



## **Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio**

### **Accepting credentials for 2019 – 2020 Teaching Artists**

The *Dancing Classrooms* program is a ten week – twenty session social development program teaching ballroom dance to children during their school day. *Dancing Classrooms* is not about teaching ballroom dancing. The dance is a tool for getting the children to break down social barriers, learn about honor and respect, treat others carefully, improve self-confidence, communicate and cooperate, and accept others even if they are different. Our mission is to build social awareness, confidence and self-esteem in children through the practice of social dance.

#### **We are currently seeking Teaching Artists who have:**

- The belief that every child can learn and excel, regardless of his/her shape, size, family situation or ethnic background
- A passion for dance and creative expression that is easily communicated to, and contagious among, children
- Self confidence in his/her dance and artistic abilities
- High expectations for what every child can achieve through the program
- An ability to express him/herself verbally in such a way that deserves attention
- An understanding of children's classroom dynamics and how to manage behavior
- Flexibility and a good sense of humor

***Dancing Classrooms Teaching Artists are:*** actors, dancers, individuals who can move with rhythm; have excellent interpersonal skills; love kids; able to work in a team; work in a classroom; have a generous spirit; a sense of humor, of language, of rhythm; willingness to travel throughout Cleveland. You will be fingerprinted with state of Ohio upon employment. Teaching Artists are paid on an hourly basis as seasonal part-time employees. Employment is during the school year, on school days, between the hours of 7:30 am – 4:00pm.

**Requirements:** Applicant must be available to attend an unpaid four-day training from 8:00 – 4:00 in July 2019 (training dates are: July 23-26, 2019); make a solid commitment to a sequential ten-week residency two days per week in a school during the hours of 8:00am and 4pm.

**Training commitment is non-negotiable, please do not apply if you're unable to commit to attending training.**

Please see pages 2-3 for additional information.

**Submission Criteria:** Send your resume, cover letter, 2 references (with email) and photo via email. References will be contacted

**Send credentials:** Email: [info@dancingclassroomsneo.org](mailto:info@dancingclassroomsneo.org)

Thank you for taking the time to contact us. We sincerely appreciate your submission. We will contact you to meet if we believe you are a good match for our team. Kindly refrain from contacting us about your application.



## **BASIC OVERVIEW - Becoming a Dancing Classrooms Teaching Artist**

*Dancing Classrooms* is a 10 week – 20 session social development program for 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade children that utilizes ballroom dancing as a vehicle to change the lives of not only the children who participate in the program but also the lives of the teachers and parents who support these children.

*Dancing Classrooms* was developed by Pierre Dulaine in New York City in 1994 and brought to Northeast Ohio by Jo Jo Carcioppolo, a protégé of Mr. Dulaine (and a Northeast Ohio native) in 2008. *Dancing Classrooms* uses the rich and varied vocabularies of social dance to increase cooperation, to improve concentration, and to explore areas of commonality, understanding and cultural awareness.

Mad Hot Ballroom, an award-winning documentary capturing the *Dancing Classrooms* journey from classroom experience to the culminating Colors of the Rainbow Team Match, was released in 2005 and greatly accelerated national, and international, interest in *Dancing Classrooms*.

### **To become a *Dancing Classrooms* Teaching Artist, a person must have the following character traits:**

- the belief that every child can learn and excel, regardless of his/her shape, size, family background, ethnic background, etc.
- a passion for dance/creative expression that is easily communicated to, and contagious among, the children
- self confidence in his/her dance/artistic abilities
- high expectations for what every child can achieve through the program
- an ability to express him/herself verbally in such a way that deserves attention
- an understanding of children's classroom dynamics and how to manage behavior
- flexibility and a good sense of humor

### **Specifically, a Teaching Artist candidate should:**

- have experience working with 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade children. This experience could come from teaching school, being a camp counselor, being a Sunday School teacher, even as a parent. Understanding the developmental realities of 11-12 year old children is important
- have a dance/creative expression background – not necessarily as a professional
- have the ability to commit to part-time work during the day, Monday-Friday, for approximately 13 weeks in either the Fall, Winter, or Spring school semesters
- have dependable transportation – personal vehicle or reliable mass transit options
- be able to pass a criminal background check

### **If you become a Teaching Artist, you will be expected to sign an agreement to:**

- provide Dancing Classroom instruction between certain dates; provide 20 lessons as detailed in the Dancing Classrooms syllabus per the schedule noted on the following page; follow lesson plan as detailed using terms and steps in a consistent manner
- contact the DC Coordinator and/or Liaison, by 7:30 a.m. on days that the Teaching Artist cannot provide instruction per the schedule on the following page
- collaborate with the School Principal, Classroom Teacher and DC Coordinator to facilitate the Culminating Event
- collaborate with the School Principal and Classroom Teacher to audition and select the 12 students who will participate in the Colors of the Rainbow competition
- provide all necessary instruction to the group of 12 during the week prior to the Colors of the Rainbow competition
- accompany the group of 12 to the Colors of the Rainbow competition
- attend all required DC team meetings
- sign a non-compete agreement that will restrict the use of all Dancing Classrooms materials to only the provision of classes contracted



## ARE YOU THE RIGHT FIT? Ask yourself these import questions.

**Attire:** There is a dress code for Teaching Artists in our organization. Ladies wear a skirt/blouse or dress and gentlemen wear slacks and a dress shirt with tie; dress or dance shoes no sneakers.

Are you in agreement to do this?  yes  no

**Communication:** We will need to be in contact with you often primarily via email and will expect that you acknowledge and respond within 24 hours during the business week.

- Do you have a functioning cell phone?  yes  no
- Do you have an email you consistently check?  yes  no

**Travel:** You will be expected to travel throughout Northeast Ohio (primarily Cuyahoga, Lorain and/or Summit County is possible). At times, our Teaching Artists travel in inclement weather (depending on the season) to several schools in a day.

Is this something you are willing to do?  yes  no

**Training:** You will be trained intensively in the Dulaine Method and Syllabus. Your training will teach and prepare you to meet our expectations that you will teach with our **specific** methods, vocabulary, and standards.

Do you accept being able to fulfill this to the best of your ability?  yes  no

Are you available and willing to attend a the four day unpaid training on July 23-26, 2019?  yes  no

### How is *Dancing Classrooms* integrated into a school:

- *Dancing Classrooms* is a 10 week-20 session, 45-50 minute training program applied to all of the fifth grade classes during the school day in participating schools. It is **not** an after school program
- Prior to the program being implemented at a school, the DCNEO School Liaison & Teaching Artist will meet with the school principal, fifth grade classroom teachers, PE and/or Art teachers to explain how the *Dancing Classrooms* process will unfold
- 10 week program is implemented
- At the end of the 10 week program, each school holds a Culminating Event. All of the fifth and/or eighth graders put on a performance for the other students, faculty and especially parents
- After the Culminating Event, schools that are interested in competing in the Colors of the Rainbow Team Match (as highlighted in Mad Hot Ballroom) choose 12 students (six ladies and six gentlemen) to represent their school. These students are not necessarily the "best" dancers and are jointly chosen by the Teaching Artists and school personnel (5<sup>th</sup> grade only)
- Competing schools move through a semi and finals process