

dance studies association

Visioning Statement/Mission Statement (updated October 2023)

The Dance Studies Association (DSA) is a member-driven U.S.-based international organization of dance scholars, educators, and artists - tenured, independent, student scholars/artists, and across various professional contingencies. The organization aims to strengthen the visibility and increase the reach of dance studies as a critical field of knowledge production, encompassing political, creative, and embodied practices at the intersection of the arts & humanities, and social, digital, & biological sciences. DSA advocates for and invests in anti-racist, decolonial, and caste-conscious curation, programming, administration and labor practices at all levels of the organization. Moreover, DSA aims to/is committed to re-center(ing) marginalized voices, experiences, and ideas - expanding modes of access, understanding, and communicating through/with the body. DSA cultivates innovative critical analyses of dance and movement practices through research, publication, performance, and advocacy across the arts, humanities, and social sciences. DSA is committed to the field of dance studies, as a place of radical inclusion and political possibility; DSA itself is a community of care.

Statement of Praxis - Board of Directors

Those elected to govern and serve the Dance Studies Association (DSA) work to lead with action, in keeping with dance studies's core emphasis on experiential and embodied understanding. There is an expectation of *doing* that follows the collaborative process of reflection and discussion. The Board of Directors agrees to align its actions with the DSA By-Laws, Visioning/Mission Statement and Guiding Principles, not only as an act of curation but at the level of organizational infrastructure and individual professional endeavors and commitments.

Guiding Principles

DSA...

- Works to dismantle hierarchical models of organization through member-driven action - listening to and responding to members' feedback/interests/concerns; following member requests and survey responses
- builds upon the 50+ history of CORD and SDHS, bringing the field of dance studies into contemporary dialogue with its past

- intentionally engages/enacts anti-racist curation, programming, administration, and labor practices
- Invites and honors difference, listens locally, and forwards international exchange
- works to reconfigure normative power hierarchies, including a global North/South disparity
- calls out the historical and contemporary relationship between nonprofit capitalism and white supremacy - to find alternate modes of compensation (outside of service), and to ensure financial barriers to entry do not define the bounds of this community
- Critically engages with modes of research, publications, presentations, pedagogy, and performance in multiplicity
- enacts flexible policies and responsive actions - forwarding people who have historically not been afforded accommodations that should be centered and named Values members as individuals, not for labor or intellect alone or above all else
- believes in all dances as political action and human right, and recognizes, to keep consistent with our vision, that dances have situated meanings and may not always be political and purely human centered
- Promotes the accessibility of research materials

Record of Past Work

Mission Statement, as articulated during CORD/SDHS merger (2017)

The Dance Studies Association (DSA) is an international organization of dance scholars, educators, and artists. that aims to strengthen the visibility and increase the reach of dance as embodied practice, creative endeavor and intellectual discipline. DSA advances innovative analyses of dance by promoting diverse approaches and a globally inclusive, respectful dialogue in the dance field and various related disciplines. It advances the field of dance studies through research, publication, performance, and outreach to audiences across the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

CORD's Mission Statement and Statement of Purposes (pre-merger)

CORD promotes a globally inclusive respectful dialogue around embodied and discursive approaches to dance research. Building on the rich legacy of dance scholarship, CORD advances innovative and creative understandings of dance. Through mentorship, advocacy, and outreach, CORD fosters an international community of current and future dance leaders.

Statement of Purposes

- To encourage research in all aspects of dance and related fields;
- To foster the exchange of ideas, resources, and methodologies through publications, international and regional conferences and workshops; and
- To promote the accessibility of research materials.