



Membership Information

We look forward to meeting you!

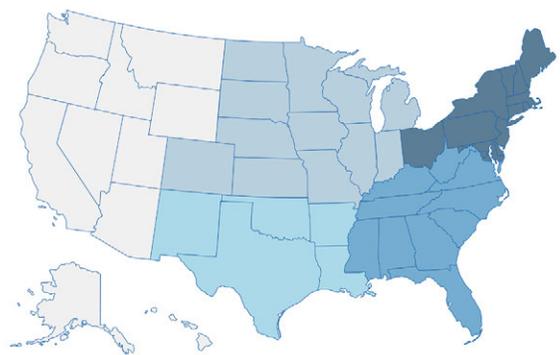
Who We Are

Regional Dance America, RDA, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit national association of pre-professional dance companies whose mission is elevating the future of dance in America - giving dancers experience and directors perspective. Through the Adjudication process, yearly Regional Festivals, and the National Choreography Intensive, RDA inspires a growing community of excellence in dance education and performance!

The exciting year begins with the RDA Adjudication Tour. In the early spring, highly esteemed Adjudicators tour the RDA Regions to watch member companies take class and present choreography. They provide constructive feedback to elevate member companies' accomplishments and select works to be presented at the Regional Festivals. The season culminates with 1500 dancers, 300 parents, 100 artistic directors and staff members, and nearly 100 faculty members and musicians gathering together at the Regional Festivals. Participants attend master classes, seminars, and college roundtables during the day, as well as perform each evening. Member company dancers are seen by college and professional training program recruiters and have the opportunity to audition for awards and scholarships. Artistic directors, choreographers, staff members, and parents engage in networking events. Festivals inspire artistic and personal growth, creativity, and excellence through networking with professionals in the areas of dance education, choreography, sports medicine, and more. RDA Regions join together every 5 - 7 years for a National Festival.

Each summer, RDA's National Choreography Intensive provides a one-of-a-kind experience for choreographers to explore the craft of choreography and for dancers to study in a variety of dance styles and with diverse choreographers. In its 59th year, this multifaceted program offers dancers, emerging choreographers, and seasoned choreographers the unparalleled opportunity to work, study, and create under the guidance of nationally recognized professionals in the fields of dance and music.

RDA's Geographic Regions



- Northeast
- MidStates
- Pacific
- Southwest
- Southeast*

Until the Pacific Region holds a Festival, Companies from the Pacific Region may participate in Festivals of any other Region.

**RDA/Southeast also includes the territory of Puerto Rico.*

Map created with mapchart.net ©



RDA Festival photos left to right courtesy of: AnnMarie Bergendahl (1 & 4), Richard Calmes (2, 3 & 5)



Membership Benefits

As an RDA Member Company, you will:

- **Reach your fullest potential!** Each member company participates in a private annual Adjudication where the company is seen by a professional Adjudicator. The Adjudicator provides valuable feedback to empower each company with choreographic inspiration and professional guidance to inspire both artistic and technical growth.
- **Connect with a greater network of peers!** Member companies receive the opportunity to network with each other, seek advice, and share resources. Directors share goals and invaluable information on all aspects of directing a company, including internal structuring and funding advice.
- **Network with key individuals in the dance community!** At RDA Festivals, member companies network with professionals in the areas of dance education and choreography, sports medicine, higher education, and more.
- **Receive regional and national exposure, credibility, and prestige!** Member companies participate in three exciting days of master classes, auditions, and high caliber performances at RDA Festivals where they are seen by their peers, recruiters, and members of the national dance community. Joining the national roster of RDA member companies elevates each company's stature and exposure in the greater dance community!

Your dancers will:

- **Gain perspective to elevate their accomplishments!** The RDA Adjudication and Festivals empower dancers to reach their fullest potential and stimulate young dancers to grow as artists and individuals. Dancers will meet other dancers from around the country who share their same passion and dedication to dance.
- **Receive the highest level of training possible!** Each member company dancer participates in three days of master classes and performances at RDA Festivals. Classes are taught in a wide variety of dance techniques by the country's leading professionals.
- **Participate in on-site auditions at RDA Festivals!** Dancers have the opportunity to audition for scholarships to some of the country's top summer, winter, and year-round dance programs, including college and university programs. Over \$300,000 of scholarships are awarded annually, including to RDA's National Choreography Intensive.
- **Be seen by professional recruiters!** Dancers are seen by college and professional training program recruiters as well as artistic directors of programs throughout the US.
- **Gain insight into the professional dance world and beyond!** Company dancers are exposed to inventive choreography by emerging artists and experience master classes and choreographic works by highly esteemed professional dance educators. Dancers perform for new communities and audiences around the country.



Dancers in ballet class at an RDA Festival taught by Stephen Pier, Director of Dance at The Hartt School, University of Hartford, and accompanied by Steven Mitchell, RDA Advisor and Ballet Rehearsal Pianist for the Metropolitan Opera. Photos courtesy of AnnMarie Bergendahl.





Membership Requirements

A prospective member company must...

- Send an Artistic Director to attend an RDA Regional or National Festival in its entirety within five years prior to applying for evaluation;
- Be incorporated & recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization for at least one year prior to applying for evaluation;
 - *If a company is affiliated with an educational institution, that institution must be tax-exempt, or the company must be chartered separately from the institution and financed primarily by that community.
- Apply and be approved for evaluation by Regional Dance America's National Executive Committee via RegionalDanceAmerica.org/Membership-Inquiry/;
- In the year before membership and every year thereafter, present at least two annual public performances for which admission or fees are charged exclusive of school performances or recitals;
- In the year before membership and every year thereafter, have at least eight dancing members who are 12 years of age or older and have not more than 25% of its dancers over the age of 25 at evaluation;
- Be evaluated according to the bylaws and policies of the Region and meet required standards;
- Be a registered Festival participant each year of membership;
- Pay required dues and any other fees each year on a timely basis;
- Have high ethical standards and values;
- Comply with all rules, policies, and procedures regarding adjudication and performances;
- Adjudicate at least two choreographic works each year for the RDA Region Festival; and comply with all rules, policies and procedures established for the administration of the affairs of the RDA Region and RDA National.

Region Companies who left RDA in good standing from a Region and have the same Artistic Director within the past seven years, may attend a Festival as a guest company and evaluate for membership at that Festival.

2020 RDA Events:

Regional Festivals

March 8 - 10: Indianapolis, IN

March 26-28: Fort Smith, AR

April 30 - May 2: Montgomery, AL

May 14 - 16: Dayton, OH

National Choreography Intensive

July 19 - 29: Huntsville, TX

Sam Houston State University



Dancers at the RDA National Festival in Phoenix, AZ. Photo courtesy of Richard Calmes



Ready to Apply?

Here are the next steps to take!

1. Your company will need to be approved for evaluation by RDA's National Executive Committee. Contact us via our website: RegionalDanceAmerica.org/Membership-Inquiry/

Within 2 weeks, you'll receive a notification email with the results of your request. If approved for evaluation, you will be introduced to a contact person in your prospective RDA Region to continue.

2. Next, you will need to complete an Application for Evaluation to your prospective RDA Region by one of two deadlines:

June 15: deadline to submit an Application for Evaluation to evaluate at the Region's Fall Meeting

December 15: deadline to submit an Application for Evaluation to evaluate at the Region's Spring Festival

Included in the Application for Evaluation are:

- General information about your company
- A preview video, to include:
 - Classwork including barre combinations and center work, or warm up and across the floor movement in your company's preferred technique (10 minutes total)
 - Samples of two pieces of choreography – at least one of which is an original work (5 - 8 minutes total)
- A non-refundable \$25 preview fee

Within 2 weeks, you'll receive a notification email with the results of your Application for Evaluation.

3. If your Application for Evaluation is approved, you will work with your RDA Region contact person to plan for on-site evaluation. A non-refundable \$150 evaluation fee is due once approved for on-site evaluation.

What to expect at an Evaluation:

Your company, of eight dancers or more, will be viewed by the RDA Region's Artistic Directors. The evaluation will consist of a dance class in a technique agreed upon with the RDA Region which at your discretion, may be taught by a company faculty member or RDA staff member. Class should be no longer than one hour. In addition, your company will present two pieces of choreography in costume. The two pieces combined should not exceed 12 minutes. At least one of the pieces should be an original work, and at least one of the pieces should include all eight dancers. Pointe work may be included at your discretion.

Please discuss with the Region membership chair if you would like to use professionals for evaluation. Any approved professionals are not to be included in your count of 8+ company dancers. Please discuss evaluation location and logistics with the Region membership chair.

Within 2 weeks, you'll receive a notification email with the evaluation decision.

Financial Expectations:

As an RDA Member Company, annual expenses include the following:

- RDA National & RDA Region Dues
- Adjudication Fee & Logistics
- Minimum Number of Festival Participant Kits*
- Travel, Food, and Lodging Expenses

*Member Company Festival Kits include all classes, performances, dancer parties, networking events, and gala banquet attendance. Kit Prices may also include some food or lodging dependent on the venue. All information is shared with the Artistic Directors at the fall meeting preceding each annual Festival.

The Region membership chair will gladly discuss financial expectations further with you!



Welcome to RDA

Your experience as a New Company

Every company accepted into RDA membership enters as a **New Company**. Each New Company will participate in the Region's annual Adjudication and Festival. At your first Festival as a New Company, your dancers will be able to participate in all classes, seminars, scholarship auditions, and events and will be able to perform per your Region's policies and procedures. Importantly, your company's Artistic Director will be paired with a mentor to guide you through your first year of membership. Your Artistic Director will not vote on the Region Board of Directors as a New Company.

At your second Festival as a New Company, your company will be reviewed per artistic standards through performance and in class for placement as either an **Apprentice Company** or **Performing Company** with your Region. All Apprentice Companies will be reviewed for Performing Company status at up to two annual Region Festivals. If Performing Company status is not attained during that time period, your company will no longer be qualified for membership in RDA.

Take your company to the next level!

To get involved with RDA, please contact us today.

We look forward to meeting you!

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Photos Left to Right Courtesy of Eduardo PATINO.NYC (1 & 2), Richard Calmes (3 & 4)