

Dance Teaching Artist Job Description - 2026

About Kids Dance Outreach (KDO)

Kids Dance Outreach (KDO) 's mission is to positively impact all children's lives through joyful dance programs that inspire excellence, instill confidence, encourage teamwork, and applaud persistence. Since 2012, more than 26,000 children have experienced the transformative power of the arts through KDO's high-quality dance programs. As an innovative dance and arts education model, KDO provides equity and access to the community – programs are FREE to participating children and their families.

At KDO, we provide a one-of-a-kind dance experience for children. Our classes incorporate a distinct movement vocabulary not confined to a single style. They include high-energy movement, teaching teams including professional musicians, live music, and diverse choreography, celebrating various techniques, themes, and cultures while ensuring accessibility for all.

About the Dance Teaching Artist Position

Limited positions available

- Uphold KDO's mission and values, furthering access, equity, and themes of diversity and inclusion through KDO's innovative arts education model.
- Learn, train, and immerse themselves in KDO's pedagogy, a unique opportunity to master teaching techniques, movement vocabulary, co-teaching in Teams, teaching with live music, and incorporating the Musician's role in the classroom.
- Connect their background and expertise with KDO's teaching techniques to engage and inspire diverse groups of children.
- Work collaboratively as part of a Team of Teaching Artists and Musicians to deliver high-quality dance and arts education across KDO programs, including *In-School*, *Advanced Scholarship*, *Dancers with Disabilities*, and other community programs.
- Utilize strong classroom management skills (encouraging, inspiring, and inclusive) to uplift and motivate children to excellence.
- Foster a safe environment where each child can reach their full potential.
- Respond to and adapt programming and instruction in diverse and dynamic environments.
- Utilize the technology and systems KDO provides, such as Google Drive and ConnectTeams, to maintain effective communication with other Team

members, Program Coordinators, and Administrators to coordinate and define their schedules and programming assignments.

- Participate in ongoing professional development and training opportunities KDO and other partners provide.
- Collaborate with colleagues, educators, families, and community partners to ensure that KDO programs meet the wider community's needs.
- Advocate for and advance equitable arts education in Indianapolis and Marion County, where KDO is based.

Kids Dance Outreach is an equal-opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all. KDO serves children of all races, backgrounds, religions, and abilities. We firmly believe in and have witnessed the power of the Arts as a catalyst for change. Together, we continue to seek innovative ways to effect change in our community and the world through our mission and strive to be part of that change. We invite and strongly encourage teaching artists from diverse backgrounds to apply.

Attributes

- Strong alignment with KDO's purpose, mission, and values. Your commitment to these principles is integral to our success and the impact we make in the community.
- Committed to life-long learning, improvement and growth, and collaboration.
- Passionate about children's well-being and giving them the highest quality experience with joy, purpose, and empathy.
- Self-motivated yet able to thrive as part of a Team.
- Adaptable, resilient, and persistent - creative problem-solver.
- Ability to be responsive to an ever-changing, evolving environment.
- Willing to explore dance and movement beyond the confines of traditional techniques, such as [ballet and contemporary dance], and embrace innovative and diverse forms of expression.
- Empathetic leader and mentor to children and colleagues.
- Joining KDO as a Teaching Artist means embracing the potential and opportunities of being part of a fast-growing organization where your personal and professional growth is nurtured and valued.
- Believe in the power of dance, arts, and education to positively impact individuals and communities and advance social justice.
- Professional dance performance and/or training and choreographic experience are a plus.

- Experience working with musicians is a plus.
- Desire to positively contribute to the Indianapolis community through the arts and education.

Qualifications

- High-energy, active, and dynamic mover.
- Experience as a dancer, teacher, choreographer, or other practicing artist who uses movement to connect people through a dynamic experience.
- Well-rounded in various styles of movement and/or performing arts (i.e., ballet, jazz, tap, contemporary, street dance, hip hop, stepping, commercial dance, ballroom, movement choir, group fitness instruction, dance/movement therapy, cultural dance, musical theatre, etc.).
- Understanding of musical phrasing and strong musicality.
- Strong communication skills.
- Willingness to have one's perspective of dance & movement challenged.
- Maintain a fundamental belief that all individuals can move and experience the joy of dance, regardless of their background - embrace everyone's potential.
- Must be dependable, responsible, focused, and punctual.
- Reliable transportation within Indianapolis and Marion County.
- Available to participate in KDO's August Training Intensive, Monday-Friday, August 3-21, 2026.
- Available during the school day (9:00 am - 3:00 pm) at least (2) days a week for the entirety of the school year (August-May)
- Available for All-Team Professional Development on Tuesdays from 10:30-12:30 pm for the entirety of the school year (August-May).
- Must be currently authorized to work in the United States for any employer.
- Engagement is contingent upon a successful background check.

Compensation

Teaching Artists in Training - \$23/hr stipend

Teaching Artists In-Training must complete professional development and training in the KDO methodology prior to full engagement with KDO as Teaching Artists.

Training period: (75-100) hours total, including August Training Intensive, over (12-16) weeks, (3) hours weekly average.

Upon completing the August Training Intensive, Teaching Artists In-Training will be paired with Lead Teaching Artists to shadow and co-teach during the fall semester programming as part of their training period.

First-Year Teaching Artist - \$30 - \$40/hr

After completing the required training and upon review by the KDO Artistic Team, Teaching Artists in Training may be offered a position as a First-year KDO Teaching Artist. KDO Teaching Artists are hired on a seasonal, hourly basis and compensated at \$30-\$40/class, depending on their teaching experience. Classes typically run for 45 to 60 minutes, with an average of 3-5 weekly teaching hours.

- Additional compensation for evening, weekend, and other community engagement-related events and/or performances, including but not limited to KDO Event of the Year.
- First-year Teaching Artists will be paired with Lead Teaching Artists to shadow and co-teach.
- All KDO programs are offered in the Fall (August-November), Spring (February-May), and Summer (June-mid July).
- Scheduling based on availability and programming schedule.
- Eligibility for a pay increase following one year of continuous engagement.
- Paid ongoing professional development.

To apply, please visit <https://kidsdanceoutreach.org/join-our-team/>

Application Process:

- Interested candidates must complete the application and submit all required materials by 5 p.m. on June 1st, 2026.
- For full consideration, all interested candidates must attend one of the *Experience KDO Class!* workshops at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46205, either on Saturday, May 30th, from 11:00 am -12:00 pm or Tuesday, June 2nd, from 5:00 pm—6:00 pm.
- Following the *Experience a KDO Class!* workshop, KDO will invite select candidates to observe KDO programming and interview members of the KDO Team one-on-one. Final candidates will be offered *Teaching Artists In-Training* contracts beginning August 2026 and receive a \$23/hour stipend.

- Teaching Artists In-Training must complete professional development and training in the KDO methodology before full engagement with KDO.
- Training will begin with KDO's August Training Intensive, Monday-Friday, August 3-21, 2026.
- Training period: (75-100) hours total, including August Training Intensive, over (12-16) weeks, (3) hours weekly average.
- Once training is completed, first-year KDO Teaching Artists are hired on a seasonal, hourly basis and compensated at \$30-\$40/class, depending on their teaching experience. Classes typically run for 45 to 60 minutes, with an average of 3-5 weekly teaching hours.