

USA Dance Strategic Plan – Statement of Mission, Vision, Values

Identity

USA Dance is a non-profit membership-driven organization, representing a fifty-year legacy of excellence in dance, inspiring a healthy lifestyle for all generations, and as the United States Olympic Committee recognized National Governing Body of DanceSport, USA Dance promotes DanceSport as an Olympic recognized sport.

Mission

Our mission is to improve the quality and the quantity of ballroom dancing in the United States.

USA Dance exists to create and enrich a nationwide community of ballroom dancers, both social and competitive, through a network of chapters, spanning all generations, through education and community outreach.

Our long history of excellence is demonstrated by:

- its recognition as the sole National Governing Body of DanceSport by the United States Olympic Committee, making USA Dance the only organization in the United States that has the right to select United States representatives to participate in world championships that are part of the Olympic family of sporting events
- being the only United States member of the World DanceSport Federation, the International Olympic Committee recognized global governing body for DanceSport
- promoting DanceSport as part of the Olympic movement
- ensuring ethics, fair play, and democratic principles

Vision

- To inspire and improve health and well-being for everyone through ballroom dance
- To integrate and strengthen the community of social and competitive dancers
- To create a welcoming environment which inspires joy, excitement and excellence of dance across the nation

- To develop and produce world class DanceSport athletes that excel and win in world competition

Values

Community: We pursue dance as a lifestyle, seeking to create an environment that is nurturing, supportive, respectful, social, friendly and fun.

Health: We promote the physical and mental benefits of dance for its ability to enhance social well-being.

Olympism: DanceSport is a sport recognized by the International Olympic Committee, and as the National Governing Body of DanceSport in the United States, USA Dance is part of the Olympic movement and supports the principles and ideals of Olympism.

Education: Through dance, we learn, train and coach, leading to growth, development, achievement and self-improvement, and we provide opportunities for outreach to spread the joy of dance to others.

Ethics: USA Dance stands for integrity, social responsibility, democratic governance, civility, and fair play.

About USA Dance, Inc.

USA DANCE Inc., a 501c3 nonprofit organization, is the National Governing Body for DanceSport in the United States, sponsoring and sanctioning the highest quality of competitive dance opportunities in the country, including 11 National Qualifying Events, the National DanceSport Championships and the Collegiate National DanceSport Championships. With 162 local dance chapters, USA Dance supports thousands of grassroots programs and opportunities for both recreational and competitive dancers. USA Dance is a multi-sports member organization of the U.S. Olympic Committee and joins 91 countries within the World DanceSport Federation, sending USA DanceSport athletes to compete at WDSF world games and championships and supporting the global movement to bring DanceSport to the Olympic Games.

USA DANCE is the National Governing Body for DanceSport in the United States and with more than 160 chapters throughout the country is also the representative organization for all social and recreational ballroom and Latin dancers in America, ranging from pre-schoolers to seniors.

For DanceSport, USA Dance is the official member organization of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and the U.S. member of the world governing organization, the World DanceSport Federation (called the WDSF), which is the official global member organization of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Along with the WDSF, USA Dance has the sustaining mission to gain national and global acceptance for DanceSport as an official medal sport in the Olympic Games.

With nearly 19,000 U.S. members who financially support the national programs and with an outreach of more than 200,000 dancers, USA DANCE serves the industry as a leader and also as a 501c3 non-profit organization, approved by the Internal Revenue Service, and is authorized to solicit and receive donations from the public to support its promotional and educational programs.

Important USA Dance programs include the support and establishment of chapters throughout the country, financial and training support of our country's top athletes, organization and regulation of DanceSport competitions at the regional and national levels, encouragement of Special Olympics DanceSport and a K-12 after-school dance programs, support of seniors as recreational dancers and as athletes, fostering of a healthy, productive communications exchange via the general media and the USA Dance website, social media sites and the official publication American Dancer.

Essentially, USA Dance has the overall mission to increase the quality and quantity of ballroom dancing in America.

Community: Chapter Social & Community Activities

USA DANCE chapters create dance opportunities for local citizens by organizing affordable social dances, dance lessons and workshops. Chapter members often

present dance education and live demonstrations in nursing homes, retirement homes, hospitals, schools, shopping malls, and other public places, while striving to educate the public regarding the health and social benefits of ballroom dancing. The goal of each chapter is to serve the national mission on a grassroots level, as a leader and a motivation for ballroom dance activities in the community, colleges and schools. A significant portion of USA Dance's resources is devoted to promoting, organizing and supporting ballroom dancing programs for youth and collegiate dancers.

The basic purpose of each Chapter is to promote ballroom dancing in the local community and to educate the public regarding the physical, mental, and social benefits of ballroom dancing. Chapters welcome beginner dancers and help them get started in ballroom dancing. Talented dancers are encouraged to become DanceSport Athletes. Chapters promote and sponsor ballroom dancing for competitors, social dancers, and the general public. They work toward the recognition of ballroom dancing as an art form, a lifetime recreational activity and an Olympic sport. Chapters strive to bring the joy of ballroom dancing to as many people as possible reaching out to all ages and skill levels.

Olympism: DanceSport Activities

USA DANCE organizes and promotes local dance competitions, regional dancesport competitions (called National Qualifying Events), and the USA Dance National DanceSport Championships, where dancers from pre-teen to seniors 55+ compete within their divisions and at varying proficiency levels. At the USA Dance "National", the United States' World Teams are selected and represent the USA at upcoming WDSF World DanceSport Championships and World Games. USA Dance works to fund Development

Education: Educational and Charitable Mission:

In furtherance of its educational and charitable purposes, USA DANCE promotes ballroom dancing as a recognized sport and a recreational activity, providing opportunities to all Americans.

Objectives include:

1. Educating the general public on how ballroom dancing, as a sport or activity, can greatly enhance the physical and mental well-being and health of its participants, regardless of age, ability or interest level;
2. Also educating the general public-- from pre-school to seniors -- about the social benefits of participating in organized dance activities;
3. Fostering and promoting a willingness and spirit of universal cooperation among co-existing dance, sports and social organizations, both for-profit and non-profit, businesses, teaching and competing professionals and amateurs, and other interest groups to sustain a high level of interest and participation in ballroom and latin dancing;
4. Providing a means of information exchange between the various dance related organizations and promoting a healthy and productive interaction between dancers of all organizations;
5. Eliminating restrictive conditions and policies that would prohibit or discourage participation in dance;
6. Promoting, guiding and supporting social and competitive ballroom dance programs at the collegiate and K-12 levels throughout the nation; and,
7. Fostering and helping sustain purposeful USA Dance chapters throughout the United States in all 50 states.

Purpose & Programs of USA DANCE

Membership

Chapters directly support USA DANCE's national programs to increase the numbers of members--youth, adult, seniors, social, and DanceSport athletes.

Each Chapter is encouraged to publish a chapter websites provide information about the chapter, USA Dance, upcoming events and local contacts. Additionally, a hard copy and/or email newsletter that has value for both social and competitive

members. In addition to news items on ballroom dancing, chapter programs and DanceSport, newsletters usually include:

Media Channels	Content Development Focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• Standard Contact, Email, Phone, Mailing Address• Email Marketing List• Facebook• Hard Copy Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calendar of events regarding dancing,• Articles of Interest• Directory of places in the area to dance ballroom,• Directory of Instructors/Studios• Classified ads, at no cost to members.• Collection of Photos/Videos

Informational Activities/Outreach

Informal and Formal. Man a booth; phone trees, Neighborhood Celebration, City Celebrations. And... Think Global, Act Local

Adult Dance Programs

Affordable social dance programs are the cornerstone of each Chapter's activities. These programs include frequent social dances (usually monthly) supported by the full use of available media coverage to bring in new dancers to Chapter events. Admission charges are discounted for members but all events are open to the public and non-members are encouraged to attend. The social dance programs of Chapters often include exhibitions, demonstrations, mixers and line dances. Singles and students are welcome at Chapter dances.

Black Tie Affair

Most Chapters sponsor at least one elegant, formal affair each year.

Fund Raisers, Scholarships & Advertising

Chapters are encouraged to dedicate at least one monthly dance each year to raising funds to support their K12 or College outreach programs. Chapters sometimes hold special fundraisers to help finance the cost of travel for their competitor members who wish to participate in the USA DANCE National DanceSport Championships. Chapters also sponsor fund raisers for charities, i.e. “Affair of the Heart” (for the Heart Association), Wounded Warriors Appreciation Ball, Alzheimers Foundation and many others.

Dance Lessons

Chapters usually present a one-hour group dance lesson at the beginning of each social dance. Members are encouraged to take some dance lessons to increase their skills and confidence on the dance floor. Chapters also arrange low-cost group dance lessons, workshops, and seminars for their members and are encouraged to provide special dance lessons for beginners.

Performance Teams

Chapter Performance Teams give demonstrations of ballroom dancing at public events. Examples are: Festivals, fairs, expositions and other civic events; shopping malls; clubs; social events; schools; cotillions; nursing homes and any event or location that will attract significant numbers of people.

Collegiate Program

Chapters help start and then support ballroom dance programs in colleges. This includes fundraising events and seeking donations by businesses and college alumnus. College DanceSport Teams participate in competitions between colleges and in USA Dance DanceSport events, and sometimes give demonstrations in other colleges, high schools and at public events.

K12 Youth Program

Chapters develop programs of free or very low-cost ballroom dance lessons for school students K-12. These young dancers might give dance demonstrations in local schools and civic events, and, if interested, be encouraged to participate in DanceSport competitions. The goal is to expose young people to the physical, mental and social benefits of dance and develop talented DanceSport athletes in support of the Olympic movement while providing useful activities for students either during or after regular school hours.

DanceSport Competition

Chapters are encouraged to sponsor a Chapter Competition and to encourage their members to participate in USA Dance sponsored DanceSport competitions or to attend and enjoy these events as spectators.

Olympics

DanceSport is a sport recognized by the International Olympic Committee, and as the National Governing Body of DanceSport in the United States, USA Dance is part of the Olympic movement and supports the principles and ideals of Olympism.