

**SpringBoard Handbook**  
A Development and Sustainability Program

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## **Introduction:**

Dance and the Child International, (daCi) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978, with the aim of developing increasing opportunities for children and young people to experience dance as creators, performers and spectators.

With respect for the cultural identities and gender of each young person within a spirit of international understanding, daCi's goal is to facilitate exchange and collaboration related to young people's dance both within and between countries. daCi also encourages and supports research into all aspects of dance related to young people.

The SpringBoard is an initiative designed to give young dancers between 18 and 25 opportunities to continue their engagement with daCi by becoming active members.

It also provides a platform to introduce potential new members (dancers/teachers) into the daCi community.

Being a member of the SpringBoard will provide opportunities to collaborate and exchange ideas with other young dancers/teachers from around the world over a period of three years. With mentorship from a daCi Executive Board member, the candidates will also prepare themselves for attendance at the next tri-annual international daCi conference.

## **Mission Statement:**

The purpose of the SpringBoard is to provide for the sustainable growth of daCi by supporting the development and continued engagement of returning youth participants, or new young adult members. SpringBoard's mission is to facilitate active engagement throughout the international conferences, as a liaison connecting the youth, adult and global dance components of daCi and as active members in their National Chapters.

## **SpringBoard Program Objectives:**

- To bring new young dancers/teachers into the daCi community.
- To (re)engage daCi members over the age of 18 by providing them with an opportunity to become active in the organization, both on a national and international level.
- To create opportunities for (inter)national relationships and exchanges in order to create stronger foundations for daCi growth.
- To be a stepping-stone for those members who are actively seeking their own opportunities to grow in their local communities as well as the international dance community.
- To support members in bringing agency to their national chapters and giving voice to the organization in a global context.

## **SpringBoard Composition and Terms of Service:**

Those eligible for the SpringBoard are undergraduate/graduate dance students/teachers over the age of 18 who are interested in working with and/or supporting children and young people in dance.

The SpringBoard will consist of 6 people in total, 2 members from the country that is hosting the conference and 4 international members representing different continents or areas of the world. Two of the international members should be from the country of the following conference.

### Membership Term:

The members of the SpringBoard will serve for a period of four years:

- 1 year leading into the first conference
- 3 years post-conference

### Financial Commitments:

daCi will provide the following financial support for SpringBoard members:

- Support in transportation to and from the first conference\*
- Accommodation during the first conference
- First conference registration fee

*\*Details of financial support available at each conference will be articulated in the SpringBoard Agreement.*

SpringBoard members will be responsible for the following:

- Membership fee for their national daCi chapter for a period of 4 years
- Any other costs incurred while attending the conference

### Expectations of Service:

The following duties are designed to develop familiarity with the daCi community and its mission during the 3-year term, while opening doors for continued involvement within the organization:

- Connect and develop relationships with other SpringBoard members.
- Develop and facilitate Youth Forums at the conference
- Proactively generate and share new ideas for activities at the conference that further support the SpringBoard's role in creating a more engaging conference experience for young participants.
- Attend and observe the opening Advisory Board Meeting, and actively participate in the closing Advisory Board Meeting by providing observations and feedback from experiences at the conference.
- Become actively engaged in local community daCi projects to develop awareness, provide information, and create opportunities for new members to join their national chapter.
- Foster and utilize relationships developed at the conference – particularly with fellow SpringBoard members – to further strengthen the international daCi community.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Pre-conference:

- “Get to know daCi” (supported by daCi mentors in conjunction with the existing SpringBoard)
- Establish communication methods and interact with one another
- Develop ideas and responsibilities for Youth Forums and other possible conference activities in close collaboration with the Conference Committee.
- Establish/maintain social media presence (ie: facebook, instagram, twitter, for the upcoming conference)

During conference:

- Organize and facilitate Youth Forums
- Encourage and facilitate social interaction (face-to-face and media) between young participants. youth-youth, and youth-adult (ie. photo booth or other activities, social media etc.)
- Engage with and participate in conference activities (not in administrative/facilitative roles)
- Be actively present at the General Council Meeting and the national meeting of their own country afterwards.

Post-conference:

- Become actively involved in the national chapters of their home countries
- Execute tasks agreed to at the post-conference Advisory Board Meeting (e.g. website, daCi Youth Facebook, mentoring incoming SpringBoard, etc).

**Beyond the SpringBoard Commitment:**

daCi hopes that SpringBoard members will stay engaged with the organization, and encourages SpringBoard members to take initiative in the way that most resonates with them. Some ideas for continued involvement are as follows:

- Become a mentor to a student or group of students that you met at the conference or in your local community.
- Participate/present at the next conference (collaborate with someone from your new network of international dance professionals on a research project or creative performance; develop your Youth Forum experience into a paper or presentation; create and teach a workshop; bring a group of students to the international conference; etc.).
- Contribute to the daCi international or national chapter newsletters or website.
- Volunteer administratively in conference preparation and execution.
- Volunteer operational support for daCi international and/or your national chapter (Website design and maintenance, social media development/leadership).

## **Application Process**

Individuals interested in dance in relation to education, working with young people, and international collaborations, may be nominated by a daCi EC or AB member.

### Application:

The Springboard application form and directions will be posted on the daCi website, and provided to interested applicants on request by their AB member. To apply, applicants will email the following materials to the daCi Secretary, as outlined on the Springboard Application form:

- Application Letter
- Signed SpringBoard Application Form
- CV/Resume
- Letter of recommendation  
*(Note: Those nominated by a daCi EC or AB member should submit a letter of recommendation from that member.)*

### Selection/Acceptance:

Candidates chosen by the selection committee will be notified via email and will be provided with the SpringBoard Agreement, which will include:

- Agreement to become a daCi member for the next three years
- Relevant financial support details specific to the upcoming conference
- Dates of the upcoming international conference and board meetings
- Acceptance of duties and responsibilities as described above
- Agreement acceptance deadline

To complete the process, the daCi Secretary must receive signed SpringBoard agreements via email by the acceptance deadline.