

daCi

dance and the Child international

Newsletter

June 2024

Latest news from
daCi



Reviewed country
reports, daCi 2024
detailed conference
program, UNESCO
declaration and more ...

Cover Image by Canva

IN THIS ISSUE

Messages

Chair Jeff Meiners, University of South Australia ... p. 3

Chair Elect Vesna Geršak, University of Ljubljana ... p. 5

daCi news

UNESCO declaration ... p. 7

Country reports ... p. 10

daCi conference 2024 ... p. 40

A tribute to Joyce Boorman ... p. 42

Book article ...p. 44



June 2024



Message from the Chair

Jeff Meiners

Greetings from Winter in Australia as I prepare for the Summer daCi 2024 conference in Slovenia. I begin in this way as a reminder of our different locations around the world, reflected in the Country Reports provided in this newsletter and daCi's outward looking international mission:

To promote the growth and development of dance for children and young people internationally, with respect for the ethnic, gender, physical, and cultural identities and all abilities of each young person within a spirit of international understanding.

This last message to you concludes a six-year term as daCi Chair Elect then Chair. These years have included working first through the Covid-19 pandemic with Susan Koff as Chair, then ensuring that daCi moved forward with plans for a postponed Canadian virtual conference, the upcoming Slovenian conference and a subsequent Asia-Pacific event for 2027. It has been a challenging and enriching experience.

I have been privileged to have led daCi as an outward looking global organisation that connects leaders of dance for children and young people with members looking beyond their countries to share interests and practices via collaborative activities and in a locally organised world conference every three years.

I first became involved in daCi at the London 1988 conference when I was a dance teacher in east London and was invited to take a youth group to perform. This led to my involvement with daCi over the years, depending, like many, upon changing geographical and economic circumstances. After participating in Sydney, Australia 1994 and the Netherlands 2005, I became aware of conferences I'd missed and was able to commit to plan for Taiwan 2012, Denmark 2015, Australia 2018, Canada 2022 and now Slovenia 2024.

Being an active member of daCi has provided me with a rich professional network of dance education colleagues and enduring friendships across the world. The current Executive Committee (EC) along with the National Representatives together form the Advisory Board (AB) which has worked tirelessly to further daCi's Vision and Mission through the Strategic Plan. We have been working to improve daCi's organisational and working processes for our members. The Chair's report along with EC members' reports outline these efforts and will be available shortly.

My work has made me acutely aware that daCi is a voluntary organisation and I thank all who have worked hard and given so generously. As we farewell daCi's inspirational founder Joyce Boorman, I am indebted to the generous commitment of the team that has continued her legacy and supported me as Chair, Chair Elect: Vesna Geršak (Slovenia), Secretary: Anna Mansbridge (USA), Treasurer/Membership: Emma Walker (Canada), Research Officer: Mabingo Alfdaniels (Uganda), Marketing Communications Officer: Mila Volpe (Canada); Members-At-Large: Nicholeen DeGrasse-Johnson (Jamaica), Cassandra Giannone (Australia), Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt (Canada), Mary-Elizabeth Manley (Canada), co-opted member Sue Cheesman (New Zealand). So too, I extend my deep gratitude to the daCi National Representatives who together with the EC have contributed to the many online meetings and were able to attend the interim planning meeting last year in Ljubljana.

As you will see further in the newsletter, the Slovenia conference will be a key global event that brings dance educators together with children and young people and I look forward to meeting many of you in Ljubljana. Slovenia provides us with another opportunity for rich intercultural understanding through dance. I thank the local hosts and organising team, the Cooper-Newell Foundation for their generous support for Registration Scholarships and to all who are coming to support daCi in Slovenia where there will be a handover to the next Asia-Pacific conference host country! I look forward to another exciting year as Outgoing Chair working towards this with Vesna as Chair and the new team with Nicholeen as Chair Elect.

The world continues to learn more from science about the contribution of dance to human cognitive, affective and physical abilities. So daCi's relevance to children and young people's mental health, wealth and well-being as lifelong learning global citizens must surely become further recognized. There is much to do and I urge you to keep working for this through daCi and in your practices wherever you live. Thank you for all your dedication to ensuring dance is in the world.

Jeff



Message from the Chair Elect

Vesna Geršak

I greet you from Ljubljana, where our organising committee is putting the finishing touches to the conference and hope that you, the young dancers, teachers and scholars from all over the world, will have a great week with many encounters. Thank you for coming in such large numbers. We could not have imagined that our small country would host around 650 participants from 32 countries, travelling from near and far. Your contributions will help to create an unforgettable event. And I would also like to salute those of you who will not be able to join us, to see you in the Asia-Pacific region in three years' time.

The reports from the National Representatives are a testament to how much dance enriches us and how strong we are as a community, transcending borders, languages and cultures and bringing us together as one strong community.

Our efforts to bring more recognition to dance have resulted in the Slovenian National Commission of UNESCO awarding our conference the patronage of honour.

After the Copenhagen and Adelaide declarations, it is a great honour that the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO' supports and endorses the new daCi Ljubljana Declaration, which will also be signed by the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Asta Vrečko.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank the entire organising team of the conference, with whom we have recently become so closely connected as family members Nina Meško, Goran Pakozdi, Urška Česnik, Helena Korošec, Urša Rupnik, Andreja Kopač and Mojca Kasjak. In addition to them, there are also many colleagues and volunteers who have contributed to the common goal.

Many thanks to the new EC and AB team, which is largely made up of former members. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Nicholeen Degrasse-Johnson, the new Chair-elect of daCi, as well as Joan Van Der Maast and Sue Cheesman as new Members at Large. I look forward to working with everyone in my new role as daCi Chair with the utmost responsibility and respect.

In Ljubljana we will meet daCi SpringBoard members from Jamaica, Canada and Slovenia. Many thanks to Cassandra Giannone, who is working with them remotely, and in Ljubljana we will meet them in person.

I cannot express in words how grateful I am to Jeff who led the daCi organisation and implemented many improvements in the processes and helped with the preparations for the conference with all his experience as a conference chair in Adelaide. I could not have learnt from a better "mentor".

And looking to the future? We will carry the message of the Ljubljana Declaration to the upcoming WAAE conference in Athens, where I will present the efforts of the daCi organisation together with colleagues from the Faculty of Education in Ljubljana, and we will be happy to help the new team with the preparations for the 2027 conference.

But first of all, we welcome everyone we will meet in person to Ljubljana! For those who could not be there this time, we hope to work together for daCi and meet again in three years' time.

Vesna



UNESCO and daCi

Intro to UNESCO Ljubljana Declaration

In February 2024, daCi was represented at the **UNESCO Abu Dhabi Conference on Culture and Arts Education** by daCi Chair Jeff Meiners, former Chair Susan Koff and Malaysian National Representative Muhammad Fazli Taib Bin Saearani.

Presentations were made with **World Alliance for Arts Education** colleagues to ensure dance for young people had a voice at this influential global event.

Visit the WAAE website [HERE.](#)



UNESCO and daCi (1)

The UNESCO Abu Dhabi Conference on Culture and Arts Education brought together Culture and Education Ministers from around the world and united relevant UN agencies, intergovernmental-organizations, and UNESCO partners in the field of culture and education to share practices and innovative ideas, as well as strengthen a global alliance for culture and arts education. Jeff, Susan and Fazli met the Slovenian delegation which included Asta Vrečko the Minister for Culture.



Meeting with Slovenian delegation at the UNESCO Abu Dhabi Conference February 2024

WAAE representatives and daCi Chair Jeff Meiners



L-R: Muhammad Fazli Taib Bin Saearani, Susan Koff, Asta Vrečko, Jeff Meiners, Nada Požar Matijašič

As a result of the conference, UNESCO Member States adopted the new UNESCO Framework on Culture and Arts Education. See detailed press release [HERE](#).

This guidance document provides a set of principles all stakeholders can follow for shaping and further institutionalizing culture and arts education. It outlines specific goals such education should pursue and concrete dimensions where synergetic links between culture and education should be fostered for the benefit of all learners. See UNESCO detailed news article [HERE](#).

Following the UNESCO Abu Dhabi conference, daCi members have developed [a draft daCi Ljubljana Declaration](#) with a consultative process that will include opportunities for feedback at the daCi Slovenia 2024 conference. The daCi Ljubljana Declaration will provide a global framework for dance education and inform daCi's Strategic Plan for 2024-2027.

The signing of the Ljubljana Declaration will take place at a special UNESCO forum.
If you would like to provide feedback, please email Anna Mansbridge at:
secretary@daci.international

UNESCO and daCi (2)

In addition, we are delighted that "the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO has accepted the honorary patronage of the international conference "Dance and the Child International", which will take place in Ljubljana from 7 to 12 July 2024."



The Slovenia conference provides us with an important opportunity to discuss daCi's work with UNESCO as part of the Strategic Plan for 2024-2027.





Reports from National daCi Representative

2023-2024

In this section, we present the national reports from our 20 dedicated representatives, showcasing their efforts and achievements for daCi from 2022-2023.

Discover the impactful work done across the globe as each report highlights initiatives, events, and collaborations that have furthered our mission to promote dance education and foster a vibrant international community.

New Zealand

New Zealand daCi members have comprised individuals and group members such as Dance Studies from the University of Auckland and beyond. Individual daCi members as well as groups are involved in a variety of dance events, although these events are not always necessarily organised under the auspices of daCi NZ.

My role as National Representative for daCi (NZ) responsible for memberships has been impacted recently due to a number of factors, but membership has declined. Numbers tend to fluctuate between 5 - 10 members (including group membership) which is often dependent on the international conference the location and travel opportunities, albeit that the last conference afforded the possibility of participation via zoom and digital access. It was heartening, therefore, to see some daCi NZ members involved in the 2022 conference in various roles such as facilitating Creative Gatherings and presenting scholarly papers. It was also validating to see the publication of the proceedings from Adelaide, 2018, that included some New Zealand members' contributions.

Fortunately, in partnership with Clare Battersby, my 12 year engagement in One Billion Rising for Dance and the Child International took place this year after being in limbo during 2022. In conjunction with several flashmob events facilitated in Auckland, Clare and I were instrumental in encouraging international daCi members from both Jamaica and Barbados to participate in this global event. Consequently 9 OBR initiative videos were posted to the daCi website. In addition, Clare and I developed further dance work to celebrate Earth Day, a cause important to us in Aotearoa, aligning superbly with our Between Tides event. It was heart-warming to have Jeff Meiners visit New Zealand in 2023 and attend this Westmere Beach event.

Despite being relatively small in numbers and population NZ daCi members have continued to represent daCi's international committee with myself as National Representative, following my role as Chair and 12 years prior on the Executive and Advisory Board. Liz Melchior has been a Member at Large on the Executive and Advisory Board and also acted as proxy NR to attend the interim meeting in Slovenia 2023. Sue Cheesman has taken on the role of a co-opted EC member responsible for editing the 2024 proceedings and Ralph Buck headed the dance survey for WAAE in which New Zealand dance personnel participated.

As indicated in my previous report I finalised my role as National Rep for daCi NZ in 2023. I congratulate Clare Battersby, nominated to take on this important role.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my engagement with daCi since 1978: the people I have met, the places/countries I have been to and the dancing I have become engaged in, have no equal. Thank you so much for being such an important experience in my life.

Noho ora mai, Adrienne Sansom

New Zealand

As the newly elected National Representative for daCi Aotearoa New Zealand, it is my honour to contribute to the daCi newsletter on behalf of daCi [NZ].

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge Adrienne Sansom and Liz Melchior whose respective roles on the daCi Executive and Advisory Board, while coming to an end, have covered a collective total of over 25 years, in a variety of roles. Adrienne became a member of the daCi Executive Committee in 1996, initially as Research Officer. From 2012 - 2016 she fulfilled the roles of Chair Elect, Chair and Past Chair. As Member at Large on the daCi Executive Committee, Liz's major contribution was facilitation of the SpringBoard, a concept initially developed by past chair Maria Speth. She was also involved with redefining the guidelines for the daCi Outreach programme.

Adrienne and Liz continue to support dance related events pertaining to children and young people, including being actively engaged in arts education, and cultural and environmental projects such as Matariki, One Billion Rising, and Between Tides, thereby illustrating their continued advocacy for tamariki and dance. As the following comments demonstrate, both have been recognized as highly valued and respected members of the daCi community.



Liz Melchior, Adrienne Sansom, Clare Battersby

Dear Adrienne and Liz ! I want to formally thank you both for your incredible longstanding service to daCi. Your passion, enthusiasm and inspirational commitment to daCi as leaders in different roles over many years is highly valued. On behalf of daCi, with our thanks and good wishes!

-Jeff Meiners

Dear Adrienne and Liz, I echo Jeff's words of thanks for all that you have contributed to daCi over the years. I have loved working with both of you and I hope that we will continue to have a connection in the years to come.

-Norma Sue

Greetings Adrienne and Liz, You have both positively impacted my daCi journey. Adrienne, your kind and nurturing spirit has always put me at ease and was quite encouraging. You served as Chair-Elect and Chair around the time of the Jamaica Conference. I felt your support throughout. Liz, thank you for always being present to the vision of daCi and for bringing others along. Your commitment has always been steadfast.

- Nicholeen

I agree with Jeff's sentiments about Liz and Adrienne's valuable contribution to daCi as inspirational dance educators.

-Carolyn



New Zealand

New Zealand daCi members have represented a number of individuals and group members such as Dance Studies from the University of Auckland. Despite a relatively small daCi NZ membership, it is encouraging, to note the sizeable number of presentations submitted for the 2024 daCi conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. This indicates the potential for further memberships following participation from those who will be attending a daCi conference for the first time.

Below is a list of the potential presentations from New Zealand

Linda Parker-Wendt	Green, Inclusive Educational Enrichment and Training through Flying/Aerial Dance
Yuxiao Shen	Systemic challenges faced by children's hip-hop dance education in China
Bronte Jones	Negotiating meanings of Inclusion and Diversity
Serenity Wise	Rivers of inclusion: the channels of participatory opportunities created through inclusive community dance practices
Ana Tina Jurgec	Integrating Various Approaches in Early Childhood Education: Best Practices in Music and Dance Activities
Ralph Buck	A meta- analysis of inclusion pedagogies within community dance
Clare Battersby	A Body of Work: A Dance Practitioner's Retrospective
Ziyan Zhou	"I am becoming..." through creative dance teaching
Liz Melchior	The Gift of the Forest: Te Koha a Tāne
Jaime Pavlicevic	Making Space for Gymnasts and Dancers
Sue Cheesman	Come fly with me, dance practical workshop
Sue Cheesman	Come fly with me dance ideas underpinned by a triangulation of imagination, inclusion and improvisation critically reflected upon
Sarah Knox	Digging Deep: Exploring student/dancer identity within choreographic collaboration



I was fortunate enough to attend DSANZ On the Move conference hosted in Te Arawa, Rotorua. The focus was Mātauranga Māori where we were invited to immerse ourselves to learn in, about and through tikanga (Māori customs/protocols), mātauranga (Māori knowledge), connections with te taiao (the natural environment), and apply these principles in our dance teaching practices at all levels. It was a truly enriching experience.

We learnt from esteemed NZ Contemporary Dancers, Tiaki Kerei and Taiaroa Royal.

I was given the opportunity to share information about daCi with conference attendees. Interest was shown in both registering with daCi, the forthcoming conference in Slovenia, and the possibility of presenting at the next daCi conference in Malaysia in 2027.

Congratulations Sue Cheesman: Sue was invited by the Chair of the Dance Subject Association New Zealand (DSANZ) to attend their 2024 DSANZ Conference, On The Move, held in Rotorua from the 13 to the 15 April 2024 and to be presented with a Life Membership for the Dance Subject Association of New Zealand, honouring her contribution to dance education, and ongoing work in the development, advancement and advocacy of dance in the New Zealand curriculum. Sue was honoured to accept this invitation and to be acknowledged for her contribution to dance education in New Zealand over many years. This was certainly a conference to remember and a great warm up for daCi Slovenia 2024.

Member contribution: Below is a recent publication by Ralph Buck and Barbara Snook [Dance Studies, University of Auckland], together with their colleague Debarshi Prasad Nath from Tezpur University in India.

*Clare Battersby,
National
Representative*



Reflections of Dance along the Brahmaputra

Celebrating Dance in North East India

This volume will be of interest to students and researchers of pedagogy, choreography, community dance practice, theatre and performance studies, social and cultural studies, aesthetics, interdisciplinary arts, and more.



USA

daCi USA Board (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2023)

The entire board met 4 times a year. Individual ad hoc committees met as needed

- Chair: Joy Guarino
- Chair-Elect: Heather Francis
- Secretary: Deborah Lipa-Ciotta
- Treasurer: Carol Day
- National Representative and Gathering Chair: Nicole Flinn
- Past National Representative: Chris Roberts
- Newsletter Editor: Madeline Cantor
- Member Liaison: Chara Huckins
- Members-at-Large: Cally Flox, Kathryn Austin, Amy Munro Lang-Crow, Vincent E. Thomas, Jennifer Florey, Sara Malan-McDonald

daCi USA Board (7/1/2023 - 6/30/2026)

- Chair: Heather Francis
- Chair-Elect: Kathryn Austin
- Secretary: Amy Munro Lang-Crow
- Treasurer: Jennifer Florey
- National Representative: Joy Guarino
- Past National Representative: Nicole Flinn-Culver
- Newsletter Editor: Madeline Cantor
- Member Liaison: Chara Huckins
- Members-at-Large: Cally Flox, Enya-Kalia Jordan, Deborah Lipa-Ciotta, Sara Malan-McDonald, Angela Rosales Challis, Vincent E. Thomas

Membership: [HERE](#) is a list of our 2023 membership.

A list of accomplishments:

- Cooper-Newell funding to support registration scholarships for the 2023 gathering
- Successful National Gathering with 170 participants and 36 teaching artists
- Continual administration of the daCi USA Youth Leadership Initiative
- daCi USA annual celebration of National Dance Day
- Three regional days of dance, Phoenix, Arizona; Springville, Utah; Rhinebeck, New York

How we communicate with our members:

- Monthly daCi Delights
- Biannual Newsletter
- Social media (facebook, instagram)
- Emails when needed (bimonthly)

Joy Guarino, National Rep
October 30, 2023



Image from Buffalo State University Archive

UK

National Representative:	Janine Streuli (took over from Michelle Groves in August 2023)
Number of Members:	Not known at the time of writing this report
Officers:	None

Introduction

This annual report is intended to be a forward-looking document that sets out priorities for growing daCi membership and activity in the UK over the coming months and years. In the last few years, funding for the arts and dance has been significantly impacted by the general downturn in the UK economy post Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that there will be a general election in spring 2024. If recent by-elections are anything to go by, a change of government is possible, if not likely.

In order for daCi to grow in the UK, we will need to forge strong links with a number of national dance bodies, including:

- One Dance UK, “the national support organisation leading the way to a stronger, more vibrant, and more diverse dance sector” (see via [LINK](#)).
- Dance HE “the representative body for academics and practitioners in Higher Education departments teaching and researching Dance in the United Kingdom” (see via [LINK](#)).
- Dance Awarding Organisations that are part of The Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (see via [LINK](#)) and offer examinations/qualifications in dance.
- People Dancing the foundation for community dance which advocates for the development of community and participatory dance (see via [LINK](#)).

daCi Meetings and Events in the UK: To my knowledge, none took place in 2023.

daCi accomplishments and challenges in the UK

Initial steps have been taken to make connections with some of the key national bodies listed above in order to promote the work of daCi in the UK. Communication and collaboration with those bodies will be key for successful growth of daCi in the UK. A particular challenge in achieving this is the fact that many practitioners already hold membership with national bodies with the cost of additional membership potentially being seen as financially prohibitive. Therefore, it might be worth exploring the option of discounted membership for those practitioners who are already members of national membership bodies.

UK

Communication with members

This is an area that needs to be strengthened. Please could a list of members be made available to the National Representative so that regular networking can be set up? It is envisaged that networking will initially be via online video-conferencing (2024), followed by an in-person event, hopefully in late 2024 or early 2025. The Royal Academy of Dance has offered its facilities in London (Battersea) for an in-person event free of charge.

Priorities for membership and activity growth

Given the number of national dance advocacy and membership bodies already established in the UK, the promotion of daCi needs to place strong emphasis on the international reach and networking opportunities afforded by daCi as a unique selling point.

Collaboration with established organisations will be really important to a) promote the existence and work of daCi and b) to reach as many dance communities as possible.

I look forward to working with National Representative peers and the daCi Advisory Board to put in place a realistic plan for growth in the UK.

Janine Streuli



Taiwan

New National Representative elected!

As we celebrate the coming of the year of the dragon in February 2024, daCi TAIWAN has a new National Representative elected. Associate Professor of the Dance Department at Tainan University of Technology, Wen-jen Huang will be taking charge of daCi TAIWAN starting on the 1st of August, 2024.

Here in Taiwan, most of the dance schools were heavily infected when Covid-19 broke out. Although the situation is getting better and some of them started to have their studios open since 2023, most of the classes do not have as many students as they used to. We are working hard together to keep every child to have a chance to dance.

Below are some images of the dance classes at the local dance schools directed by one of my former students. In these photos, we see the images of the children with smiles on their faces. Indeed, dance makes everyone happy.

May we all stay healthy, stay strong and stay dancing.

National Representative of daCi TAIWAN

Ann Tai

May 2024



Switzerland

Dance and its many expressions have been an integral part of cultures worldwide. daCi Switzerland has long recognized this, and in keeping with its tradition, continues to promote dance in its various forms through its annual events.

This year, daCi Switzerland ventured into a unique initiative, organizing a dance camp. This wasn't just any regular event: it was meticulously designed for dance enthusiasts among children and teenagers. The aim was not only to let these young enthusiasts experience the vast world of dance but also to ensure they engage in wholesome physical activity. Over the course of the camp, participants were introduced to different dance forms, both contemporary and traditional, allowing them to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of dance.

The daCi Switzerland board comprises the following individuals: Daria Höhener, serving as the President & National Representative. Stéphanie Salzgeber and Caroline Grand, who are board members. Marion Stadelmann holds the treasurer's position. This composition has remained consistent for the past few years.

At present, 12 dance schools/members are affiliated with daCi Switzerland. The decline in membership numbers can be attributed to the presence of several dance associations and organizations in Switzerland, many of which have overlapping activities. Efforts to integrate daCi with other organizations to leverage synergies have, unfortunately, not been successful to date. Nevertheless, the board remains optimistic and proactive in seeking ways to revitalize membership and make daCi more accessible to a broader community.

We are actively preparing for a group of dance students to attend the upcoming conference. Currently, we are submitting financing applications to cover their travel and related expenses. The goal is to ensure they can represent our institution and benefit from this enriching experience without financial strain.

Sincerely,

Daria Höhener, President, daCi Switzerland

October 2023



Sweden

Here is a brief report for the latest period.

During 2022 the board for daCi Sweden held one annual general meeting and two ordinary board meetings. Our [web page](#) is updated on a regular basis but unfortunately still receives few visits.

We continue with a low membership number which as present consists mainly of our dedicated board members. During recent years we have organized short courses for dance teachers which temporarily boosts our membership. Plans to hold a choreography workshop for dance teachers and educators during the latter part of 2022 where postponed due to circumstances out of our control.

Fate struck again in October 2023 our planned choreography workshop with a target group of children under 10 years of age . One of two guest teachers and the one whom would focus on choreography for and with younger children was acutely hospitalized at the last minute. A substitute was unavailable and the workshop was conducted by our brave deputy chairman in two sessions before and after lunch. Participants where extremely satisfied and inspired by the content.

We also conducted a short discourse for participants on daCi, its history and the benefits of membership. There was a lot of interest but only time will tell will if we were successful in attracting new members. Our most recent annual general meeting took place on the 23th of April 2023. Following is a summation of our current board after our most recent annual AGM.

- Chairman: Carina Wartin-Lidholm
- Deputy chairman: Magnus Anderson
- Secretary: Sophia Färlin Månsson
- Treasurer: Robin Haggar
- Deputy member: Karin Ivarson
- Deputy member Elisabet Sjöstedt -Edelholm
- Auditor: vacant
- Deputy auditor: Matilda Fagerback
- National representative: Robin Haggar

CURRENT MEMBERS AS OF THE 15TH OCTOBER 2023:

1. Carina Wartin-Lidholm - carinawartin@hotmail.com
2. Magnus Anderson - magnus.anderson@me.com
3. Sophia Färlin Månsson - sophia.farlin.mansson@uniarts.se
4. Robin Haggar - robin.haggar@bredband.net eller @edu.stockholm.se
5. Karin Ivarson - karin.ivarsonl@gmail.com
6. Elisabet Sjöstedt -Edelholm - elisabet@edelholm.se
7. Petra Hultenius - petra.hultenius@gmail.com
8. Sara Lidholm - saralidholm@hotmail.com



kindest regards and wishes

Robin Haggar, National representative/ cashier for daCi Sweden

South Africa

daCi continues to operate through the University of Cape Town and as the National Representative I continue to build awareness of daCi among our graduate dance teachers, community dance partners and dance colleagues at other South African universities. A success of the year has been being able to maintain new recruits' interest in daCi and its mission. Throughout the year I have met with several dance leaders who operate dance studios and many expressed interest in daCi and the role it could potentially play in fostering collaboration among dancers, and developing their young dancers' creativity. Many of these dance studios experience dance with others through dance competitions versus collaborations. They often work in a choreographic culture too where the adults choreograph the dances while the young people learn and practice them. They were drawn to the idea of daCi providing an alternative experience for them and their dancers. Two studio groups have submitted abstracts for the Slovenia upcoming conference in 2024.

In my last report, I mentioned that economic inequities continue to play a role in our membership recruitment and drive, stalling the leap from expressed interest to formal membership. As National Representative, I have welcomed the tier-membership cost changes that the daCi Advisory Board has made and I have confidence that this will bear fruit for 2024.

The University of Cape Town (UCT) continues to support dance with young people through its Youth dance resident programs. On Saturdays, the university is buzzing with youthful energy as the institution hosts two resident youth dance programs which aim to train, develop and transform the lives of young South Africans through dance. The respective youth dance programs are run by their community dance leaders with some funding from the government but hosted at the university. The youth programs seen in the pictures below have been nothing short of transformational for the university, a space which once only hosted a junior ballet school that catered to a small elite group of privileged children.



South Africa

One of the resident groups, Igugulethu Arts and Leadership Academy, led by UCT dance alumna Olwethu Katase. The children come from the township of Gugulethu in Cape Town.

Our university dance teachers in training also get to work with the almost 80 young people who turn up each week. Below is a picture of our third year student Shante de Klerk facilitating a dance workshop with youths from the Igugulethu Arts and Leadership Academy, some of whom participated in the virtual Canada conference in 2022.



New World Dance Theatre is another one of our resident youth dance programs. In June, they staged the production *Against all Odds*, that brought together several dance studios to celebrate dance and its resilience in the lives of young South Africans.



2023 was exciting and I look forward to having a contingent of young people, university students and lecturers from South Africa represented at daCi 2024 in Slovenia.

Lisa Wilson, National Representative



Slovenia

Members

Slovenia does not have a national chapter. There is a national representative Nina Meško, who belongs to the Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities (JSKD). She works together with Vesna Geršak from the Faculty of Education at the University of Ljubljana and together they offer programs aimed at young dancers and promote the development of dance education in Slovenia.

There are currently six Slovenian daCi members: Vesna Geršak (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education) - daCi Chair Elect, Nina Meško (JSKD) - national representative and Andreja Kopač, Mojca Kasjak, Urša Rupnik, Helena Korošec, Goran Pakozdi - organizing committee of the daCi Conference Ljubljana 2024. The national representative informs interested parties about daCi activities via e-mail, FB page, Instagram, at various seminars, workshops and conferences on dance education. We are thinking about not founding a Slovenian chapter, but perhaps ex-Yugoslavian or Eastern European countries could have a chapter. We will get in touch with the Croatian representative to exchange ideas for founding a joint chapter.

Organizations

- The University of Ljubljana, [Faculty of Education](#), is actively involved in teaching dance pedagogy for pre-school, primary and secondary school programs.
- [JSKD](#) is a state institution covering all areas of youth and non-professional (amateur) culture and art, with its headquarters in Ljubljana and 59 branches throughout Slovenia. The dance department of JSKD provides education, development and support in a variety of ways. Its aim is to give children, young people and adults access to dance and movement. Today, more than 3,500 dancers are involved in dance as part of the JSKD's activities. These are mainly children, young people and dance teachers. JSKD also provides mentoring for young dancers and choreographers, training for teachers and educators and a platform for networking within the dance field. A small part of our program is also the publication of books on contemporary dance theory and history as well as manuals on teaching dance and promoting dance creativity.

Education and knowledge dissemination

- University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education - Seminars and workshops on integrating dance into the national curriculum for pre-school and primary school teachers (coordinator Vesna Geršak).
- Public Fund for Cultural Activities - The "Youth Dance Creativity" program for young dancers and dance teachers is implemented by Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities - JSKD (Nina Meško).

Research projects

European Social Fund (ESF) project Development of communication skills through cultural-artistic education: from 2017 to 2022, the University of Ljubljana completed a large ESF project (two universities, 30 kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools) on the integration of the arts, including dance. The basic aims of the project were:

- to find out how and in what way pre-school institutions and schools enable children/young people to come into contact with cutting-edge artistic experiences.
- to develop didactic approaches in artistic and other educational fields and new forms of linking educational work with artistic activities, including in less established artistic fields, in order to raise the level of children's/young people's communicative skills.

Slovenia

The University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, is working with students from the Faculty of Sports and Primary School (several 4th and 5th grades) on the project Intervention Program for Increasing 24-Hour Movement of Primary School Children, 2023, which also includes creative movement and dance: project leader at the Faculty of Education is Vesna Geršak

The University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, participates in the project Promoting Innovative Learning Environments in the Learning and Teaching of Engineering Students on Green Transition Themes - 2022 to 2025 (under the auspices of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation and the European Union - Next Generation EU), in which students of various engineering programs are taught through artistic approaches (including dance): project leader at the Faculty of Education is Vesna Geršak.

National and international projects

- PIKA MIGA (Pipi Longstocking Moves), mini-festival of children's dance groups - October 2022 and October 2023 in Velenje: The presentation of the best children's dance groups in Slovenia is an annual event that takes place at the Pippi's Festival in Velenje. Velenje is the home of Pippi's Festival, which in its 26-year tradition has grown from a one-day event to the largest children's festival in Slovenia.
- ŽIVA, festival of young dance creativity - November 2022 and November 2023 in Ljubljana: The Festival of young dance creativity ŽIVA is an annual event that presents a cross-section of current dance creativity by selected dance groups and individuals from all over Slovenia as well as guests from abroad. The name ŽIVA is a unique tribute to Živa Kraigher, an important Slovenian dance teacher and choreographer. The Živa Festival is celebrating its 40th anniversary.
- Winter and summer dance school - February and July 2022 and February and July 2023 in Maribor and Ljubljana: The summer and winter dance schools are a five-day intensive exchange of ideas and knowledge in classes for beginners, advanced and professional dancers. Both offer daily intensive workshops for various dance techniques and styles, allowing participants to expand their knowledge and skills with domestic and foreign guest teachers. The workshops are open to all ages, amateurs, professionals and everyone in between. There is always a parallel program with evening performances and on the last day there is a production where the participants present their newly acquired knowledge.
- International Competition for Young Dance Creators - Short Dance Piece, April 2022 and April 2023 in Celje: The aim of the competition is to promote contemporary dance and discover new talents from all over the world. The aim is not to push the competition, but to encourage the creativity of young artists. Each year there is a different theme that the young dance artists must use as the basis for their short dance piece. The annual themes are intended to stimulate the young artists' critical thinking about certain topics and give them the opportunity to engage with specific themes and dancers/artists.
- The project Integration of artistic and dance experiences in the learning process took place at the Faculty of Education of the University of Ljubljana to create partnerships between a university (student teachers and their mentors), a public school, a museum (curator) and some artists to develop arts education in kindergartens and primary and secondary schools. Since 2015, the project has implemented five different projects. In 2022, the project combined dance, music, theatre and visual arts. The project covered the aims of arts and cultural education by facilitating experiential, collaborative learning through the arts. The project presented a performance with the students' teachers at Plečnik House in June 2022. The project was presented as an example of good practice at the "Day of Arts at the University of Ljubljana" in June 2023.

Slovenia

daCi 2023 interim planning meeting (30 June - 4 July 2023, Ljubljana, Slovenia) with a purpose to:

- Review and further development of the strategic plan 2021-2024 and
- Contact with the local organizing committee of the 2024 Conference in Slovenia
- Present (EC): Jeff Meiners (Chair), Susan Koff (USA), Past Chair Vesna Geršak (Slovenia), Chair Elect Anna Mansbridge (USA), Secretary Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt (Canada), Member Nicholeen Degrasse-Johnson (Jamaica), Member: Outreach Cassandra Giannone (Australia), Member-At-Large: Springboard On Zoom (EC) Sue Cheesman (New Zealand), Co-opted Publications & Proceedings Participants (AB) Jasmina Zagrajski Vukelić (Croatia) Joy Guarino (USA) Anna-Maria Vairio (Finland) Lisa Wilson (South Africa) Elisabete Monteiro (Portugal) Liz Melchior (New Zealand) Muhammad Fazli Taib Bin Saearani (Malaysia) Nina Mesko (Slovenia) On Zoom (AB) Laura Kvelstein (Estonia) Ebbe Diago (Japan) Ann Tai (Taiwan)

The voices of young dancers in response to the question WHY DO YOU DANCE?

I dance because I feel like me.

I dance because I speak with the dance.

I dance because I am searching for the right point.

I dance because it's the only way to fly between the clouds and touch my dreams.

I dance because it is the only way I can become a butterfly, the wind or a tree.

I dance because dance is a window to the world for me.

I dance because I find new energy and strength in dance.

I dance because I can feel every part of myself.

I dance because dance is my escape.

I dance because it allows me to tell my stories in a more interesting way.

I dance because it is the only way I can fully develop my imagination.

I dance because I find joy this way.

I dance because I think while I dance.

I dance because I don't want to be trapped in time.

I dance because I free myself from sadness when I dance.

I dance because dancing makes me feel like the sea, which is endless and free.

I dance because it allows my mind to dream.

I dance because I can create my own worlds.

I dance because I am connected to my body in this way.

I dance because it allows me to share and feel.

I dance because in dance you seek, find and lose yourself.

I dance because I have to dance like I have to breathe.

I dance because dancing means life.

I dance, therefore I am.

Nina Meško, National Representative

Photographer: Danie Coetzee



Portugal

Constitution of daCi Portugal - 8 daCi members (2023):

- Elisabete Monteiro (National Representative)
- Ana Leitão
- Ana Silva Marques
- Cecília de Lima
- Cristina Rebelo Leandro
- Luísa Alegre
- Margarida Moura
- Maria João Alves
- Maria Luísa Alegre

Presently trying to invite more colleagues to join daCi, particularly the ones that collaborate in our preview actions and events disseminating the importance of dance education, but not only for children, for the all community. We lost two members but won two more (Ana Leitão and Maria Luísa Alegre)

Communication between members: Mainly by mail, sometimes by Zoom or in person once or twice a year

Problems/constraints

We are still facing problems considering the role dance has in education in our country. If this current Portuguese government is trying to stablish a connection with arts-culture-education, on the other hand the fight between artistic expression and other knowledge areas traditionally considered more important issues (mother tongue, mathematics etc) is a real fact.

The 2023's main actions (see photographs below)

Projects and events by daCi members as a way to disseminate the importance of dance in education, following the daCi aims:

- In Lisbon - at Human Kinetics Faculty - Dance and Inclusion: The participation of people with different types of motor, sensory and / or intellectual disabilities in artistic practices has increased, opening a variety of opportunities in the performing arts, including dance. (Amoedo, Lebre, Monteiro, 2012). We had the possibility to work with 2 different Institutions 'Alma Sã' (6 persons) and 'Dança & Gira' (8 persons), and with our 3rd year dance students Course at 'Dance and Inclusion' (Coordination of Elisabete Monteiro and Paula Lebre).

On both Projects, we start the construction of a dramaturgical idea from each performer/dancer - what each one wants for him/herself or for the other(s). Specifically with 'Alma Sã' we worked the connection between movement and visual arts, and with 'Dança & Gira', a Laban movement approach. We emphasised that each of these 'singular' discourses potentially honors divergences celebrating DIVERSITY.

So, the aim was to create two performances (P1 and P2) through the exploration of the possibilities of the body in space, time and with the other, stimulating creativity, improvisation and interpersonal relationships, in a collaborative process (Coordination and Choreography Elisabete Monteiro; P1= 18 performers; P2= 20 performers).

Portugal

In Cascais - Creative Dance Project Cascais - Galiza School 2023: We intend to promote a Healthy School through artistic experiences that promote the Well-Being of Teachers and the school community. We use an active Methodology based on a unifying project through Creative Dance as a form of Expression. Target: 90 students. (Responsible Luísa Alegre)

Results

Joy, satisfaction with collaborative work, professional involvement, interdisciplinarity, student learning, fulfillment, positive relationships with the community, especially with parents.

National Representative, Elisabete Monteiro

Lisbon, 03 November 2023



Photographer: Elisabete Monteiro



Malaysia

On November 1, 2023, Dr. Jeff Meiners (daCi Chair) and Prof. Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt (daCi Member at Large) visited the Sultan Idris Education University in Malaysia. Two events were organised, including a discussion with Professor Dato' Dr. Md Amin bin Md Taff to discuss how daCi may be used as a platform to promote dance education in Malaysia.



Dr. Jeff Meiners and Prof. Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt, with Professor Dato' Dr. Md Amin (center), at Sultan Idris Education University's Vice Chancellor's Office.

Dr. Jeff Meiners and Prof. Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt also had the chance to have a discussion with 100 dance students at Sultan Idris Education University to discuss daCi and the relevance of dance development. There were also a number of excursions, including to the National Child Development Research Centre at the Faculty of Human and Development.



Malaysia

Dr. Jeff Meiners and Prof. Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt, together with students from the Faculty of Music and Performing Arts, were joined by Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Fazli Taib, the dean of the Faculty of Music and Performing Arts in Malaysia.

As National Representative Malaysia's, I attended the UNESCO World Conference on Culture and Arts Education in Abu Dhabi from February 13th to 15th, 2024, with daCi Chair Dr. Jeff Meiners and daCi Former Chair Prof. Susan R. Koff. During the conference, Ministers of Culture and Education from across the world came together to adopt the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education. This Framework will support Member States in developing unified plans and policies that incorporate culture into schools, encouraging dedication to the development of skills and abilities relevant to today's world, advocating for the integration of culture into school curricula, and investing in skill development through arts and culture, all in line with daCi's mission and vision.



Chair, Dr Jeff Meiners, past Chair Professor Susan Koff, Malaysia National Representative Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Fazli Taib Saearani, DaCi representative joined UNESCO World Conference on Culture & Arts Education in Abu Dhabi.

DaCi's engagement with Malaysia demonstrates the organization's dedication to enhancing dance education and encouraging cultural interchange both nationally and internationally. Through joint efforts and involvement in international forums, daCi Malaysia hopes to enhance arts education and cultural awareness.

Muhammad Fazli Taib Bin Saearani, National Representative

Japan

DaCi Japan currently has about twenty members, comprising dance teachers, dancers, and scholars. While we have not had any meetings or events specifically as daCi Japan, our members are actively working within their individual dance groups or companies. We use a private Facebook page to share information from daCi and the Slovenia conference committee. One challenge facing daCi Japan is that, unfortunately, no members from Japan are participating in the Slovenia conference.

Report of the activities from two groups of daCi Japan members

- SRD is an active dance company in Hokkaido, led by Kumiko Mikami. In November 2022, they showcased a dance work titled “Earth Relay.” One of the members who has Down Syndrome began her dance lessons at the age of 4 and is now 35 years old. The performance featured 16 dancers spanning a wide age range from adults to children, who together created vibrant and diverse scenes. This work can be viewed and enjoyed on the SRD website (<http://www.srd-dance.com>).
- Tandavaha Dance Company is another group that creates and performs dance works catering to a broad age demographic. Their choreographed works “Ghost’s Party” (in January 2023) and “Otedama (small bean-bag) Play” (in June 2023) were set to Japanese nursery rhyme music. Moreover, they showcased several captivating dance pieces that incorporated unique movements and costumes, reflecting themes of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) or societal issues.

Ebbe Daigo, National Representative

Jamaica

daCi Jamaica's membership numbers have always been one of fluctuation and this is not from lack of trying. We have had two new members joining daCi Jamaica, they are Liane Williams, a graduate of Edna Manley College with her group 'Le Wi Dance (LWA. JA)' out of Kingston and Abigail Madden of 'Abijiek Dance Academy', out of May Pen Jamaica, a past student of Khulcha Theatre School of Dance. Abigail was part of the youngsters who performed at the conference in Australia.

Jamaica has been an active member of daCi since the foundation 1978 conference and we have endeavored to remain a member by adhering to the aims and objectives of daCi regarding dance programs for our young people. Members who are not able to attend international conferences expressed at our last meeting that we should have a Caribbean conference which could be an avenue to encourage more members to join daCi Jamaica. This Caribbean conference would take place in-between the international conferences so this is an ongoing aspiration. Since 2023, we have had four virtual meetings. daCi Jamaica was trying to work as a contingent to attend the Slovenian Conference which would have been a wonderful idea, unfortunately it fell through.

Regarding daCi international dues, out of the eight members, only two members have paid. Last late payments were due to the direction of daCi, to hold off on payment, as daCi is working on a new payment method. Most of the inactive members have not terminated their membership and we look forward to their responses as ongoing members supporting daCi Jamaica. As the National Representative, I contact members by regular emails, informing them in a timely manner, followed up by telephone calls. Most members are busy following their own interests to survive, more so since the Covid-19 event. I have made it my responsibility on a regular basis, to educate school principals about daCi and how they can become members. daCi Jamaica will be embarking on several fund-raising activities and will be using this opportunity to sensitize individuals about daCi.

The secretary for daCi Jamaica is Sophia McKain. Lack of additional funds and the voluntary nature of contributing makes it difficult to be more assertive in our activities that would make daCi Jamaica more visible. I have reached out to a national body, which deals with a wide section of both dance schools, dance groups and other groups. To date, promises have been received. Jamaica is a country where dance is the heart of everything and it is sad that more groups are not a part of daCi. Getting persons to respond in a timely manner is our main challenge. Persons are not as willing to contribute to volunteerism as before.

Khulcha Theatre School of Dance celebrated its 35th season of dance production on December 16, 2023. Most of the current students are new dancers, as most of our teens are now off to universities. The show was dubbed "Resilience" and rightly so, Covid disruption and our unfinished facility, see us adapting to our situation for survival. It is through community services that we teach and learn the value of human kindness, together we can make a difference. This generation of dancers, can step up and make a change in human kindness and create a positive attitude for our future. Our community was a tower of strength to the school in our down time and assisted us immensely.

I wish all the best for the planning of the Slovenia conference and that all the young people have a wonderful time meeting and sharing with each other. Congratulations to Dr. DeGrasse-Johnson being nominated as the new incoming daCi Chair Elect, we wish her all the best in her endeavours.

Jamaica

Manchester High School

On May 8, 2023 was Teachers' Day in Jamaica. The Manchester High School Theatre Arts teacher Ms. Sibblies, invited me to teach her new grade 9 students, the Kumina movements. This is a Jamaican traditional dance form which they would be studying for 2024-2025 exams. This was well received by the students and we had a rap session at the end to get their feedback. It was great to be able to share.



ST. JAGO HIGH SCHOOL DANCE SOCIETY

The St. Jago High School Dance Society students performed well in their annual dance activities for 2024. The students are involved in dance as part of their daily education within the regular school curriculum. They have completed one term of dance classes with the staging of their mid-year final examinations, where they must create and perform their dance pieces. The CSEC Theater Arts dance students have completed all their practical examinations and are now preparing for the final written component of the CSEC Syllabus. Our CAPE Performing Arts dance student is currently working on their final production which will be staged on the school compound. In addition, the annual Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) dance festival competitions are currently ongoing and we have been awarded the top school in Quadrille Camp-style for class 4 in the Traditional Dance Folk Form finals.

Carolyn Russell-Smith
May 8, 2024



Finland

1.Members in Finland

We have 34 individual members (paid 30), 29 group / dance school members (paid 28) and 2 institutional organisations. Finnish daCi-members are mostly dance teachers and dance researchers but as well many pre-school teachers and elementary teachers who do dance in schools.

Officers

Board for Daci-Finland is following: Chair of the board is Anna-Maria Vairio, Secretary is Meri Erkkilä. Members are Minna Palokangas, Sini Kukkonen, Elisa Ahonen (resigned of board membership in October),

Sari Arokivi, Reetta Aarre-Ahtio. DaCi-Finland board gathered seven times last year and there was a general

meeting in April with Zoom connect, where all members were invited. Anna-Maria Vairio is a member of international daCi Advisory Board.

Events

2023

- Event for members 8.1.2023 in Tampere: Skills and art experiences (teacher Mia Nirhamo) and
- Dance Journey (teacher Anita Cuadra).
- Anna-Maria Vairio participated in AB- meeting in Slovenia 30.6.-4.7.2023.
- Event for members 6.8.2023 in Tampere: Encounters in dance class (teacher Elisa Ahonen).
- DaCi Finland board strategy day 28.10.2023 in Vantaa.

2024

- Event for members 7.1.2024 in Lahti: From Games and Ffun to Dancing (teacher Milla Malmberg).

Members and communication

- Our members have been active in participating in courses and educations.
- New Website (visit via [LINK](#)) in January 2024 offers information about example new events,
- members of daCi-Finland Board etc.
- You find us from facebook and instagram @dacifinland

Plans for 2024-2025

- Finnish member schools participating in daCi Slovenia 2024 conference
- Increase the number of members
- Event for members in autumn 2024
- We are looking for a grant to design and make a Children`s dance guidebook



Estonia

Estonia is an official daCi member since 2014. Currently the Estonian Association for Dance Art and Dance Education is an institutional member of daCi. But we don't have an Estonian daCi organisation.

Estonian dance professionals and dance teachers receive information about daCi's activities and developments mainly through the Estonian Association for Dance Art and Dance Education (through a special submenu on the web page and through regular information letters and newsletters).

If anyone has any questions, they can and do turn to the current National Representative.
So far we have not organised any local activities or events.

There will be a number of Estonian participants taking part in the next conference in Ljubljana in summer 2024!

Laura Kvelstein, Estonian national representative

08.05.2024

Denmark

Although things are somewhat quiet, I am excited to see renewed initiative and interest from a number of institutions in the area of dance and performing arts for and with children.

As both Dansehallerne and dance department at The Danish National School of Performing Arts will soon be rehoused, there may be stability ahead and grounds for focusing on the matters that matter, such as daCi.

Laura Navndrup Black, National Representative

Croatia

Croatia has participated in daCi since its foundation in 1978. In 2006, by founding the association Ples i dijete - daCi Croatia, we established our organization as the daCi chapter.

Last year in 2023, we gathered 14 group (numerous dance and music schools, amateur dance groups, dance centers and ensembles) and 6 individual members.

As an association we implement two major projects and events:

- Since 2012, in numerous creative dance workshops called Interactions we encourage young people to systematically engage in dance culture and dance as artistic expression. In 2023 the program took place 28 times in education institutions (kindergartens, general schools, art schools), 8 dance teachers and included 647 participants.
- Since 2010 we have been organizing the Festival of Small Dance Forms, which takes place every fall and gathers all our members. The aim is presenting dance art made for/by the children and young people as small dance forms with a clearly developed idea lasting up to 10 minutes. After the pandemic we continued the Festival. On November, the 12th 2023, 14 of our members participated in our last Festival edition. They came to Zagreb from 10 different towns, performed on the first day of the Festival and had 4 workshops on the second day.

See it in video



Teaser for FMPF 2023 [HERE](#) and Festival [HERE](#).

- In June/July Jasmina Zagrajski Vukelic, as national representative and Advisory Board member attended Ljubljana Interim Conference.
- Our annual assembly of the association takes place once a year, every February in Zagreb. We have meetings as well every few months (live or via zoom).

Our programs and all work enable movement research and mutual socializing, accepting differences and diversities. Movement creativity is strongly encouraged, developing cognitive, psychophysical, social, aesthetic and cultural components.

Our chair is Mrs Sanja Hrgetić.

Jasmina Zagrajski Vukelić is our member of the International daCi Advisory Board.

See our website [HERE](#).



Canada

2022 Toronto Conference Proceedings

The 2022 Conference Proceedings are almost ready to be posted in the YorkSpace open access repository. New Zealand editor Sue Cheesman, together with co-editors Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt and Ann Kipling Brown, have completed their review of all the articles and are now overseeing a final review to ensure editorial consistency. The Proceedings should be available in June 2024.

Changes for DACI Canada

After an election in the Fall of 2022, the Canadian National Representative is Tanya Berg. Tanya is thrilled to share that her book for preservice teachers, *Arts-Based Pedagogies: Integrating Culturally Relevant and Responsive Creative Processes in K-12 Education*, will be published in December, 2024, with the foreword by Ann Kipling Brown.

DACI Canada is newly incorporated and has established an interim National Board pending elections in the Fall of 2024. Please note the use of capital letters for DACI, a requirement for managing the new account. The current Chair is Tanya Berg, Secretary is Nancy Francis, and the Treasurer is Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt. The board currently has confirmed two interim members-at-large Heather Taschuk (Edmonton), and Christina Buckle (Yukon).

DACI Canada at the Slovenia conference!

The inaugural AGM for DACI Canada will be held in person, and virtually, from Slovenia during the conference in July 2024. We are pleased to have individuals and groups from across Canada attending the conference from: New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and the Yukon.

Vale Joyce Boorman

Canadian dance educator Dr. Joyce Boorman passed away March 23, 2024, at the age of 91. We would like to acknowledge Joyce's rich life in dance and lasting legacy. In 1977, Joyce and her colleagues Jan Vallance and Sally Carline, started Alberta Children's Creative Dance Theatre.

In 1978, Joyce was instrumental in initiating the first "dance and the child" conference held at the University of Alberta. This gathering prompted the organization and establishment of daCi and the triannual conferences. After her retirement, Joyce moved back home to England. The Children's Creative Dance Program continued with Sally Carline later joined by Jackie and Jen Best. For over 40 years, the program ran as part of the dance community in Edmonton, Alberta. In 2018, Heather Taschuk took over the running of the program under Creative Kinetics Dance. Joyce will be remembered for the way she masterfully combined her passion for children, creativity, and dance into a magical world of caterpillars, mushrooms, jesters, and lights in the darkness. Rest easy, Joyce, and dance, dance, dance!

*Tanya Berg, National
Representative*



Brasil

In a continuing effort that we hope will encourage more Brazilian dance people to join DaCi as members, we are pleased to announce our instagram perfil <daci.brazil>, and the Facebook page <Daci Daci>. These initiatives are for Brazilians interested in DaCi and in dance in general. The communication is through these digital platforms and e-mail to the national representative: <apvieira@ufv.br>.

Some news from Brazil:

- The National Representative, Alba Vieira, and her colleague Valeria Figueiredo, attended the WAAE Arts Summit in Funchal, Madeira, 1-3 March 2023 along with other international DaCi members. There, they contributed to the process for the development of a Global Framework on Culture and Arts. These two Brazilian professors reinforced the need to deepen discussion on how countries with a better economy might create decolonial strategies so that associations like DaCi might become more attractive and meaningful to the so-called third world countries. Language also is a great barrier: many Brazilians do not speak English fluently. How may we move forward?
- Both Brazilians also taught a workshop for arts teachers, students and other interested professionals. The workshop focused on learning in, about and through dance to teach, reinforce, review and assess knowledge, skills and content in subject matter on somatic and dance. Participants had hands-on movement experience, including exploring living anatomy with bamboo sticks. We danced and sang traditional songs as a way of stimulating the artistic creative process.

We share a few photos from our workshop in Madeira:



Brazil is well known for its vibrant dance scene, therefore, we also share pictures of dance showings held by DaCi Brazilian members. These artistic works were presented on the stage at the city of Vicosa in the state of Minas Gerais.

Work in progress “Em lacos”; artistic director Letícia Oliveira (dance teacher); dancers: Sophia, Vinícius, Alba, Alberto, Carolina, Tércia, Clara, Hillary. Local: Department of Arts and Humanities, Federal University of Vicosa, MG.

Brasil



This work explores issues related to the dance creation process through an anti-colonial perspective.

This work is part of the master's research from Letícia Oliveira, at the Federal University of Ouro Preto.

This work in progress “Dinovo” had two artistic directors: Alba Vieira and Vinicius Macena; dancers: Hillary, Alberto, Clara, Sophia and Alba. Local: Auditorium Academic-cultural space Fernando Sabino. This choreography was an action from Vinicius’ research on the interfaces between dance and neuroscience.

Currently, many public universities on Brazil are on strike. Academic workers, including many professors, having being on strike for about one month at more than 60 federal universities across the country. Having faced more than a decade of declining budgets, we are demanding higher wages and more funding to pay for crumbling infrastructure, among other things. Now we are in the fourth week of the strike: at many institutions, the classes have been halted, and the campuses are empty. DaCi members presented an artistic performance on May 10th, 2024, at the main square in Vicosa. K-12 public school teachers are also on strike in many cities in the state of Minas Gerais. This artistic performance took place during a public act by teachers' associations in favor of free, quality public education. We hope our actions will give the Federal government leverage to negotiate a better deal with lawmakers. The performance can be viewed at via [LINK](#).

Alba Vieira, National Representative



Australia

With thanks to
Kathy Vlassopoulos

We would like to recognise outgoing daCi Australia representative, Kathy Vlassopoulos for her dedication to daCi for the past four decades. During her time Kathy was a great advocate, contributor and a key point of connection for many Australian members. Her support during the handover has been invaluable.

National
Representatives

Jacqueline Cooper and Kerrin Rowlands took on the role as co-representatives in February 2024 and would like to recognise the support of Kathy Vlassopoulos, Jeff Meiners and Norma Sue Fisher-Stitt during the handover process.

Introducing Jacqueline Cooper

I live on Gadigal Country in Sydney, New South Wales and am the Learning Coordinator in the Education Team at [Sydney Dance Company](#). My role at is to create and facilitate dance learning experiences through a range of workshops and performances for primary through to tertiary students, and resources and professional learning for practising educators. Jeff Meiners introduced me to daCi in 2022 whilst I was completing my Master of Research degree with [Macquarie University](#). I attended my first daCi conference virtually in 2022 and was delighted by the sense of community despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. I am honoured to represent the Australian dance education community with my colleague Kerrin and look forward to further deepening the international conversation about dance for young people.



Upcoming sector engagement - Sydney Dance Company

From June - July 2024 the [Sydney Dance Company](#) Education Team will travel to regional Australian communities Cairns, Shoalhaven, Wagga Wagga, Mandurah, Albany and Karratha to deliver contemporary creative dance workshops to primary, secondary students, dance studios and community groups. The workshops offer a unique experience for young people living in regional areas to engage with [Sydney Dance Company](#), to be guided through creative tasks, Company repertoire and explore how the SDC creates and performs original movement. The workshops are an integral part of Sydney Dance Company's community outreach, engagement with the youth dance sector and provide opportunities for generalist, specialist and studio teachers to participate in professional learning.

Australia

Introducing Kerrin Rowlands

I live on Kaurna Country in Adelaide, South Australia and am a lecturer at the [University of South Australia](#) in early childhood and primary arts education. As a daCi member I contributed to the proceedings from Panpapanpalya Adelaide, 2018 and presented at the daCi conference in Toronto, Canada in 2022. I am really excited to represent daCi as a co-representative with Jacqueline. I look forward to engaging with daCi members internationally, and bringing further recognition of daCi to our Australian dance community.



Membership update

With regard to historical data, 2018 remains a strong membership year with 21 active members which can be attributed to the 2018 daCi international conference held in Adelaide, hosted by the University of South Australia. In 2024, our focus is re-engaging lapsed members, membership retention and attracting new members. We currently sit at 13 members, with 4 lapsed members interested in renewing through our [EOI Membership Renewal Form](#).

Conference update

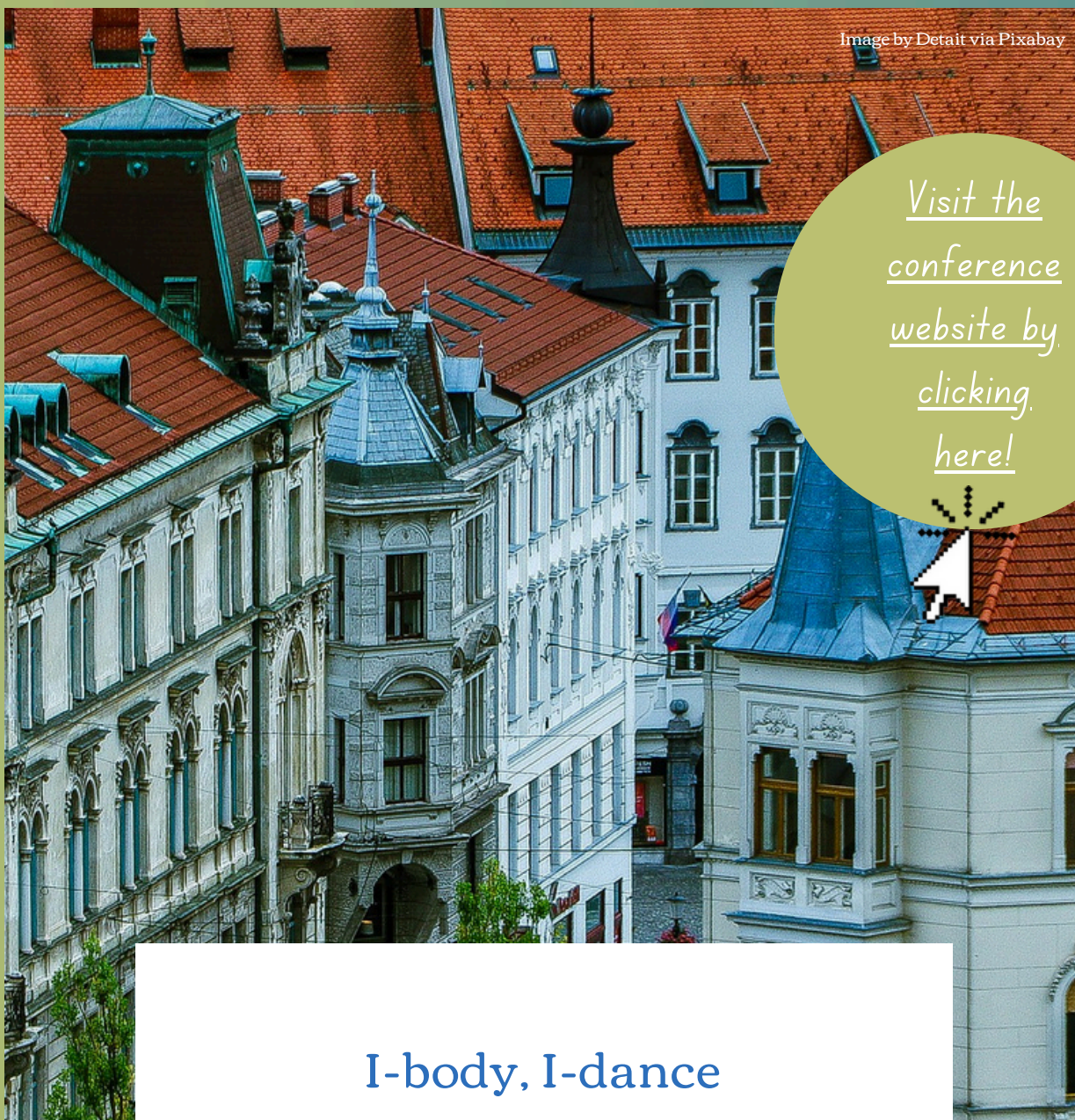
We look forward to hosting our first country meeting as national representatives. We have had 10 submissions from Australia. We expect 7-10 Australian delegates will attend the 2024 conference.

Plans for 2024 - 2025

In preparation for Wild Apricot we have: registered as a business, opened a new bank account and distributed a digital [EOI Membership Renewal Form](#) to lapsed members (with promising results)), a similar EOI Form will be distributed in a membership drive). Over the coming year we endeavour to:

- Support current members and encourage continued membership renewal
- Establish new systems of communication and clarity in administration: newsletter, emails, Zoom gatherings, cold calls, social media drive, shared google drive, digital forms and updated record keeping
- Increase and diversify new memberships
- Attract members from diverse regions of Australia
- Zoom event for members from across Australia
- Establish state happenings and professional learning
- Work towards establishing an Australian Chapter
- Increase daCi's visibility in Australia

In the coming months, we hope to meet with other national representatives, members of the executive and advisory board. We are interested in how you connect and engage with your national community and members. We are eager to hear about your projects and research to further deepen the international conversation with our Australian membership base.



I-body, I-dance

See you very soon in
Ljubljana, Slovenia!

Excitement is building for the **daCi 2024 conference**, and its website is your gateway to all the latest updates and essential information!

Visit the home page for a warm welcome and a glimpse into the dance-filled adventure awaiting you or explore the conference theme section to dive into the heart of "I-Body, I-Dance".

The conference website is your go-to place to explore the detailed program for both adults and young dancers. Additionally, you can find an "info pack" with all the essential information: conference schedule, venues, food options, additional programs, group activities, tourist day details, and much more.

The journey begins at: [daci 2024](#)



Want the Latest Conference Updates?

Follow daCi 2024 on Instagram!

Greetings from the daCi 2024 organising committee! As the buzz around the daCi 2024 Conference grows, we're excited to invite you on an exclusive journey through the heart of dance. Join us on Instagram, your front-row seat to the latest updates, behind-the-scenes moments, and a vibrant community sharing the love for dance education. Let's connect, inspire, and dance together towards an unforgettable experience in Ljubljana, Slovenia!

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



Stay Informed: daCi2024 Instagram profile has become the hub of all things 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: It offers exclusive content that you won't find anywhere else. The daCi2024 team is 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 even before the conference stars.

Visual Delights: They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and on daCi2024 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. daCi2024 Instagram profile can serve as a virtual meeting point where you can exchange ideas, share your thoughts, and be part of a global community.

NOTE: Feel free to contact info@daci2024.org if need assistance on how to follow daCi2024 via Instagram and please share the news with your dance communities!



The Last Dance

A Tribute to Joyce Boorman

It is with sadness that we received the news that Joyce Boorman passed away on March 23, 2024, at the age of 91. After living an active academic life in Edmonton, Canada she returned to England for her retirement years. Joyce touched many lives through her teaching and colleagues and friends have sent their condolences and reached out to share their thoughts about the impact she had on their lives.

I am one of those people who was inspired by her work. I met Joyce at the first Dance and the Child International (daCi) conference held in Sweden in 1982. We spent an afternoon together and I heard about her work at the University of Alberta and the Alberta Children's Creative Dance Theatre (ACCDT). Joyce was interested in my work with children and how I used Motif Description in my teaching. Several weeks later I received a letter from her inviting me to Edmonton to further my studies and teach in the ACCDT. I arrived in August 1984 and the rest is a story for another time. My time in the children's theatre was informative and delightful. Joyce was magical with young children, leading them in joyous activity and imaginative journeys through movement and dance.

Joyce was born in the United Kingdom, and received her teaching certificate at St. Gabriel's College, London, and an advanced diploma from the Laban Art of Movement Studio. She taught in England until the late 1960s, when she emigrated to Canada. She continued her studies, earning an MA from the Department of Ballet and Modern Dance at the University of Utah, and a PhD from the Department of Elementary Education at the University of Alberta in 1980.

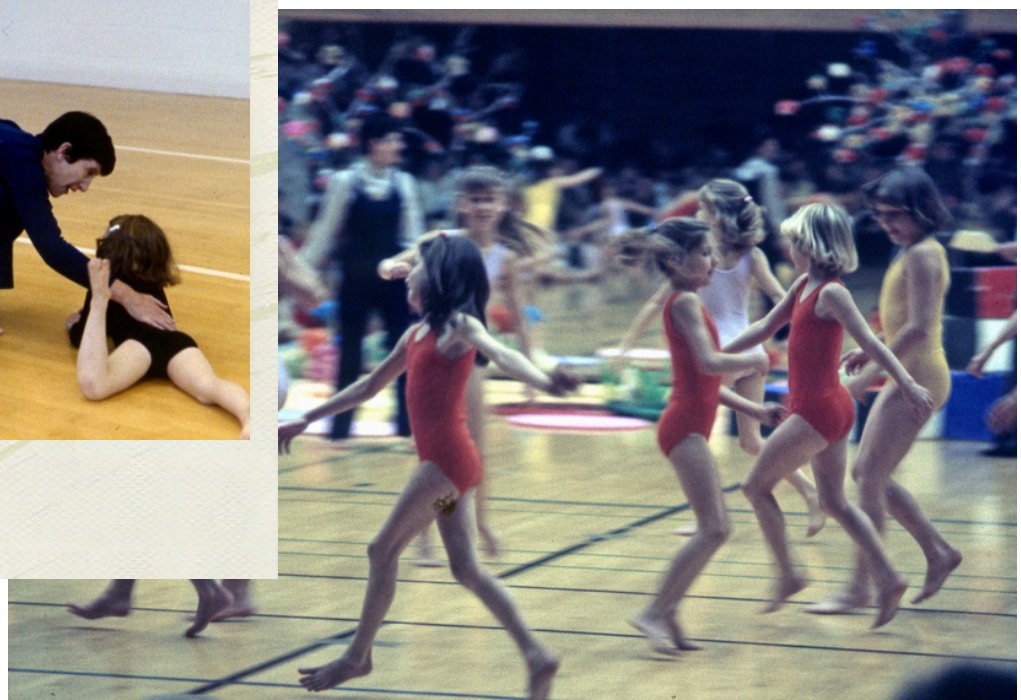
Joyce's influence extended to public education with many school divisions adopting her adaptation of Rudolf Laban's movement theories. Her work influenced many educators and guided the creation and implementation of dance curricula in school and community programs. She also authored several critical works on creative dance for children, taught in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and directed the Alberta Children's Creative Dance Theatre there. She taught many workshops, locally, nationally, and internationally demonstrating her creative dance process for young children.



She is widely recognized as the driving force and organizer behind the First International Conference on "Dance and the Child" at the University of Alberta in July 1978. The Conference was subtitled "The Child as Spectator, Creator, Performer" and was sponsored by the Dance Committee of Canadian Association of Health, Physical Education CAHPER (later adding the D for Dance), and Alberta Culture. Many dance educators who had read her work or attended her workshops attended the conference. They were supportive of her idea for an international organization and delegates from Stockholm, Sweden stepped forward to host the first conference of daCi. In August, 1982 the first official daCi conference, titled "Children and Youth Dancing" was held at the Swedish Ballet School and 182 delegates from 27 countries attended. Bengt Hagar, president of the Conseil de la Danse (CIDD) brought greetings and said "The International Council for Dance attaches great importance to this conference. It will cover a field of particular interest to UNESCO, a vital part of contemporary education of the young" (Conference Program, 1982). The conference, chaired by Birgit Boman with the Swedish Division of daCi, was the beginning of over thirty years of daCi activity.

Many students and teachers were impacted by Joyce's work, and she received various awards for this work: The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal for professional contributions to the Canadian Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (CAHPER), the Tait McKenzie Medallion of CAHPER, and the Alberta Achievement Award of Excellence.

Ann Kipling Brown, PhD





Mary-Elizabeth Manley daCi EC member

(Book article)

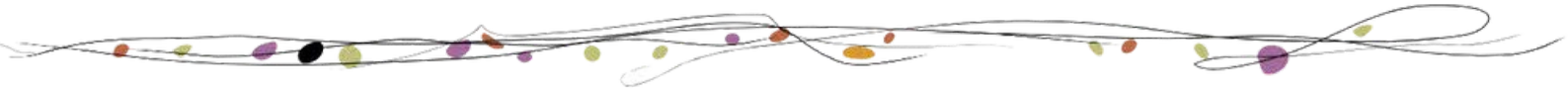
Roots and Wings: Virginia Tanner's Dance Life and Legacy

The first book to detail Virginia Tanner's career and her influence on the field of dance.

"This work is a significant contribution. Biographical information on people such as Virginia Tanner, who devoted their lives to the development of children through the arts, is almost nonexistent."

By Douglas C. Sonntag, emeritus Director of Dance, National Endowment for the Arts

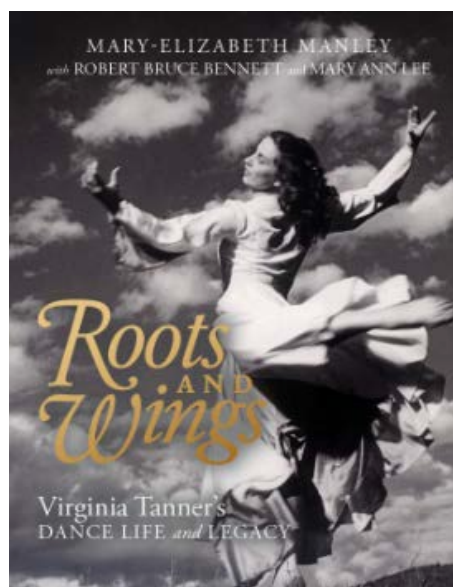
The first book to detail Virginia Tanner's career and her influence on the field of dance.



Roots and Wings recounts Virginia Tanner's remarkable career as a dancer, artist, and educator. From her early experiences assisting at Evelyn Davis's dance school in Washington, DC, to the creation of the Tanner Dance Program at the University of Utah, her influence on the field was pervasive. She channelled children's energy, sharpened their senses, and encouraged youthful, authentic dance expression.

Manley's extensive archival research and personal interviews depict Virginia Tanner as an innovative dance artist and ambitious leader in the field of modern dance. While exploring Tanner's story, Roots and Wings emphasizes the value of unique instructional methodologies for teaching dance to young children and the vital role the arts play in children's lives. Tanner's work endures, continuing to echo with sensitivity and spirit in young dancers throughout the United States and abroad.

- Mary-Elizabeth Manley is professor emerita and senior scholar in York University's Department of Dance. Selected research appears in the Congress on Research in Dance (CORD), Dance Education Around the World and in Dance and the Child: International (daCi) conference proceedings. She was the chief editor for daCi's First 30 Years: Rich Returns and directed ArtStart, an innovative children's community dance and arts program at York University.
- Robert Bruce Bennett (1915-2006) was the husband of Virginia Tanner and the business manager of the Virginia Tanner Creative Dance Program and the Children's Dance Theatre.
- Mary Ann Lee is director of the University of Utah Tanner Dance Program and Children's Dance Theatre and adjunct associate professor of modern dance in the School of Dance at the University of Utah. She has published articles and a book on dance pedagogy for young dancers.





Thank you for reading the Summer 2024 Newsletter
from the Executive Committee and National Reps!

Executive Committee

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SpringBoard Cassandra Giannone (Australia)

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

National Representatives

Australia: Jacqueline Cooper, jacquelinec@sydneydancecompany.com

Kerrin Rowlands, kerrin.rowlands@unisa.edu.au

Brazil: Alba Vieira, albapvieira1@gmail.com

Barbados: Shama Harding, pazazdancebgi@gmail.com

Canada: Tanya Berg, tanyacb2@yorku.ca

Croatia: Jasmina Zagrajski Vukelić, samsa.zg@gmail.com

Denmark: Laura Navndrup Black, lanb@scenekunstskolen.dk

Estonia: Laura Kvelstein, laura.kvelstein@gmail.com

Finland: Anna-Maria Vairio, dacifinland@gmail.com

Jamaica: Carolyn Russell-Smith, khulcha@hotmail.com

Japan: Ebbe Daigo, ebbe@y.ruri.waseda.jp

Malaysia: Muhammad Fazli Taib Bin Saearani, fazli@fmisp.upsi.edu.my

New Zealand: Clare Battersby, fairyclarenz@gmail.com

Portugal: Elisabete Monteiro, emonteiro@fmh.ulisboa.pt

Slovenia: Nina Meško, nina.mesko@jskd.si

Sweden: Robin Hagggar, robin.hagggar@bredband.net

Switzerland: Daria Höhener, info@daci.ch

South Africa: Lisa Wilson, lisa.wilson@uct.ac.za

Taiwan: Ann Tai (Ann Hayward), anntai62@hotmail.com

UK: Janine Streuli, JStreuli@rad.org.uk

USA: Joy A Guarino, guarinja@buffalostate.edu

