



**Dances of Universal Peace International
Board of Directors**

**Regular Meeting minutes
Tuesday, April 16 2024**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3268838813>

ASSISTANTS

Board Members	Time zone	Start time
Darvesha MacDonald, Chair	Daylight Mountain Time MST	12.00 pm
NurAna Wilansky	Illinois CST	1.00 pm
Arjun Calero	Colombia GMT-5	1.00 pm
Munira Reed	Ohio EST	2.00 pm
Khabir Mayer-Glauninger	Germany CET	8.00 pm
Douglas Stevenson	Illinois	1.00 pm
Yelena Swarana Dujarjoka	Latvia	10,00 pm

Staff	Role	Time zone	Start time
Vakil Carlos Rojas	Executive Director	Colombia GMT-5	1.00 pm
Martha Bracken	Office Manager	Seattle PST	11.00 am

*Toward the One, the Perfection of Love, Harmony, and Beauty, the Only Being;
United with all the Illuminated Souls who form the Embodiment of the Master,
the Spirit of Guidance.*

AGENDA

- [1. Approval of the February 6 meeting minutes](#)
- [2. Comments on our profit and loss statement and Balance sheet January/march 2024](#)
- [3. Project reports](#)
- [4. Guidance Council report](#)
- [5. Any other business](#)
- [6. Dates of future BoD meetings \(2024\)](#)

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting held February 6, 2024

One Board member to move acceptance of the minutes, one to second, and record if all are in favor. Arjun and Munira move in acceptance.

We record all in favor of accepting the referenced minutes.

2. Comments on our profit and loss statement and Balance sheet January/march 2024

[Here is the link to our current working documents.](#)

These documents must be reviewed by Martha once more with our accountant.

Since this week is hectic for accountants, we expect to send you the revised Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statement during the following week.

3. Project reports

Update from the Small Grants Program

April 15, 2024

Our 2024 grant cycle is off to a strong start! Since the opening of this cycle on January 1, 2024, the Small Grants Program has received 22 grant applications from 11 different countries: Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Germany, India, New Zealand, Spain, Tunisia, USA, and Venezuela. All but three of the applications have been approved; one is still pending. We have spent \$9,708.75 of the \$25,000 approved by the Board of Directors for the 2024 calendar year.

Several grant recipients answered our request for testimonials and video clips to be used in the promotional video being created for us by Inana Calero. This short, informative video will be completed when we celebrate our third anniversary on June 1, 2024!

We are on track with our budget, and the program runs smoothly and efficiently. Our committee members remain enthusiastic and dedicated! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Best wishes, Rukmini Miller, grants@dancesofuniversalpeace.org

Update from the Beyond program, April 15, 2024

The project visited Tunez and Moroco to meet contacts and communities. Time has been invested in administrative meetings, contacting organizers, establishing dates for events, studying the type of events to develop and their duration, and planning the first arrival of dances to Africa in four countries. The project also created a new web page and helped to process some conflicts in the regions by structuring a gradual protocol for conflict resolution.

Update from the Migration project, April 15, 2024

The project acquired the “business” subscription in the Mighty Networks platform and created a “skeleton” structure. The director showcased the structure to the migration team, the North American Network, several board members, and some Guidance Council members. So far, the GC has suggested improvements to the language and structure that we have included.

- We will not talk about “spiritual traditions” but “sacred sources” or “sources of inspiration.”
- We will not use the “Sufi” category but the “Universalist Sufi” category
- We will not use #hashtags to classify dances. However, our “Google Type” powerful search capability will be added to the platform to locate any word inside the dances’ description already in the scripts.
- So far, subscriptions for DANCERS and MUSICIANS have been accepted. There have been many questions, but no real opposition to continuing.

Our most crucial next step is to contract an assistant who will be responsible for copying the dance library into Mighty and ensuring all our web page information is migrated. This person will start structuring audio and video file systems if time allows.

Work in the next six months includes

1. Improving our image banners following some CG ideas and suggestions
2. Working along with BOD and GC to set up a system to qualify videos and video sequence production/qualification
3. Creating our own video and audio file system in specialized broadcasting platforms linked to mighty networks (like Vimeo and SoundCloud)
4. Creating a sequence of learning materials using the available resources for each category of users
5. Invite a first cohort of network members to test the system

Content Migration Assistant for DUP. Payment: 1,500 USD. Objective: To migrate our dance library and web page content to our new platform in three months.

Description of the job: the assistant will access our library and download PDF audio and video files. They will convert PDFs to text and dance music scripts to image formats. The assistant will organize the material according to categories. Then, they will access the new platform and paste the content in an orderly manner according to the Director's instructions. There is no need for programming or software knowledge. It is a routine copy/paste task that needs careful attention. The assistant will create a list of migrated content to control advances and help collect pictures and add them to the articles to enrich our new online platform. PROFILE. Proficiency in using social networks and skillfully using computers and the internet. Must be able to do basic PDF and image editions (must be able to change image size and formats among documents) and must do simple tasks such as creating a JPG from a PDF file. Must read and speak English as a first or second language. This assistant must have a fast internet connection to download and upload. (100mb or above recommended). Knowledge of Mighty Networks would be a plus, but we can teach it easily. Ideally, this person has been a dancer, understands DUP's purpose, and would love to collaborate to make dances more available to our guild.

Yelena offered herself to do this job. Vakil is going to consider this with some board members for their advice.

4. Guidance Council report.

Vakil, Douglas, and Darvesha met with members of the Guidance Council several times. The next meeting is next Thursday.

One of the issues raised is to consider options to improve the colors and shapes of our new image. We are working with the designer to explore possibilities for improvement.

The Guidance Council's main concern with the new platform is that DUP is of an oral transmission nature. GC wants to protect oral transmission and does not want dances to be just a click away.

5. Any other business,

Arjun brings some arising issues:

Reviewing the impact assessment of the grants program, a little committee is created now with Darvesha, Vakil, Arjun and Douglas. Questions to solve: How are we measuring success? How do we know people repeatedly getting grants are really advancing?

There is agreement of Arjun with the request to adjust the colors of the image to warmer colors, this has been raised in the board and the Guidance council.

Arising issue: We could ask the guidance council to clarify about dance creation.

About responding to the Guidance Council: Technology is neutral, our purpose must be expressed in the content.

Is there any thing to do about dying dance circles?, open question left to think about.

6. Dates of future BoD meetings (2024)

The proposed dates for Board meetings are as follows.

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 (june 4, admin committee)

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Meetings are usually at **19.00 UTC** from November 5 to March 12 and **18.00 UTC** from March to November, i.e., at 11.00 am Seattle time throughout, unless arranged otherwise.