

# daCi

dance and the Child international

# Newsletter

Summer 2023

Welcome to  
Ljubljana,  
Slovenia  
2024!



Call for Abstracts &  
Submissions, Advisory  
Board Introductions,  
Member Events,  
International News and  
More...

Cover Image by David Mark

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Image by David Mark



Summer 2023



## A Message from the Chair

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### Jeff Meiners

This newsletter brings important information for all daCi members.

Plans for the 2024 conference hosted by Slovenia are well underway and the dedicated conference website is launched! This is a timely reminder of daCi's purpose: that a conference is organised every three years for those working with dance, children and young people to gather and share their ideas and practices in dance education. By meeting in person, we learn from each other by seeing dance in action with young people as key participants. We dialogue with others and reflect critically to stimulate and generate new discourses that move the field of dance education forward.

With Ljubljana hosting daCi's international conference it's a great opportunity for visitors to learn about current practices in Slovenia in 2024 as well as the rich history of dance in the former Yugoslavia. So I hope everyone is making plans to raise funds to meet there next year. daCi conferences always provide opportunities for rich intercultural learning through travel and to develop networks for support across the world. Members of the executive have established committees to harmonise guidance for funding applications to present Twinning, Outreach and Research projects so keep a look out for this information and calls for proposals via the website.

Importantly, most members of the Executive Committee and National Representatives forming the Advisory Board met in Ljubljana late June/early July. This was a very special opportunity for us to meet in person for the first time since 2019.

1

The meeting highlighted the significance of daCi's 2024 conference and I am grateful for the warm welcomes and hospitality from the local organising committee, the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Education and the Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities, Department of Dance. We worked over six days on conference planning and to review the 2021 -2024 Strategic Plan and improve daCi as an organisation, ensuring we meet the goals by the time we meet in 2024:

1. A well run, sustainable organisation
2. Increase member participation, retention and attract new members
3. Identify, profile and enable advocacy work by our members

This newsletter also presents updated information about daCi's current National Representatives and I thank them for their ongoing support for daCi. Other news includes daCi participation in the World Alliance for Arts Education (WAAE) conference in Madeira, International Dance Day activities in daCi Finland, daCi USA's gathering at Hope College, and an update on daCi's contribution to One Billion Rising activities from past Chair in New Zealand, Adrienne Sansom. These are all important activities that keep daCi members connected during the gap between conferences.

Please note the update on 2023 membership payments. In addition, our work is continuing to revise the system for online payment via the daCi website and a new sliding scale that reflects the purchasing parity for countries following data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This will address the differing financial circumstances of daCi members around the world and special thanks for their voluntary work on this to Marketing & Communications Officer, Mila Volpe and Treasurer, Emma Walker. You will see too that Mila has been updating aspects of the website and also provides information on a video tutorial for utilizing the members area. The daCi website is a rich source of information and resources, providing an excellent networking opportunity for members. So please send us information about any other events that you have been initiating for the next newsletter or upload information to the daCi Connect members section of the website.

As we move into renewing the postponed 2023 membership, I implore each of you again to reach out to a friend or colleague and ask them to join daCi and become part of the family by profiling their dance work with children and young people as well as research or other activities supporting dance education.

Thank you for your contributions to supporting dance education across the world!

Onward with dance!

*Jeff*



## Message from the Chair Elect

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Vesna Geršak

We are pleased to announce that we have an active website for the conference I - Body, I - Dance, which will take place in Ljubljana in July 2024. We invite you to take a look at the website where you will find all the information about the conference theme, registration and the first plenary speakers. We would also like to introduce you to the members of the conference organising committee. **All those who wish to actively participate in the conference are invited to submit abstracts by 20 September 2023. Applications for children and youth dance groups are open until 8 October 2023.** Please note the registration fee for the conference. The fees are based on the purchasing power parity of the member's country of residence. This is to enable everyone to attend the conference. So you are very welcome in Ljubljana!

We have also recently successfully welcomed members of the Executive Board and the Advisory Board to Ljubljana, whom I would like to thank very much for their constructive involvement in the planning of the conference. My thanks also go to the members of the organising committee, University of Ljubljana Faculty of Education, Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities, Secondary Preschool Education, Grammar School and Performing Arts Grammar School Ljubljana, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, Municipality of Ljubljana and Ljubljana Tourism who are working together to make the conference possible.

With the wish to meet as many of you as possible in Ljubljana in July 2024, I look forward to your active participation in the conference so that we can together create an excellent I - Body, I - Dance conference programme next year.

I attach a few photos from the interim meeting and close with a warm welcome to Ljubljana!

*-Vesna*





## Message from Past Chair

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Susan Koff

Dear daCi Friends,

This message is a simple thank you for many wonderful years. I went to my first daCi conference in Kuoppio in 1997. A new world opened in which others from all around the world cared about dance education in the same way that I did. I met many people through daCi who became lifelong friends.

I attended and presented at every conference since 1997 and in 2009 became Secretary. I have served on the international executive committee since that time. Now marks the end of my service on the board, but certainly not the end of my deep association with and gratitude for daCi.

Goodbye and thank you.

Thank you for deepening my knowledge of dance education.

Thank you for the wonderful friends.

Thank you for the amazing adventures.

Thank you for opening so many places to my imagination.

Thank you for sharing and caring.

Thank you daCi for the deepest and most profound association I will cherish always.

With love and dancing gratitude,

*-Susan*

# UNESCO Survey Update

Susan Koff

Through our partners WDA, daCi participated in the survey that is summarized in the following excerpts from Report for the Development of the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education. I distributed the survey to daCi which then responded and those responses are included in the full report. The full report is too long to be reprinted in the Newsletter. For those interested in a copy, which you can use in a variety of advocacy and dissemination plans, please contact me at: **Susan.koff@nyu.edu**

**Please see the bolded section in 4 below.** This is the reason for participating and for disseminating this survey and its findings. Without this dissemination the survey and this work will not have an impact.

***I CALL UPON ALL OF DACI TO WORK TOWARDS MAKING THE BULLETED POINTS UNDER NUMBER 5 A REALITY***

## **Introduction and Context**

1. WAAE supports the development of the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education Framework for Culture and Arts Education | UNESCO

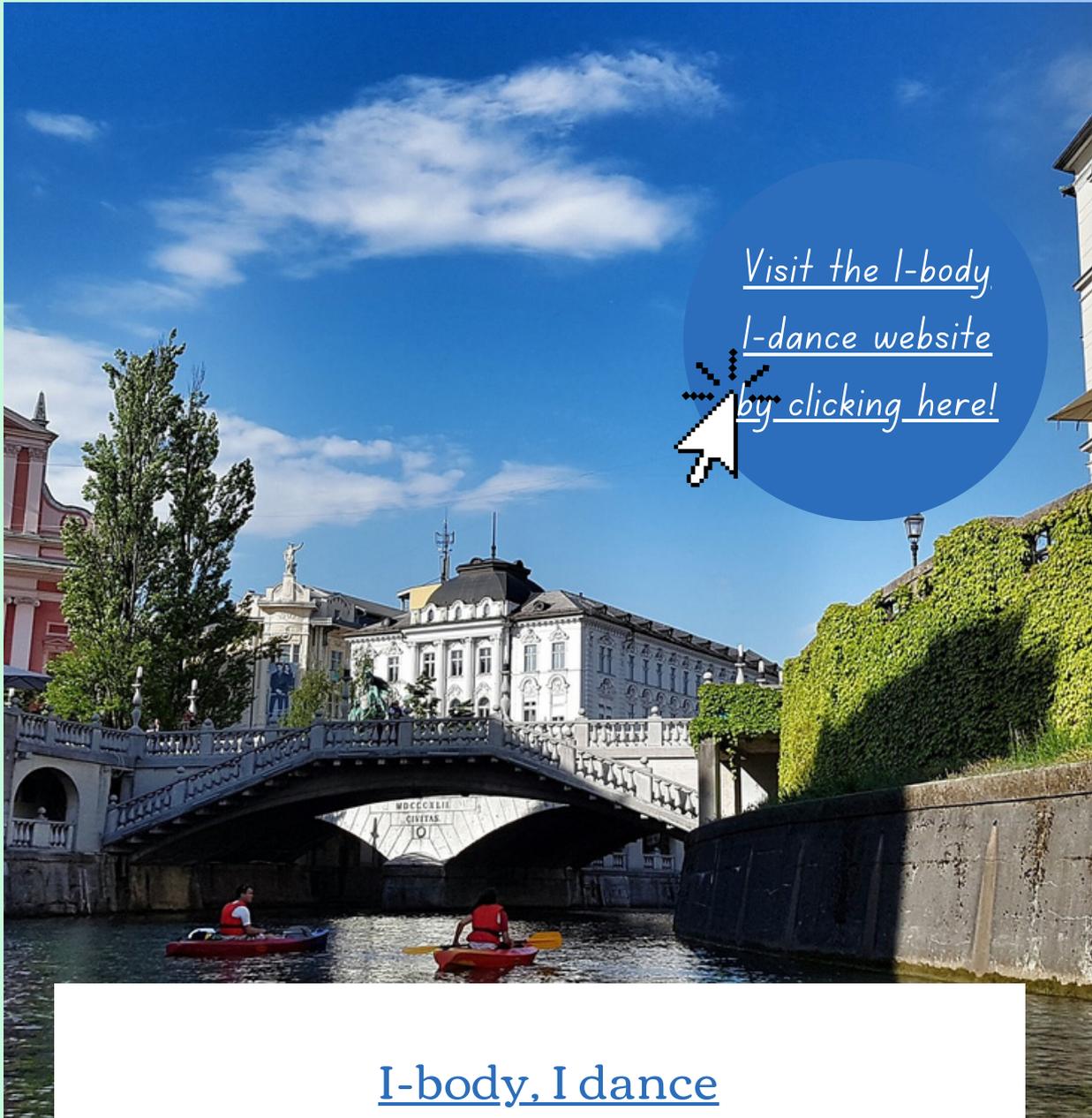
2. As a global advocate for arts educators, the WAAE hosted a Global Arts Education Conference, Funchal, Madeira 1-3 March 2023 where we sought arts educators input for the future needs and issues informing arts education in our respective communities. We gained grass roots qualitative data that informs the WAAE views expressed in the following report.

3. WAAE worked with UNESCO to create and distribute an online arts education and Culture survey. This survey aimed to seek views of art educators as they identify current and future challenges and needs. WAAE acknowledge that the survey and the views gathered in Madeira do not represent all arts educators.”

**4. WAAE strongly notes that the Framework for Culture and Arts Education will only have sustained meaning if it is implemented, and UNESCO members demonstrate action and are held accountable for achieving its recommendations.**

5. WAAE notes that the educational needs of UNESCO members vary. The Framework must address widely varying needs, circumstances and capacity to implement arts and culture education. It is essential that the Framework states that:

- **Arts education and education through the arts and culture is lifelong.**
- **It is an inalienable right of all to access and participate in arts and culture.**
- **Arts education and culture is focused through school curriculum and specific programs in formal education.**
- **Where there is a specific arts and culture school curriculum and programs there need to be clearly defined expectations and requirements.**
- **Social engaged arts and cultural education programs should be implemented in diverse community settings and have continuous support by member states and local governments.**



Visit the I-body  
I-dance website  
by clicking here!

## I-body, I dance

# Looking Forward to Slovenia 2024!

As mentioned in Jeff's Chair address the Slovenia conference website is LIVE now!

Find out about the various calls for proposals as well as important information on scholarships. Submissions are open until September 20th, 2023 for adult active participants and until October 8th, 2023 for young dancers. In October 2023, registration will open to all conference participants (including those without active contributions).

VISIT THE NEWLY LAUNCHED CONFERENCE WEBSITE!



# Join Us on Instagram for daCi 2024 Conference Updates!

We hope this message finds you well and filled with the same excitement and anticipation that we have for the upcoming daCi 2024 Conference, that will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia. As a valued member of the Dance and Child International network, we are thrilled to invite you to connect with us in a new and engaging way through our brand-new Instagram profile dedicated to the daCi 2024 Conference!

Follow us on Instagram: [@daciconference2024](https://www.instagram.com/daciconference2024)



**Stay Informed:** Our Instagram profile will be the hub of all things daCi 2024 Conference-related. From key dates and schedule announcements to speaker highlights and behind-the-scenes glimpses, you'll find it all in one place. Stay informed and be the first to know about any updates or changes.

**Exclusive Content:** Get ready for exclusive content that you won't find anywhere else. We'll be sharing inspiring stories, interactive challenges, and interviews with dance educators, artists, and participants. This is your chance to be part of the daCi 2024 journey from the very beginning.

**Visual Delights:** They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and on our Instagram, you'll experience the magic of the conference through stunning visuals. From vibrant dance performances to the smiles of participants, our photos and videos will capture the essence of the daCi 2024 Conference.

**Community Connection:** Connect with fellow dance enthusiasts, educators, and advocates from around the world who share your passion for dance and the empowerment of children. Our Instagram profile will serve as a virtual meeting point where you can exchange ideas, share your thoughts, and be part of a global community.

Visit [this article](#) if you need assistance on how to follow us and please share the news with your dance communities!

Warm regards,  
Ljubljana daCi conference 2024 organizing committee

# Slovenia Scholarships Available

daCi is delighted to announce a grant from the Cooper-Newell Foundation to support registration scholarships for the 2024 conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. DaCi is committed to assisting as many young daCi members and their chaperones as possible who apply to the scholarship fund. To meet this goal, the scholarship will cover the registration fee. Scholarships will be awarded according to need as indicated in your application, so it is advisable to apply as early as possible.

The scholarship fund is available to all participating members of daCi, or those affiliated through group or institutional memberships, who register to attend the 2024 conference. This includes Children/Young people (under 18) and Chaperones. One-to-one dance partners of participants with disabilities are eligible to apply for scholarships.

## Application Process

Fill out the Google form at the link below to submit your application. **The priority deadline for applications is Nov 25th.**

Applicants will be notified about the scholarship on Jan 8th and must register by January 31st.

Completing the application takes about 10 minutes and make sure you have the following information ready:

- Personal Contact Information
- Statement of the status of your daCi Membership
- If traveling with a group, you need knowledge of whether your studio, school, or teacher has a current daCi Membership
- Statement of financial need (200 words or less)\*
- Description of how the applicant's attendance at the 2024 conference will enhance the applicant's broader life experiences (200 words or less).

\*Chaperones need only complete the statement of financial need on the application. They do not need a description of how the 2024 conference will enhance their broader life experience.

**Contact daCi Secretary Anna Mansbridge at [secretary@daci.international](mailto:secretary@daci.international) if you have further questions about the registration scholarships or need any assistance.**

**[Apply Now!](#)**

# There is a place...

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*.. a place with snowy peaks of mountains, turquoise rivers and coasts of Venetian style ... a place of natural resources and harmonious architecture ... a land of attractive rustic culture and sophisticated cuisine ... we call it home and invite you to explore it with us and on your own ...*



Photo source: David Mark

## I FEEL SLOVENIA by Urška Česnik

If you are looking for that perfect green and safe oasis, Slovenia is the place to be. With more than half of the territory of Slovenia covered by forests, we are known as the green heart of Europe, where everyone can find something for themselves. Slovenia combines four different worlds into a magnificent symphony that can be felt in culture, gastronomy and natural wonders - start your day by the Adriatic Sea with a morning cup of coffee, have lunch in the Julian Alps and finish the day in the vibrant capital of Ljubljana. Whether you enjoy walking well-trodden paths or prefer to turn off the beaten track, you will find stunning beauty and boutique experiences tailored just for you everywhere you go. Slovenia is waiting for you, to [explore it here.](#)



Photo source: Niksy

# FACTS ABOUT SLOVENIA

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Slovenia is a mixture of worlds – where the Alps meet the Mediterranean and the Pannonian Plain meets Karst. The country extends in the area of 20,278 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of approximately 2 million inhabitants. We are a small Central European country with almost half of the territory protected under natural or cultural heritage, mostly known as a country of exceptional number of athletes and cultural creation where:

- You can visit more than 8.000 caves
- You can visit the only living “baby dragon”
- You can listen to more than 40 regional dialects
- You can try out some homemade honey from one of the 11,293 beekeepers that produce it or
- You can visit one of the vineyards, since we have a local vineyard per every 70th local inhabitant
- You might meet one of the 1000+ bears that live in our woods
- You can go on the hunt for “Narnia” – as some famous Slovenia wonders were used for various Hollywood movies.

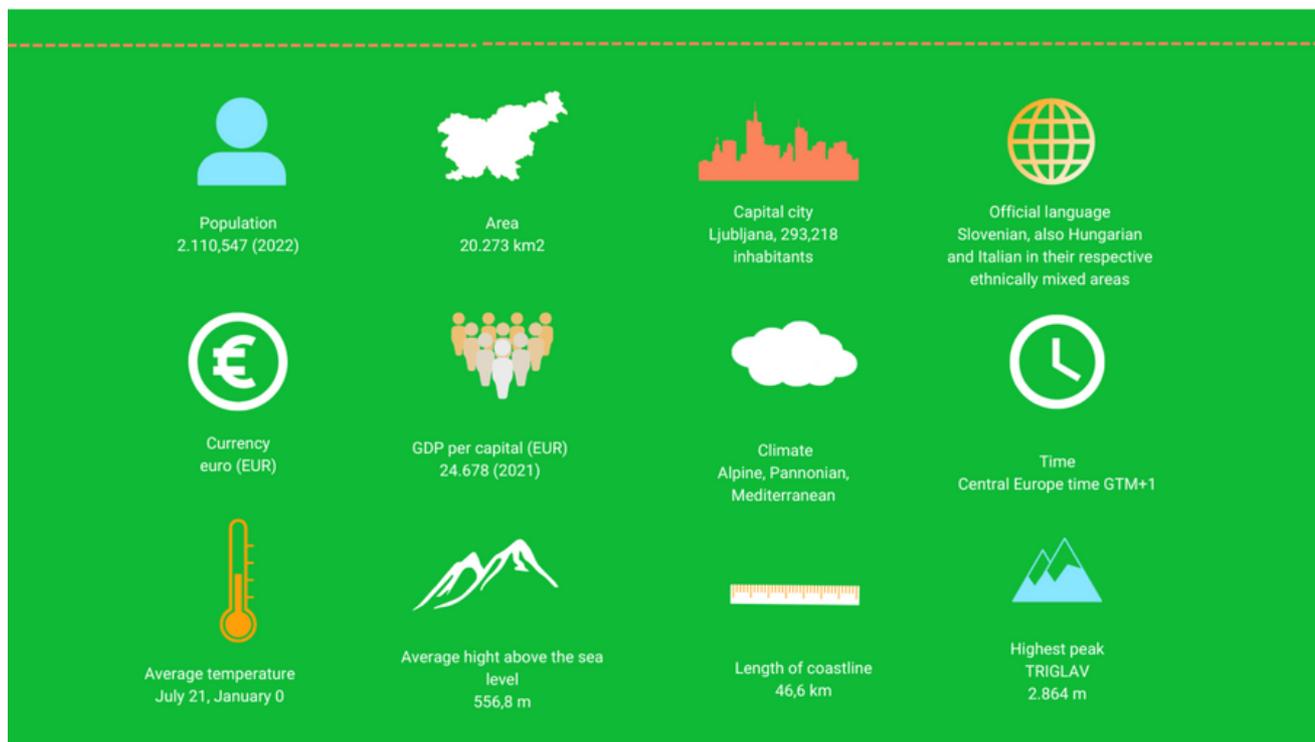
Check out Slovenia through the eyes of a tourist in the “14 interesting facts about Slovenia” made by traveller and blogger “Mansoureh” via her blog or video below.



As long-time leaders in sustainable tourism and gastro tourism, we feel honoured to be part of National Geographic list of “25 breath taking places and experiences in 2023”. We invite you to check out the list of “10 reason to visit Slovenia” and explore why we made it on the list.

# SLOVENIA IN NUMBERS

Check out some of the most interesting and useful statistical data about Slovenia.



You can find more interesting information on the [website](#) of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

## WHAT ABOUT LJUBLJANA?

Solo traveller “Kami” described Ljubljana as “this perfect Central European city, with the beautiful architecture of different styles, vibrant atmosphere, amazing cafe and restaurant scene and long and interesting history, ... offering cool alternative spots, like the iconic Metelkova” that will make it impossible for you to be bored.



Above all, the capital is a perfect base to use for visiting Slovenia as there are so many great places you can go to as [day trips from Ljubljana](#).



Check out her recommendation on the [“21 amazing things to do in Ljubljana”](#) or walk through the city streets together with Travel Man himself, Richard Ayoade, who is joined by the comedian Eddie Izzard in their [“48 hours in Ljubljana”](#) adventure for Channel4.



Submissions are now open [here](#) 



Team Introductions!

## Say hello to our International Advisory Board Members



### Tanya Berg, Canada

Tanya Berg is a Toronto-based ballet teacher, dance educator, and researcher. Tanya holds a PhD in Dance Studies from York University and is a graduate of Canada's National Ballet School Teacher Training Program. In addition to teaching in private studios, Tanya currently teaches in the Faculty of Education and the Dance Department at York University, The Creative School at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson), as well as the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of Toronto. Tanya enjoys attending international conferences and making connections with colleagues worldwide. She has presented at conferences organized by renowned associations including International Association of Dance Medicine and Science, Dance Studies Association, National Dance Education Organization, Healthy Dancer Canada, World Dance Alliance, and CORPS de Ballet International. Tanya's publications can be found in the *Journal of Dance Education*, *Research in Dance Education*, and the anthology *Ethical Dilemmas in Dance Education: Case Studies on Humanizing Dance Pedagogy*. Tanya's research in student-teacher communication and dancer education highlights issues central to sound teaching practices and healthy studio environments including consent in physical interaction, increased student autonomy, and dancer well-being. Tanya is thrilled to be working with daCi and looks forward to Slovenia, 2024.



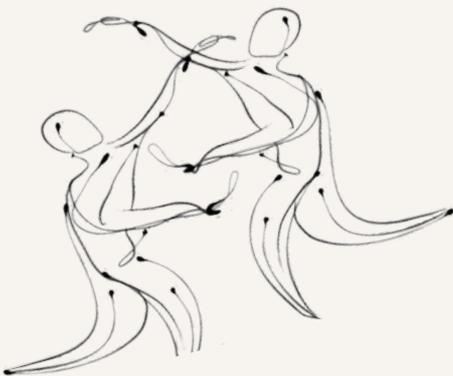
## Ebbie Daigo, Japan

Ebbie Daigo is an assistant professor in Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies at the University of Tsukuba in Japan and the National Representative of Japan daCi from 2017. She finished her PhD in sport sciences field in 2015 and worked as a researcher at Griffith University, Australia. Her primary research focus is on social and educational value in sport and dance. She has published her works in research publications including Event Management, Research of Dance and Physical Education, and Sport Management Review. She belongs to All Japan Children Dance Association for over ten years and contributes to its international development.



## Muhammad Fazli Taib Bin Saearani (Fazli), Malaysia

Associate Professor Muhammad Fazli Taib Bin Saearani (Fazli) graduated summa cum laude from Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia with a Doctorate in Performing Arts and Visual Art Studies. His PhD research was on dance education in the classical court dance heritage of Yogyakarta. He received his Master's degree (Drama & Theater) in creative movement education from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang in 2014, Bachelor's Degree in Creative Arts with dance concentration from Universiti Malaysia Sabah in 2007, and Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting) in 2004, from Universiti Teknologi Mara. His research focuses on dance education and dance heritage through non-formal education, creative movement education, and sociology of dance. He is also actively engaged with people and the society, conducting various dance aerobics classes. He received the Program Academic Award in 2019, and several funds from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, as well as the Ministry of National Unity Malaysia for children's aerobic video teaching projects (senam harmoni). Currently, he is the Dean of the Faculty of Music and Performing Arts at Sultan Idris Education University in Malaysia.





## Joy Guarino, USA

Joy Guarino has served as the Chair of daCi USA from 2020-23. She is the Director of Global Engagement and a Professor of Dance at SUNY Buffalo State University. Working in higher education for the past thirty-five years, she coordinates experiences that bring creative curricula and engaging opportunities to benefit faculty, staff, students, and local, national, and international community organizations with the goal of forming meaningful partnerships and collaborations. Joy has presented her research on dance and kinesthetic learning, global learning for all, service-learning, and civic-engagement nationally and internationally. She impresses upon her students that a culture's values are embodied in its dance forms and guides them to embrace dance as a conduit to cultural humility and an empathetic global perspective. Joy views international experiences as a pathway to cultural awareness, civic engagement, and mutual respect. She embeds local and international service-learning partnerships into the curriculum and has led numerous short-term study abroad experiences from Beijing, China to Bridgetown, Barbados.



## Shama Harding, Barbados

Shama holds a Diploma in Dance education from Edna Manley College in Jamaica, and a Master of Arts in Dance Studies from the State University of New York College at Brockport. As part of her continued training Shama has completed her Modern Theatre Advanced I and Imperial Ballet Intermediate Vocational Graded Exams through the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance in 2014 and 2015 respectively. She is currently a candidate for certification in The Dunham Dance Technique. Along with teaching Shama has had the privilege of facilitating various training and developmental workshops in the region, as well as acting as Chief judge in the 2016 to 2019 National Independence Festival of Creative Arts - Dance Competition and sat on the Judging Panel for Community Dance Festival in 2018. Shama has taught at Praise Academy of Dance Barbados, Praise Jamaica, Excelsior Community College and the Edna Manley College. In 2015 Shama started her own dance studio and performing Arts group Pazaz Dance Studio and Pazaz Children's Theatre respectively. In 2022 Shama became part of the doctoral program in Dance Studies at Texas Women's University. Shama is currently the Co-Ordinator of The dance program at Barbados Community College in Barbados.



## Robin Hagggar, Sweden

Robin Hagggar has been a member with the Swedish chapter of daCi since 1999 taking over the role of cashier in 2003 and National rep in 2004. Robin grew up in Australia completing his formal dance training at The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts under the guidance of world renowned Lucette Aldous and Alan Alder. He has also completed dance studies at London Contemporary Dance School. Robin has had a varied stage career in Australia and Europe but even been engaged as a freelance for TV, film and musical theatre. He has resided in Sweden since being contracted there in the early nineties. Robin has been involved in teaching since studying children's dance at Stockholm's University of Dance. He works with contemporary dance and the creative process with children of a young age up to and including teenagers and adults. Robin has taught at universities, private schools and in the ordinary school system. He has been teaching permanently since 2001 at The Royal Swedish Ballet school and since 2003 at Stockholm's school of The Arts. Robin sits on the jury for the Lilian Runestam scholarship Foundation and is also a member of The International Dance Council. He currently lives in Stockholm with his three children and Nicaraguan wife who is a doctor of microbiology.



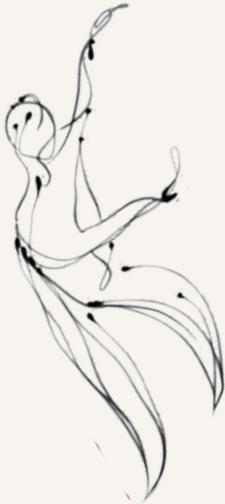
## Daria Hôhener, Switzerland

Daria Hôhener was appointed as chairwoman of daCi Switzerland in 2017 and has been organising annual national events, such as the National Children's and Youth Dance Festival and dance camps. She came in touch with daCi herself in her childhood when she attended its dance camps several times. After completing her training as a certified children's dance teacher as well as nationally accredited teacher of gymnastics and dance, she attended the education to become a movement specialist. She has been running her own dance school, Bewegungswelt, for many years and is strongly committed to promoting dance. At the same time, Daria works in management consultancy and is pursuing a doctoral degree in the field of business innovation. She is particularly interested in teaching dance to children and teenagers on the basis of respect and tolerance, regardless of the language, region or cultural background the children come from. daCi Switzerland is privileged to be able to count on many volunteers who support the organisation of events hosted by daCi.



## Laura Kvelstein, Estonia

Laura Kvelstein is an independent dance and performance artist and dance educator based in Tallinn, Estonia. Trained in classical ballet, she then transitioned to the contemporary dance world in the beginning of the 00s through Estonia's contemporary dance pioneer Fine5 dance school and later company. She worked as a dancer in the company until 2018, as well as with other choreographers/directors in Estonia and abroad. She founded her own company millimeter performance group together with three Estonian artists in 2010: the group was active until 2016, having produced 5 pieces within that time. In 2018 she received (together with Ruta Ronja Pakalne) the Estonian Theatre Awards dance award for their piece „CONNEXT“, in which the two also appeared as dancers. Starting from September 2022 she teaches contemporary dance to 7-13 year old students at Püha Johannese Kool in Tallinn. Previously she has led contact improvisation sessions and has been invited to give contemporary dance or contact improvisation classes and workshops at festivals and other occasions throughout the years. She has also periodically worked as a contemporary dance teacher at the Acrobatics School and at the Noor Ballett private ballet school (both in Tallinn). In 2021/2022 she was a resident at TantsuRuum dance space (Tallinn), researching space and landscape choreography. She is currently working on several new dance pieces in different roles (performer, dramaturg, choreographer). Laura is a board member of the Estonian Union of Dance Art and Dance Education.



## Nina Meško, Slovenia

Nina Meško (1973, Ptuj) has been working as an independent expert advisor for dance at the Public Fund for Cultural Activities of Republic of Slovenia (JSKD) since 1997, after gaining considerable recognition in the Slovenian dancing circles as a contemporary dancer and choreographer. Nina had been professionally involved in dance and choreography for over a decade. All her original pieces, which she presented at numerous venues in Slovenia and abroad, exhibited a clearly articulated conceptual structure and a strong interest in experimentation. Nina Meško received two major international residential grants from ArtsLink (New York) and Tanzquartier (Austria) as well as a grant by the Ministry



of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia to visit and work in New York. In her work at the Public Fund for Cultural Activities, Nina focuses mainly on boosting the interest in and the knowledge of dance art and on developing the pedagogy of creative dance. She provides expert assistance to all who dance, wish to dance or teach dance. She is responsible for the circulation of dance-related information in Slovenia and for knowledge exchange between the domestic and international space; organises education programmes and other events related to contemporary dance and dance medicine; and drafts incentives aimed at improving the conditions for creating and staging performances. Nina has created a varied programme of festivals and educational events at JSKD, whose main goal is to foster dance creativity of children and young people and provide professional qualifications to their mentors across Slovenia



## Elisabete Monteiro, Portugal

PhD in Dance and Master of Educational Sciences - dissertation in Dance Education. Dance Teacher in Portugal at the University of Lisbon - Faculty of Human Kinetics (FMH-UL), in the Department of Education, Social Sciences and Humanities. Teacher of the dance course at the University of Lisbon - Human Kinetics Faculty; Co-coordinator of two Graduate Courses titled 'Dance in Educational Contexts' and Dance in the Community. Scientific advisor of several PhD theses and Master's dissertations in dance. Jury at PhD exams and Master in public defenses. Researcher at INET-MD, Institute of Ethnomusicology - centre for studies in music and dance/Polo FMH. Coordinator of Dance PhD. Participation in National and International Congresses, through lectures, lecture demonstrations, workshops and some by invitation. Actual research interest dance teaching, Choreographic Composition, disability and social Inclusion, creative dance, dancing in the community. Author of several articles. Responsible for dance workshops in Portugal and abroad. Accredited by CCPFC . Expressions: Specific Didactics (DANCE) and Educational Innovation. Choreographer for 30 years at the amateur level in dance community context.



## Laura Navndrup, Denmark

Laura Navndrup is a dancer, choreographer and educator based in Copenhagen, working as Associate Professor and course leader at the MFA in dance and participation at the Danish National School of Performing Arts. She develops outreach projects for The Danish National Theatre and works on a practice-driven PhD at University of Agder in Norway. Current research concerns the construction of choreographic challenges which allow intergenerational groups of professional and non-professional performers to collaborate, without favouring one set of knowledges over another. Her previous education include a BPA (hons) from Northern School of Contemporary dance, a post graduate diploma in Dance Partnership from The Danish State Theatre School and an MRes in Performance and Creative Research from University of Roehampton. She has spent many years working freelance as dancer, film maker, choreographer and facilitator, and has been fortunate to work with numerous young people who love dance and choreography as much as she does!



## Carolyn Russell-Smith, Jamaica

Carolyn Russell-Smith, is the founder and Artistic Director of Khulcha Theatre School of Dance. As a dance educator, choreographer, consultant and adjudicator for the Jamaica Festival of Arts annual competition. She is the Jamaica National representative for Dance and the Child International (daCi), a member of the Jamaica Association of Dance and Drama Educators (JADDE) and one of the pioneer teachers of the Caribbean Examination Council's (CXC) Theatre Arts (dance) examination. Trained in dance education at Jamaica School of Dance (The Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts), she also studied at the Laban Centre, Goldsmith College, London. She has conducted dance workshops for teachers in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. Her activities also include Conducted workshops and presentations at various daCi conferences, contribution to two books 'Creative Dance Around The World and Dance, Access and Inclusion'. She is also a member of C.I.D. She continues to be held in high regard for her perspectives on Dance and its positive influence on Young People.



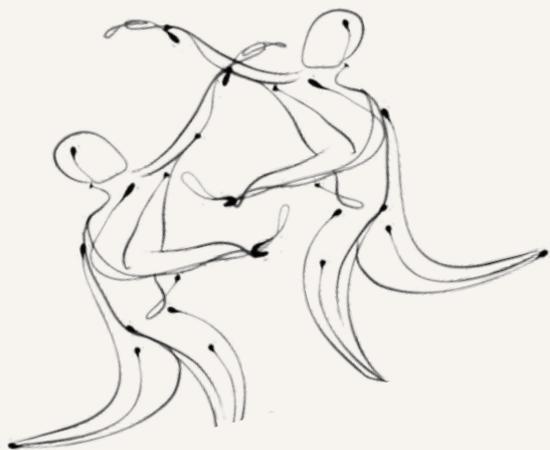
## Adrienne Sansom, New Zealand

Adrienne N. Sansom, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer affiliated with the University of Auckland whose research focuses on arts in education, specifically dance and drama in the early years, embodied learning and critical pedagogy. Adrienne's involvement in Dance and the Child International began in 1978 at the first Dance and the Child Conference in Canada and since that time has included her roles as research officer (2006-2009), chair elect (2009-2012), chair (2012-2015) and past chair (2015-2016) on the Executive and Advisory Board. In her present role on the Advisory Board she chairs a small committee for the One Billion Rising Global Dance event, which raises awareness to work toward rising up against violence and abuse toward women and girls around the world. Adrienne publishes widely in the area of the arts and education. Her recent work has focused on connections to place or land especially through the conduit of dance or the arts as well as the concepts of mindfulness and peace and the way these connections might contribute to a child's sense of identity, belonging, well-being, and culture.



## JuanAnn TAI (Ann Hayward), Taiwan

Ann Hayward is a Professor of the Department of Dance at Tainan University of Technology in Taiwan. She holds a PhD in Dance Studies from the University of Surrey, an MA in Dance Education from NYU, and a BA in Dance from Hunter College, CUNY. She is currently the national representative of daCi Taiwan. The major areas of her research and teaching include Dance Pedagogy, Dance History, Dance Composition, Creative Dance for All and Cross-cultural Dance Studies. Ann has been active in international cultural exchange projects since 1996. From 1996 to 2015, she acted as the coordinator and English interpreter of several Taiwanese folk dance groups for participating in international folklore festivals in Europe and America in the following cities: Matelica, Lazzaro, Macerata, Coredo, Fondi, Minturno, Pescara, Assemini island of Sardegna, Alatri & Vatican (Italy), Poreč, Karlovac (Croatia): Aarhus (Denmark): Sárvár (Hungary): Waynesville, NC: Springville, UT: Rockland, NY (USA): Ourense, Pamplona (Spain): Sidmouth, Billingham (England): Fribourg (Switzerland): Le Puy-en-Velay, Montignac, Felletin (France): Santa Maria da Feira (Portugal). Additionally, she was invited



to be the deputy director of the 2016 International Youth Ambassador Exchange Program to Asia-Pacific regions: Palau, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia and Tuvalu, sponsored by Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2011, she has organized several cultural dance exchange projects between universities in Taiwan, Korea and the USA. She is the author of the books *A reflexive study of dance in vocational higher education* (Kaohsiung: Liwen, 2015) and *Pride, prejudice and politics in dance: The rise of dance as a symbolic power in Taiwan* (Saarbrücken, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing, 2010). She is also a contributing author of two edited collections: *Dance education around the world: Perspectives on dance, young people and change* (London, UK: Routledge, 2015) and *Identity and diversity: Celebrating dance in Taiwan* (New Delhi: Routledge, 2012). Her research papers are published in peer-reviewed academic journals include *Research in Dance Education (A&HCD)*, *Korean Journal of Dance*, *International Journal of the Humanities*, and *Research in Arts Education (TSSCI)*. She is one of the critics for the on-line *Performing Arts Review* founded by the National Culture and Arts Foundation. She has been invited to give talks at various institutions both nationally and internationally.

## Anna Maria Vairio, Finland



Anna-Maria Vairio (Ansku) has been the chairman of the Finnish daCi chapter since March 2021. Anna started dancing at 8 years old and still dance is present every day. Working as a dance teacher and assistant principal at Vantaa Dance Institute, Anna graduated as a dance educator from the Kuopio Conservatory in 1996, and from Theatre Academy with a master's degree in Dance Arts in 2005. Anna teaches children's dance and contemporary dance. Anna creates a safe and encouraging atmosphere where she is particularly interested in choreography, the physicality, power of expression and sensitivity of dance that fascinates her every day. In her work, she recognizes the importance of meeting each child and young person in their own way as they remind everyone of their uniqueness. Their openness, creativity and wit / cleverness delight her everyday. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, going outside, reading, boating, and even began playing the cello a year ago!



## Alba Vieira, Brazil

Alba Vieira holds a Ph.D. in Dance (Temple University/USA) and has been an associate professor and researcher on Dance at Federal University of Vicosa since 1997. She also is a professor and researcher at Federal University of Ouro Preto (PPGAC) and Federal University of Minas Gerais (PPG Arts). She did a Postdoctoral internship at Federal University of Bahia (2015-2016). Her academic work (book chapters and papers) has been published in Brazil and abroad; she organized two books, "Education in Arts" (2010), and "Art and Violence" (2017). She is the national representative for DaCi in Brazil since 2012, and a dancer and the founding artistic director of "Mosaico", a contemporary dance company. She has experience in the field of Arts (Performance and Dance), with emphasis on Dance and Somatics, Practice as Research, Creative Process in Dance and Performance, Art and Indigenous communities in Brazil. She is the associate editor of "Art Research Journal". She was the coordinator of the GT (Working Group) on "Creative Process on Performing Arts" of the "Brazilian Association of Graduate Studies and Research on Performing Arts"/ABRACE (2018-2021). At ABRACE she has been a member of the Scientific Board for the 2022-2023 mandate. She also coordinates the Forum of Editors of Brazilian Performing Arts Journals (since 2018), and the "Group of Transdisciplinary Research on Dance" - CNPq/UFV (since 2000).



## Kathy Vlassopoulos, Australia

Kathy Vlassopoulos, M. Dance Ed. (Melb), Grad. Dip. Movement and Dance (Melb), Dip. Ed. (Melb), B. App. Biol (RMIT). Kathy is the director of Kroma Dance, teaching creative dance and yoga to babies with carers, children and young people in Melbourne, Australia. She specialises with pre-teens and youth, teaching at various primary and secondary schools. Kathy is one of the founders and ongoing teachers of the Mangala Creative Dance Course and has been involved in curriculum development, student mentoring and assessment. Kathy is the Australian representative for daCi (dance and the Child international) and, in 2018, took a group of her teenage dancers to the Joint Dance Congress held in Adelaide. At the congress her dancers performed a piece they had choreographed and were active participants over the 7 day congress where they all unanimously agreed, 'It was the best experience ever'. Kathy interweaves her dance passion and experience with her biology/science background to create, teach and choreograph dance.



## Lisa Wilson, South Africa

Lisa Wilson is Senior lecturer in dance in the Centre for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Her research and teaching interests are in the fields of dance education, dance pedagogy, decolonial dance practices within the global South and dance teacher training. She convenes the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (dance) which prepares dance teachers to work with young people in dance in schools. She serves as the daCi national representative of South Africa, and it is through this network of dance teachers that she currently carries out the work daCi. She is a creative artist, and her research aims to meaningfully connect her multiple identities and experiences as a dance practitioner, academic, pedagogue, dance advocate, activist, mother, sister and human being. Her publications include journal articles and book chapters in the Caribbean Journal of Education, South African Dance Journal, Jonkonnu Arts Journal, Research in Dance Education, Journal of Dance Education, Dance Current Research, Intercultural Education Journal and International Journal of Education and the Arts. Her performances have also been staged on many local and international dance platforms throughout the Caribbean, South Africa, North America, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Asia, Australia and Europe.

## Jasmina Zagrajski Vukelić, Croatia



Jasmina Zagrajski Vukelić has been the Croatia national representative for daCi International over the past four years, and has been active with daCi Croatia since its foundation as secretary and treasurer. Jasmina is currently working in Ana Maletić Contemporary dance school in Zagreb teaching Laban program and Methodology and Didactics of Creative Dance. She is a Certified LMA and Somatic Specialist and Associate of the Croatian Education Agency, The Dance department of The Academy of Dramatic Art, and University of Zagreb. She is strongly connected to early childhood dance teaching as the SAM-SA dance studio founder and representative for the Croatian Association of Dance Educators.



## Break the Chain

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### One Billion Rising Videos!

"2023 is the year of INSPIRATION and ASPIRATION. A year of storytelling, building communities, strengthening solidarity, sharing dreams, planting trees, creating art, honouring women and the earth, and of dancing." -[One Billion Rising Website](#)

Thanks to the leadership call of Advisory Board member Adrienne Sansom, groups of dancers from all over the world answered with their choreographed dances to honour the One Billion Rising campaign this year. There is a dedicated group in the daCi connect members area, so please check out all the videos by logging in!

[View all the videos here](#)  
[or via the members area!](#)



## Member Highlights

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### International Dance Day, Finland

International Dance Day has been celebrated in Finland in many ways as shown by these pictures submitted by member Anna Maria Vairio of the Vantaa Dance Institutes dancers performing at the Vantaa City Museum on 29.4.2023. Below are the little fishes who are 5-6 years old and above the Mad Hatters are 11-12 year old dancers.

"Finland is looking forward to the summer 2024 International daCi Conference. Hope to see you all there. Let's dance until we meet and then dance a lot more" - Anna Maria Vairio





## Upcoming Online Event

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### Day of Dance, USA

Join us for the third annual daCi USA Day of Dance! This daCi Day of Dance is open to all members of the daCi USA organization and non-members. Everyone is invited!

This online dance event will have all of your daCi favorites: cultural, creative, and community-building dance experiences for all ages and all abilities. This year's event will only be a half-day event and planned, prepared and led by participants in the daCi USA Youth Leadership Program. Proceeds from the event will be used to scholarship these amazing young dancers as they desire to attend the in-person gathering at Hope College in July 2023.

More information and  
registration



## daCi USA Celebrates Lynette!

### Lynette Overby Retires

Lynette Overby (USA) has been a devoted member of daCi for years and served on the EC as a member at large, and then Research chair. She recently retired from her academic position at the University of Delaware. But retirement does not mean inaction! She already has plans to participate in the Slovenia conference, 2024. This gives Lynette much more time to actively stay involved in daCi. We celebrate you Lynette!!



Photos and text submitted by Susan Koff from an evening honoring Lynette.



## daCi USA celebrates Anna!

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### Anna Mansbridge Retires

We have just received the news that the much loved Anna Mansbridge is moving on from her 20 years of work at the Creative Dance Centre, Seattle and as Artistic Director of Kaleidoscope. Anna has made her mark at many recent daCi conferences and continues as daCi Secretary. Thank you Anna and we send all good wishes for your next moves! Read Anna's full farewell to her team [here](#) and a message from the director of the Creative Dance Center [here](#).



Please pay your daCi membership fee for 2023!

daCi's new website membership payment system is unfortunately delayed.

Therefore, we kindly request you to please pay your current 2023 dues as soon as possible in the usual way:  
see <https://daci.international/about/membership>

We will inform you as soon as the new system is in place for 2024 fees. daCi is a voluntary organisation and we thank you for your patience.

In the meantime please visit the existing member's area and join the new Slovenia 2024 group or check out the One Billion Rising videos!

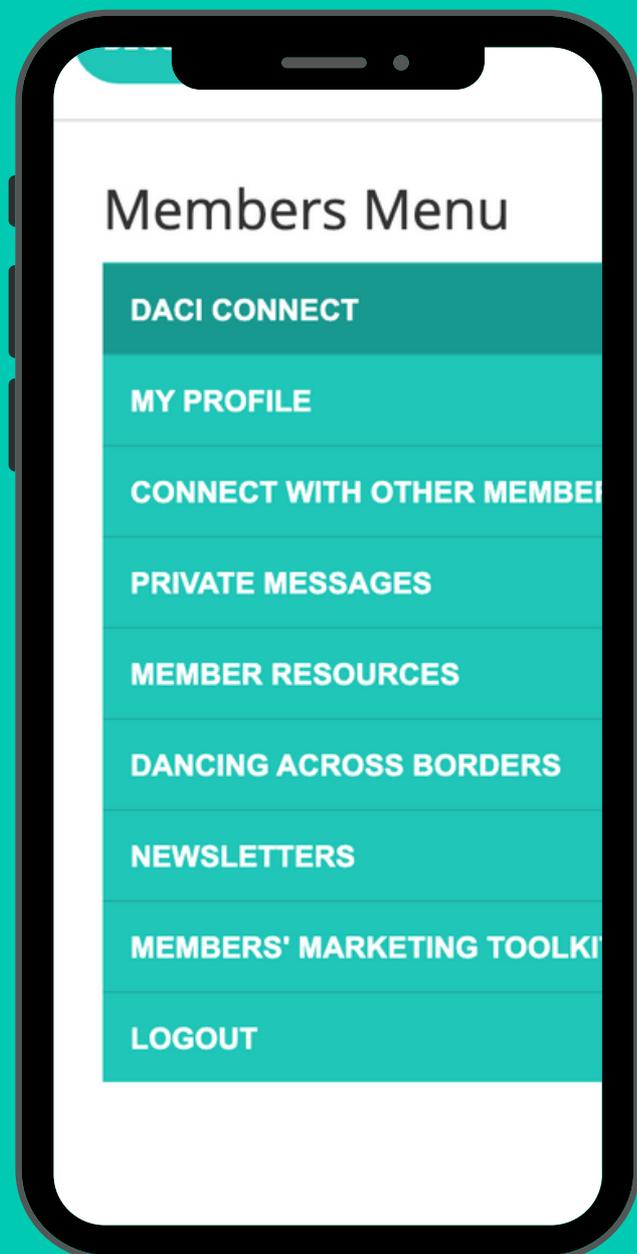
**Join a group in daCi connect today!**

## Member Offer on Film/E-book:

The Moving Child Films and E-Books are the initiative of Counsellor and Certified Movement Analyst Hana Kamea Kemble who is kindly offering 25% off on purchasing the series of films.

The series feature a wide variety of movement, therapeutic and child development experts from across North America, who discuss and demonstrate the essential role of movement in children's physical, mental, social, and emotional growth.

[Access the films here](#)



**COMING  
SOON!**

**A video  
tutorial on  
using the  
members  
area.**

As Jeff mentioned in his opening letter there will be a video tutorial on signing in and connecting using the members area available soon!



Thank you for reading the Summer 2023 Newsletter  
from the Executive Committee and National Reps!

**Executive Committee**

**Chair** Jeff Meiners (Australia)

**Past chair** Susan Koff (USA)

**Chair Elect** Vesna Geršak (Slovenia)

**Secretary** Anna Mansbridge (USA)

**Treasurer/Membership** Emma Walker (Canada)

**Research Officer** Alfdaniels Mabingo (Uganda)

**MarComm Executive** Mila Volpe (Canada)

**Members-At-Large** Nicholeen Degrasse-Johnson  
(Jamaica), Mary-Elizabeth Manley (Canada), Norma  
Sue Fisher-Stitt (Canada)

**SpringBoard** Cassandra Giannone (Australia)

**Co-opted Member, Proceedings & Publications**  
Sue Cheesman (New Zealand)

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**Barbados:** Shama Harding, [pazazdancebgi@gmail.com](mailto:pazazdancebgi@gmail.com)

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**Croatia:** Jasmina Zagrajski Vukelić, [samsa.zg@gmail.com](mailto:samsa.zg@gmail.com)

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