

1 February 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to petition for Dansmakers to allow them keep their space in Amsterdam Noord to continue as a production house for contemporary dance. It is imperative that they keep their current space in Noord for the development and representation of young talent. Dansmakers is cultivating artists that speak to this generation and encouraging them to use their voice to make a difference in the world around them. Each choreographer offers a unique perspective that adds to the vibrancy of the art scene in Amsterdam, and without their voices, Amsterdam will be a very dull place.

Without Dansmakers inhabiting this space, contemporary dance is not being represented in the Noord, and that is a big shame to the neighborhood and Amsterdam at large. What Dansmakers gives back to the city will be sorely missed – the diversity of its makers and the public that comes together for the purpose of sharing art is a positive experience.

We need positive experiences that art facilitates because it directly affects the wellbeing of a society. The value of Art can no longer be ignored or swept aside because it undeniably embeds itself into history and is next to any social change. The building of Dansmakers stands for the freedom of artistic expression. We need these safe spaces for the healing, growth and evolution of artists, because their work contributes to a better society.

The space of Dansmakers is important to me for personal reasons. I moved to Amsterdam three years ago, and it has become a landing place for my ideas to take shape. This has allowed me to connect with more people, become inspired, learn, and take artistic risks. Most importantly, Dansmakers and the very building in Noord has grounded me in a city and connected me to it in such a way that has changed my life for the better.

I write this letter in the hopes that more people can see how vital Dansmakers is, and therefore needs the appropriate support, funding and financial backing to exist. I stand with Dansmakers, Suzy Blok and her team. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Kind regards,
Lois Alexander