



October 2021 Leaders Guild newsletter

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DUP IN Small Grants Program

by Rukmini Miller
Grants Manager

Italian dance camp, organized by Satya Fanali,
supported by the Small Grants Program

First grants cycle

In early 2021, with a generous gift from the Oneness Project, Dances of Universal Peace International was able to create a Small Grants Program to provide financial support to DUP projects and events around the world. The first cycle of the DUPIN Small Grants Program officially opened on June 21, 2021 and accepted applications until the submission deadline of August 21, 2021.

During our first cycle, we received grant applications from DUP communities across the globe. Ten different countries and regions were represented in the applications as follows: Chile, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Spain and the United States.

Criteria for grants

Applications for grants of up to \$500 USD were accepted for online projects as well as in-person events. Our goals include: supporting trainings, camps and retreats that increase participation in the Dances; keeping the Dances alive online during the pandemic; contributing to projects that aim to be self-sustaining beyond an initial event or meeting; and encouraging the involvement of young people and “next generation” leaders and dancers.

Grants and the pandemic

Due to the ongoing pandemic, many in-person events have been postponed. However, a number of applications were submitted from regions where pandemic restrictions have been lifted and gatherings are legally allowed. We hope that a post-pandemic future will bring a return to many live, hand-holding events and an increase in the number of applications we receive. Our 4-member grants review committee was inspired by the creativity and diversity of this first cycle of grant applications. Our dedicated committee members are: myself, Khabir Christian Mayer-Glauninger from Germany, Roxana Nur Jahan Campos-Araya from Chile and Samra Aziza Nuri Sadikovic from Bosnia.

How we worked

Having agreed the criteria for grants with the IN Board, we set up an online application process and a database for sharing application details amongst the committee who are dispersed across several continents. We made sure that the application process and web page are available in 6 languages, as we want to offer grants internationally. Linda Lindsay and Patsy Boyer from the Oneness Project were invaluable for sharing their expertise, insight and encouragement.

I conducted initial screenings of applications as they were received and followed up with applicants. This was one of my favorite parts of the process because it connected me with wonderful DUP family members throughout the world. I value these new relationships and I feel incredibly blessed to be part of such a loving, diverse and inspiring community. Committee members independently reviewed and scored the applications in late August 2021. We then met via Zoom to discuss our scores and make our final decisions on which grants to fund. We approved thirteen applications for funding!

Small grants program in 2022

Given the fluid and erratic nature of the pandemic, on January 1, 2022, DUP IN will offer a second, "open-ended" grant cycle. Instead of a grant submission deadline, we will invite grant applications for projects/events throughout the year.

We will welcome applications for in-person and online projects/events.

Please keep in mind that grant funds will not be disbursed until recipients provide verification that in-person gatherings are being allowed in the locale/region where their project/event is taking place. Verification may be a notice from the local/regional health department or an online link to the government agency that oversees pandemic restrictions and regulations.

**More details about the 2022 grant cycle will be available
on the [DUPIN website](#)
before the end of this year.**

**Inclusivity in our dance
circles**



How much Love artwork © by ZubinNur

In our dance circles, we have opportunities to be ever more inclusive.

As Hazrat Inayat Khan says, 'The highest expression of love is respect.'

We may wish to give thought to how we best share the transmission of the dances with people in a circle who have different needs from our own.

We might include the following in our preparations:

- physical environment - minimizing any barriers to participating in events; on flyers and booking forms, ask people to identify any particular needs so we can be open about what we can offer
- consider dietary options in ways that do not penalize special requirements
- raising awareness: remember that true inclusivity is not only about physical ability, but about religious, cultural or ethnic backgrounds, gender and gender expression. It is a challenge to see what we do not personally experience.
- communication: review publicity for an event, making conscious decisions about the inclusivity of the contents. On registration or in an introductory circle, we could ask, *please tell us the name and pronoun by which you like to be addressed.*
- how will we share our learning on this topic?

This article draws, with gratitude, on a fuller paper available in English [here](#), prepared for Sufi Ruhaniat International by Salima Nuri Sowton and ZubinNur Westrik.



International events calendar

As face-to-face events are becoming more common again, we all have an opportunity to list events – general events and dance leader training events – on the international calendar.

Here are the links:

- open events (virtual or face to face):

<https://dancesofuniversalpeace.org/wwevents.asp>

- dance leader training events:

<https://dancesofuniversalpeace.org/wwtnevents.asp>

Leader recognitions

The Guidance Council would like to congratulate and acknowledge all the Walks and Dance leaders who have been certified or recognized as Mentors in Training since our last newsletter:

Mentor

Jo Jibrila Curtz WA, USA

Mentor in Training

Petra Arcimovicova Czech Republic

Ilona Holkova Czech Republic

Martina Hourova Czech Republic

Certified Leader

Peggy Adams MD, USA

Susan Argeres NM, USA

María Ximena Arias Miranda Chile

Pat Bayard France

Stephanie Clot France

Francesca Fanali Italy

Philippe Godts Belgium

Valerie Jakubikova Czech Republic

Marie-Christine Juré France

Ondrej Vanek Czech Republic