VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ARTS UMBRELLA

DANCE

DIPLOMA PROGRAM



Admissions Guide
2027-28

PHOTO © MICHAEL SLOBODIAN

A GROWING LEGACY OF DANCE IN CANADA

PATRIMOINE CROISSANT DE LA DANSE AU CANADA



Arts Umbrella Dance is the vanguard of research and development of relevant, wide-reaching dance arts and performance. Our alumni go on to perform with some of the world's most prestigious companies, where Arts Umbrella dancers are applauded as valuable company members for their maturity and understanding of the tenets of professional dance. The Arts Umbrella Dance Program has fostered integrity and inspired creativity in a generation of performers. That growing legacy moves us forward.

Le programme de danse de l'école Arts Umbrella est à la fine pointe de la recherche et du développement dans l'art de la danse, d'actualité et d'une vaste portée. Les anciens de ce programme poursuivent leur carrière dans certaines des plus prestigieuses compagnies de danse au monde. En tant que membres de compagnies de danse, les danseurs et danseuses de l'école Arts Umbrella sont appréciés pour leur maturité et leur compréhension des principes de la danse professionnelle. Le programme de danse de l'école Arts Umbrella a favorisé l'intégrité et stimulé la créativité de toute une génération d'artistes.

PHOTO © MILLISSA MARTIN

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Developing Skills For a Career in Dance

The Arts Umbrella Vancouver Community College Dance Diploma is unique in Canada—two experienced educational institutions partnering to offer a post-secondary training program in dance. To support their dance studies, students access skills- and career-based courses taught by VCC faculty. These courses offer relevant education that provides graduates with the skills they need to succeed in their careers.

After successful program completion, students earn a post-secondary diploma, granted under the authority of the British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education. Graduates who choose to further their academic education may be able to transfer some course credits to a certificate, diploma, or degree program, and should contact the receiving institution for details on the transfer process. Simon Fraser University (SFU) and Capilano University allow AU/VCC Dance Diploma graduates who are accepted into related programs to transfer 30 credits in Fine Performing Arts course work, as well as elective credits as articulated in the British Columbia Transfer System.

The AU/VCC Dance Diploma is a rigorous program that prepares advanced dancers for a professional career. Following a full-time schedule, students will dance six days per week with the majority of their courses in studio and rehearsal.

Successful candidates for the Arts Umbrella/VCC Dance Diploma Program must also apply to Vancouver Community College after receiving acceptance to Arts Umbrella. VCC is a requirement for international students and optional for domestic students.

LE PROGRAMME

Développement des compétences en vue d'une carrière en danse

Le programme de diplôme en danse de l'école Arts Umbrella (AU) et du Vancouver Community College (VCC) est unique au Canada. Ces deux établissements d'enseignement offrent, en partenariat, un programme de formation postsecondaire en danse. À titre de complément à leurs études en danse, les étudiants suivent également des cours favorisant l'acquisition de compétences et le développement de carrière donnés par des membres du corps professoral du VCC. Ces cours offrent une formation exactement adaptée aux exigences que les diplômés devront satisfaire pour réussir dans leur carrière.

Les étudiants qui termineront ce programme avec succès recevront un diplôme d'études postsecondaires, accordé conformément aux exigences du Ministère des études postsecondaires de la Colombie-Britannique (British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education). Les diplômés du programme qui désireront poursuivre leurs études universitaires auront la possibilité de transférer certains crédits de cours à un programme de certificat, de diplôme ou de baccalauréat et doivent communiquer avec l'établissement scolaire qui les accueillera pour obtenir de l'information détaillée sur le processus de transfert. Les universités Simon Fraser (SFU) et Capilano permettent aux diplômés du programme AU/VCC qui sont admis à des programmes connexes de transférer 30 crédits de cours au volet Fine Performing Arts (arts du spectacle), ainsi que des crédits de cours facultatifs, comme il est énoncé dans la politique du système de transfert de crédits de la Colombie-Britannique (British Columbia Transfer System).

Le programme de diplôme en danse AU/VCC est rigoureux qui prépare les danseurs avancés à une carrière professionnelle en danse. Les étudiants dansent six jours complets par semaine, suivant un horaire à temps plein dont la majeure partie est constituée de classes en studio et de répétitions.

Les candidats retenus pour le programme de diplôme de danse Arts Umbrella/VCC doivent également s'inscrire au Vancouver Community College après avoir été acceptés à Arts Umbrella. VCC est obligatoire pour les candidats internationaux et facultatif pour les candidats nationaux.

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VCC CLASSES

Careers in Dance: resume development, audition preparation, seeking financial assistance, how to maintain emotional well-being; Rhythm Studies: develop a working knowledge of rhythm pertaining to dance; Arts in Context: discussion on the development of the arts and performing arts throughout history.

PERFORMANCE

Through the Arts Umbrella Dance Company, dancers have many opportunities to participate in professional-level performances. Each month beginning in January, AUDC presents the Sunday Performance Series, showcasing works-in-progress by guest choreographers. In March and May, AUDC presents highlight performances, Midseason and Season Finale, at the Vancouver Playhouse to 2,400 audience members. Additionally, AUDC is invited to perform around Metro Vancouver throughout the year.

YOUNG CHOREOGRAPHERS PROGRAM

Led by Crystal Pite, Artistic Director of Kidd Pivot and Arts Umbrella's Artist in Residence, this program offers second-year dancers the opportunity to create their own choreographic works under Crystal's mentorship. Ideas discussed include the integration of content, transition of work from the studio to the stage, production values, methods of generating choreographic material, and leadership. Crystal guides students through the choreographic process to completion, when participants see their work performed.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops and mentorship are key elements of the AU/VCC Dance Diploma program. Throughout the year, dancers have the opportunity to take part in Choreographic Workshops with Ballet BC's guest choreographers.

"Arts Umbrella's training is unique, with a well-balanced curriculum stressing the need for integrity, discipline, creativity and emotional investment, while providing rigorous classical training as well as experience dancing in multiple styles."

—Emily Molnar, *Artistic Director*
Nederlands Dans Theater

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

As part of Arts Umbrella's outreach mandate, dancers bring the arts to young people across Metro Vancouver area through Mixed Nuts. AUDC presents this family-friendly take on The Nutcracker, with choreography by more than 10 Vancouver-based artists. Each year, approximately 4000 students have the opportunity to see these performances.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to class and performance opportunities, dancers may teach or assist in the Arts Umbrella General Dance Program throughout the year. This provides dancers with both financial assistance and an opportunity to develop their teaching and choreography skills.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER DANCE INTENSIVE

Every August, dancers immerse themselves in the study of technique and repertory at the International Summer Dance Intensive. Over three weeks, students devote the time required to research new movement concepts. With an exceptional guest faculty, dancers also have the opportunity to make connections with dance artists from around the world. ISDI provides students with a representation of the progressive, innovative, and forward-thinking dance training the world has to offer.

OUR ALUMNI

For years, Arts Umbrella has been developing intelligent and motivated dance students into strong and in-demand dance artists. Our graduates have been hired by critically lauded Canadian companies and cutting-edge contemporary companies around the world.

Arts Umbrella Dance alumni have gone on to dance professionally with companies all around the world, including:

Ballet BC, Canada
Ballet de Grand Théatre de Genéve, Switzerland
Ballet Edmonton, Canada
Ballet Hagen, Germany
Ballet Staatstheater Augsburg, Germany
Ballet Jazz Montreal, Canada
Gauthier Dance JUNIORS, Germany
The Gothenburg Opera, Sweden
Hessischen Staatsballets Wiesbaden, Germany
Hofesh Shechter Company, UK
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Chicago
Kidd Pivot, Canada
LeineRoebana, Netherlands
Mainfranken Theater Würzburg, Germany
Nederlands Dans Theatre, Netherlands
Nederlands Dans Theatre 2, Netherlands
Noord Nederlands Dans, Netherlands
Proarte Danza, Canada
Royal Ballet Fehérvár, Hungary
Tanz Bielefeld, Germany
Theater Regensburg, Germany
Staatstheater Gärtnerplatz, Germany
Swedish National Ballet, Sweden



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AUDITIONS



In-Person Auditions

January 3, 2027: Toronto audition
January 9, 2027: New York City audition
January 16, 2027: London audition
January 24, 2027: Vancouver audition

A non-refundable $60 CAD fee is due upon registration.
Registration closes five days before each audition.

Video Auditions

February 1, 2027: Deadline to register for and submit video auditions.

A non-refundable $65 CAD fee is due upon submission.

Deadline to apply to Vancouver Community College is **April 1, 2027.**

Visit *artsumbrella.com/dance-auditions* to complete your registration.

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For updated information regarding auditions or other dance programs, please contact **danceadmissions@artsumbrella.com.**



THE AUDITION

Classical Ballet Class

All candidates will take a 1.5 hour-long audition class in classical ballet to assess physical capacity.

Repertoire

After ballet, candidates will learn a piece of repertoire from an Arts Umbrella affiliated dance artist.

Interview

Successful candidates will be invited to a virtual interview at a later date with the Artistic Director to assess their intellectual and emotional capacity.

L'AUDITION

Classe de ballet classique

Tous les candidats suivront un cours d'audition d'une heure et demie en ballet classique afin d'évaluer leur capacité physique.

Repertoire

Après le ballet, les candidats vont apprendre une piecè de répertoire d'un réprésentatif provenant de Arts Umbrella.

Entrevue

Certains candidats pourraient également être invités à une entrevue avec la directrice artistique pour lui permettre d'évaluer leurs capacités intellectuelles et affectives.

PHOTO © MICHAEL SLOBODIAN

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

How we define talent is the foundation of the curriculum and mandate of the program. We look for physical, intellectual, and emotional capacity, and selected students must display at least two of these characteristics in abundance. Physical talent is defined by the ability to withstand the rigour of professional training without injury. Intellectual and emotional qualities are assessed in the interview. It is our view that many physical challenges can be overcome with intelligence and commitment.

All adjudication panels include the Artistic Director in addition to one or more senior faculty members.

Candidates will be notified of their audition results by email no sooner than two weeks following auditions.

All successful candidates must apply and be accepted to VCC in addition to Arts Umbrella Dance.

LES CANDIDATURES RETENUES

Notre définition du talent constitue le fondement du curriculum et du mandat du programme. Nous recherchons, en l'étudiant, une capacité physique, intellectuelle et affective. Les candidats retenus auront amplement fait preuve d'au moins deux de ces capacités. Le talent physique est l'habileté de gérer les rigueurs de la formation professionnelle sans se blesser. Les qualités intellectuelles et affectives sont évaluées lors de l'entrevue qui suit l'audition. Nous sommes d'avis que l'intelligence et le désir d'une personne peuvent lui permettre de surmonter de nombreux défis physiques.

Tous les jurys sont composés de la directrice artistique et d'au moins un autre membre du corps professoral principal.

Toutes les candidates et tous les candidats seront avisés des résultats de leur audition par courriel dans un délai d'au moins deux semaines à partir de la date de l'audition.

Toutes les personnes dont la candidature est retenue doivent présenter une demande d'admission au Vancouver Community College et être acceptées par ce collège en plus d'avoir été acceptées dans le programme de danse de l'école Arts Umbrella.



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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Artemis Gordon

A graduate of the National Ballet School's Teacher Training program, Artemis has adjudicated at festivals and taught at professional training schools throughout Canada and internationally, including Ballet BC, Milano Danza Expo, UQAM Dance Symposium, Yokahama Ballet Seminar, BC Festival of the Arts, Ottawa School of Ballet, and the Encore International Dance Festival. Artemis has been Artistic Director at Arts Umbrella for over 30 years, and has fostered and nurtured the professional training program, setting the high standard that Arts Umbrella is known for today.

DIRECTRICE ARTISTIQUE

Artemis Gordon

Diplômée du programme de formation de maîtres de la National Ballet School, Artemis Gordon a participé en tant que membre de jury dans des festivals et a enseigné dans des écoles de formation professionnelle partout au Canada et sur la scène internationale, notamment dans les organismes ou événements suivants : Ballet BC, Milano Danza Expo", Symposium de la danse de l'UQAM, Séminaire intensif de ballet de Yokohama, BC Festival of the Arts, Ottawa Ballet School, Encore International Dance Festival. Madame Gordon est directrice artistique de l'école Arts Umbrella depuis plus de vingt-huit ans. Elle a développé et encadré le programme de formation professionnelle et établi le niveau d'excellence qui fait aujourd'hui la renommée de l'école Arts Umbrella.



"This program has been designed for dancers to develop and master the multiple elements needed to succeed in a professional dance career. It takes many years to master how to be in a rehearsal, to be a valuable member of a company, and to learn to be a citizen in the world of dance. This post-secondary program is about instilling the values of respect, integrity, commitment, and self-awareness. There is an ambitious and involved process that exposes our dancers to new works, giving them the opportunity to apply a genuine physicality and theatricality to the work."

—Artemis Gordon, Artistic Director

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CORE SENIOR FACULTY

SABRA PERRY

Company Rehearsal Director, Senior Ballet

Sabra began dancing under the guidance of Linda Klassen, and graduated from Canada's National Ballet School. She has performed with companies including the National Ballet of Canada, Hartford Ballet, Merce Cunningham Repertory Group, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet, in works by choreographers such as George Balanchine, Merce Cunningham, Ulysses Dove, Martha Graham, Nicolo Fonte, William Forsythe, and Dwight Rhoden. She has been a ballet mistress with Complexions, a faculty member at Ballet Academy East, and a guest instructor across the United States and Canada. Sabra holds a BA in dance from SUNY/Empire State College, and is a certified Pilates Mat instructor. Sabra joined the Arts Umbrella faculty in 2012.

LYNN SHEPPARD

Company Rehearsal Director, Senior Jazz

Lynn trained at the Gladys Forrester School of Dance in Toronto and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. As a professional, Lynn danced for Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Judith Marcuse's Repertory Dance Company of Canada, and JOE INK. Lynn has been teaching at Arts Umbrella for more than 20 years.

GUEST FACULTY

An essential aspect of our program is to work with a variety of international guest instructors and choreographers. Through this, dancers acquire a broad movement vocabulary and learn how to understand and respond to a variety of choreographic visions. In addition to the immeasurable benefit of increasing their exposure to, and their adaptability within, the contemporary dance environment, these connections with the dance community create opportunities and open doors for our students to begin their careers as dance professionals.

CORPS PROFESSORAL INVITÉ

L'apport de plusieurs enseignants et chorégraphes de renommée internationale constitue un élément essentiel de notre programme. Les danseurs acquièrent une vaste gamme gestuelle; ils apprennent à comprendre la vision de divers chorégraphes et à s'y adapter. Outre l'avantage inestimable qu'apportent la vie et la complicité dans le milieu de la danse contemporaine, les contacts que les étudiants établissent dans cette collectivité créent des occasions et ouvrent des portes, facilitant ainsi le début, pour ces étudiants, en tant que professionnels dans le monde de la danse.

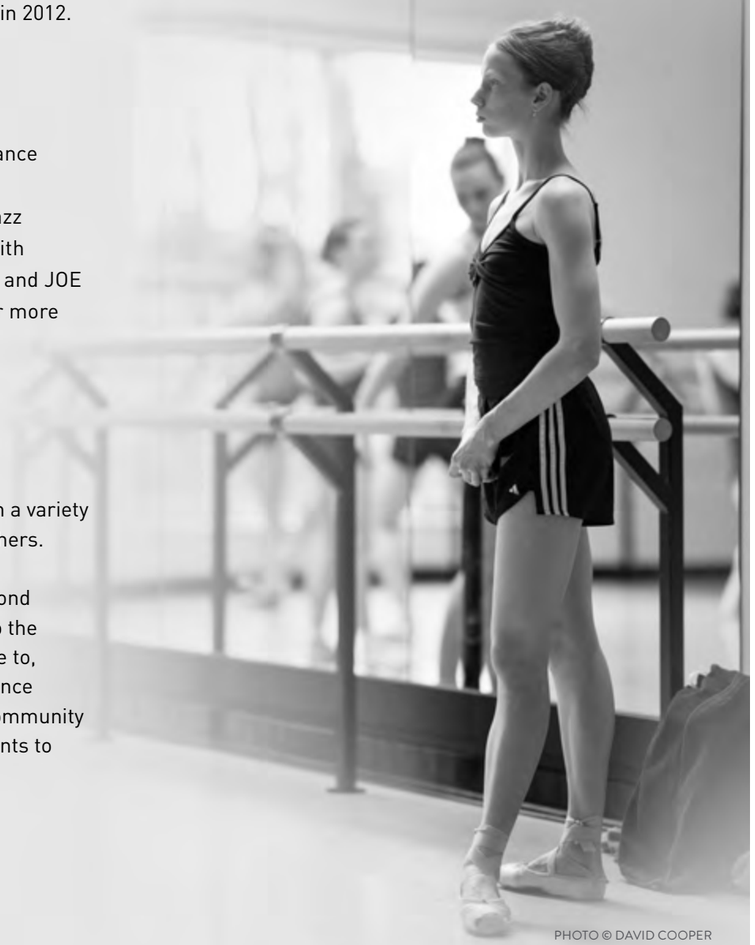


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Past Guests and Choreographers

Cyril Baldy
International Choreographer

Gioconda Barbuto
Nederlands Dans Theatre

Aszure Barton
Aszure Barton & Artists

Eric Beauchesne
Kidd Pivot

Francesca Caroti
Forsythe Technologies

Ethan Colangelo
Choreographic Associate, National Ballet of Canada

Darren Devaney
L-E-V

Yvan Dubreuil
OFFprojects

Sharon Eyal
Sadler's Wells

William Forsythe
International Choreographer

Marco Goecke
International Choreographer

Adam Khazhmuradov
International Choreographer

James Kudelka
International Choreographer

Doug Letheren
Kidd Pivot

Fernando Hernando Magadan
Nederlands Dans Theater

Francisco Martinez
Juilliard School

Emily Molnar
AD, Nederlands Dans Theater

Crystal Pite
AD, Kidd Pivot

Amy Raymond
Dutch National Ballet

Ella Rothschild
International Choreographer

Rafael Sady
International Teacher & Choreographer

Lukáš Timulak
International Choreographer

Medhi Walerski
AD Ballet BC

Wen Wei Wang
AD, Wen Wei Dance

Tom Weinberger
International Choreographer



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STUDENT SERVICES

Financial Assistance

Arts Umbrella is committed to making the arts accessible to all students, regardless of socio-economic circumstance. Our bursary fund is designed to assist families overcome the financial barriers of an arts education for their children. Distributed based on financial need, Arts Umbrella bursaries allow students to register in programs at a subsidized rate.

VCC Financial Aid information is available online: **vcc.ca/applying/registration-services/financial-aid**

Housing

Arts Umbrella does not provide student housing. Contact Sam Tawaststjerna, Dance Admissions Specialist, at stawaststjerna@artsumbrella.com for more information.

Transit/Compass Card

All VCC students are eligible for the Translink Compass Card, which provides unlimited public transit in the Vancouver-area for just $152 per term. Find out more at **vcc.ca/services/current-students/u-pass-compass-card/how-to-apply/**

Health and Dental Plan

VCC provides health and dental plans to all students. Find out more at **https://suvcc.ca/services/health-dental/**

Other Services

VCC provides a variety of other student services through the Student Union, including counselling, disability services, financial aid, ID/library card, and international student services. Find out more at **https://www.vcc.ca/services/current-students/students-union---suvcc/**

International Students

International students accepted to the AU/VCC program will be eligible to apply for a student visa through VCC. Students at VCC will receive a T2202 tax form.

Find out more about international student services at **https://www.vcc.ca/international/future-students/apply/**



PHOTO © DAVID COOPER



“At a young age, being exposed to dance as both a passionate and athletic art form, I was instilled with a sense of endless curiosity and possibility: Arts Umbrella taught me to dream big and dream globally. By inviting the international dance community to the school, a diverse and professional group of dancers and mentors have continued to share their stories and inspire the investment needed for each generation to succeed in the ever-changing art and business of dance.”

—Lia Witjes Poole, Dance ON Ensemble, Berlin, 2000 AU Graduate

PHOTO © MILLISSA MARTIN

ARTS UMBRELLA

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Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada
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BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

RBC Emerging Artists