Training**

We recognize the importance of staff engagement and training in fostering a culture of sustainability. To achieve this, we will:

- Raise awareness among our staff about the importance of environmental sustainability and the role they play in our organization's overall environmental initiatives.
- Collaborate with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI) to access valuable resources and guidance on resource efficiency and sustainable energy practices. We will utilize the EPA's tool for resource efficiency to identify areas where we can enhance our operational efficiency, reduce waste, and minimize our environmental impact.
- Provide regular training and educational opportunities to our staff on sustainable practices, energy conservation, waste management, and biodiversity conservation. This will ensure that all employees are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to our environmental goals effectively.
- Encourage staff members to actively participate in sustainability initiatives by soliciting their ideas and suggestions for improving our environmental performance. We will establish a feedback mechanism to foster open communication and dialogue on environmental matters within our organization.

### Stakeholder Engagement

At Dance Limerick, we recognize the importance of engaging with our artists, performers, audiences, local community, and stakeholders to promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainable practices. To achieve this, we will:

- Collaborate with local environmental organizations, such as Green-Schools and local community groups, to exchange knowledge and best practices in environmental sustainability.
- Continue to participate in relevant sustainability events, workshops, and conferences to share our experiences and learn from other arts organizations in Ireland and Europe.
- Actively engage with our artists and performers to encourage them to incorporate sustainability considerations into their creative processes.
- Raise awareness among our audiences about our environmental efforts and encourage them to adopt sustainable practices, such as using public transportation, carpooling, or cycling when attending our performances.

### References:

In developing this environmental policy, we drew inspiration from the following resources and initiatives:

- Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)
- The Arts Council of Ireland Climate action and environmental policy consultation
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Resource Efficiency Tool
- Green Arts Initiative Ireland.

These references provided valuable insights and best practices, which we have incorporated into our environmental policy to ensure its comprehensiveness and effectiveness.

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