

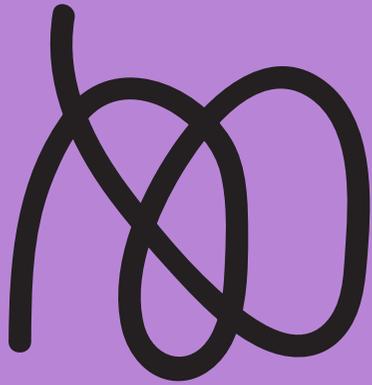


VIRTUAL  
AMERICAN  
DANCE  
ACADEMY

# INFORMATION ABOUT VADA

The VADA Virtual American Dance Academy is a project to be established as a collaboration between: the American Embassy in Northern Macedonia, Civil Society Organization “Beatrix Cultural Center”, Social-Cultural Space Center - “Jadro” (first hybrid institution in N.Macedonia co-founded by the Municipality of Center in Skopje and “Jadro” Association of independent cultural scene) and Youth Cultural Center. Other partners supporting the program are Washington State Department, American Dance Abroad and American Voices.

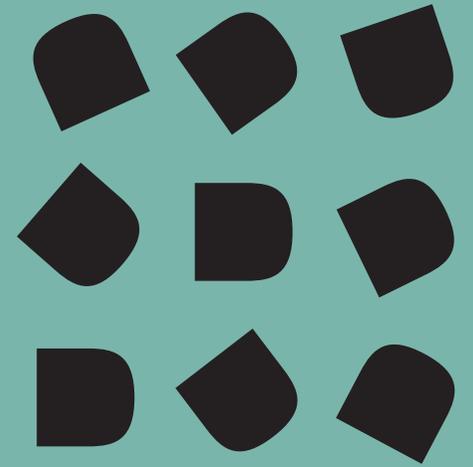
The Virtual American Dance Academy is intended to bring a new, innovative approach in education, specifically targeting dance as a fast-raising discipline in the region through hybrid teaching modules of both online and offline models of work. The idea behind this project emerged as a collaboration between the American Embassy, Beatrix Cultural Center, Social-Cultural Space “Center Jadro” and Youth Cultural Center, and as a result of a longer period of work of the “Beatrix Cultural Center” within the dance educational sector, where they’ve managed to develop platforms for further education and knowledge exchange amongst artist from the local, regional and international community. The main reason for developing such a project is the fact that the world, not only Northern Macedonia, lacks hip-hop dance academies and companies, whereas there are many academies and companies for ballet, contemporary dance, or other dance styles. This brings all artists, who work actively in the independent urban dance scene, to be left to an unenviable position - without opportunities for further education and possibilities for delving deeper into urban dance techniques. In the end, it was inevitable to establish cooperation with the US Embassy, and as a proposal arose the possibility of creating such a project, which will have not only short-term but also long-term effect on the dance community in our country.



MOTION



CONNECTION



RHYTHM

# PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

## **Beatrix Cultural Center**

An NGO founded in 2014, working in the field of dance and performing arts.

## **U.S Embassy in North Macedonia**

The Embassy of United States of America in Northern Macedonia

## **Social–Cultural Space "Center Jadro"**

First hybrid institution in Northern Macedonia established on the principle of civic-public partnership

## **Youth Cultural Center**

Youth Cultural Center established in 1972, promoting culture, cultural and scientific values of young people and covering all cultural expressions (music, film, theater, literature, design, etc.)

## **American Dance Abroad**

A national organization that seeks equitable cultural engagement among American dance artists and companies and their international counterparts.

## **American Voices**

A nonprofit organization that has been conducting cross-cultural engagement with audiences in over 140 nations worldwide since 1993.

**The program of VADA academy is supported by Washington State Department**



# APPLICATION AND ACADEMY TIMELINE

## **APPLICATION TIMELINE:**

10.01.2021 / Applications open

17.01.2021 / Applications close

17.01.2021 - 25.01.2021 / Applications are sifted against eligibility criteria

## **Eligibility criteria:**

1. CV / Dancing CV
2. Motivational Letter / Expressing how the applicant plans to disseminate what is learned within the academy
3. 1,5-2 minutes video of improvisation or choreography

28.01.2021 / Results

30.01.2021 / Greeting Ceremony

## **ACADEMY:**

07.02.2021 / Beginning of academy

Duration: 8 months

Period: 07.02.2021- 30.09.2021

Packages (phases) (x3):

The hybrid dance academy will include both online and offline program, primarily focused on education and then leading to production creation where the work will be presented to a wider audience.

**1. ONLINE PROGRAM:** Online Classes with teachers from the U.S.A. (practice and theory)

Period: 07.02.201 - 30.06.2021

**2. OFFLINE PROGRAM:** Deepening educational process through classes in person with the teachers from USA

Period: 13.08.2021 - 28.08.2021

**3. PRODUCTION PROGRAM:** Performances created by the teachers with local community's teachers and dancers presented to a wider audience

Period: 28.08.2021-30.08.2021



# COURSES

The academic semester will be divided on five courses, all of which will delve deeply into the technique of a particular urban dance style.

## **OLD SCHOOL**

Hip-hop dance is a broad category that includes a variety of styles. The older dance styles that were created in the 1970s include uprock, breaking, and the funk styles. Breaking was created in The Bronx, New York in the early 1970s. In its earliest form, it began as elaborations on James Brown's "Good Foot" dance which debuted in 1972. Breaking at this period was not primarily floor-oriented as seen today; it started out as toprock which dancers perform while standing up. Old school today refers to using vocabulary of classical old moves and use of the groove as the base for movement. What distinguishes hip-hop from other forms of dance is that it is often "freestyle" (improvisational) in nature and hip-hop dance crews often engage in freestyle dance competitions—colloquially referred to as "battles".

## **POPPING & ELECTRIC BOOGIE**

Popping was derived from the earlier Boogaloo street dance movement taking place in Oakland, California during the late 1960s, the Boogaloo dance form incorporated techniques of soulful footwork steps, arm movements, stop-motion animation, the robot, & posing hard - which contracted muscles during robotic poses to the music of Funk. It is based on the technique of quickly contracting and relaxing muscles to cause a jerk in a dancer's body, referred to as a pop or a hit.

## **NEW SCHOOL**

The dance industry responded to hip-hop dance by creating a commercial version of it. This urban choreography or studio hip-hop, sometimes called "new style", is the kind of hip-hop dance seen in rap, R&B, and pop music videos and concerts. It is still controversial whether new style should be seen as hip-hop, since it includes a variety of techniques: contemporary, jazz, etc.

## **HOUSE DANCE**

House dance is a freestyle street dance and social dance that has roots in the underground house music scene of Chicago and New York. It is typically danced to loud and bass-heavy electronic dance music provided by DJs in nightclubs or at raves.

## **DANCEHALL**

Dancehall is a genre of Jamaican popular music that originated in the late 1970s.[4] Initially, dancehall was a more sparse version of reggae than the roots style, which had dominated much of the 1970s.[5][6] In the mid-1980s, digital instrumentation became more prevalent, changing the sound considerably, with digital dancehall (or “ragga”) becoming increasingly characterized by faster rhythms.

The popularity of dancehall has spawned dance moves that help to make parties and stage performances more energetic. Dancing is an integral part of bass culture genres. As people felt the music in the crowded dancehall venues, they would do a variety of dances. Eventually, dancehall artists started to create songs that either invented new dances or formalized some moves done by dancehall goers. Many dance moves seen in hip hop videos are actually variations of dancehall dances.



**JOIN THE  
REVOLUTION  
IN URBAN DANCE.**