

Candoco Dance Company

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing here to extend my support for a proposal to Arts Council England by Amy Voris and Bridget Fiske for their project called *Glint*.

My professional and artistic path has crossed many times with Voris' over the past 20 years and I have grown to regard her as a leading and vital artistic voice. Her human, rigorous and progressive artistic enquiry is forging important new paths and connections through dance, both locally through her direct work with other artists and communities, and internationally through her writing, research and proposed publications.

We first met while both Lecturing at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and also as freelance dance artists, makers and teachers at Independent Dance. Later, we connected while studying Integrative Bodywork and Movement Therapy (IBMT) with Linda Hartley (2009-2012).

My own creative practice sits at the interface of somatic, choreographic and curatorial practices. All along, a focal point of my work has been the pursuit of a holistic approach to integrative and inclusive dance practices, where choreographic sensibility and dance technique are considered to be inseparable. In my role as Artistic Director at Candoco Dance company, I have been seeking to sensitively interrogate the discourse surrounding 'integrative dance' in a way that is also critically engaged with current choreographic practice. I would describe Voris' creative practice as sharing similar such interests in that her choreographic and facilitation work seek to be highly sensitive to individuals and contextual conditions through their embodied, situated and detailed approach to movement itself. The proposal *Glint* builds upon these aesthetic interests in order to work with family and with local populations as a means of making work during the pandemic.

I would be delighted to support this proposal by offering time in kind to consult with Voris and Fiske on their facilitation and publication outputs in this project. As a sector, we need to urgently consider how dance and movement practices are adapting to the current landscape. We need to support those independent dance artists who are forging the way by building robust local connections and by engaging with 'blended' or digital approaches which are also resolutely embodied.

With best wishes,

Charlotte Darbyshire
Artistic Director Candoco Dance Company

