

Arts Umbrella &  
Vancouver Community College

# DANCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

## ADMISSIONS GUIDE 2018/2019

VANCOUVER  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE



ARTS UMBRELLA

# A growing legacy of dance



Photo: Michael Slobodian

A hand points from the left side of the frame towards a vibrant rainbow that arches across a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The scene is bright and hopeful, with the rainbow's colors clearly visible against the blue and white background.

# in Canada

ARTS UMBRELLA DANCE is the vanguard of research and development of relevant, wide-reaching dance arts and performance. The Dance Program alumni go on to perform with some of the world's most prestigious companies. 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. And that growing legacy moves us forward.





## The Program

- Rigorous dance program in preparation for career in professional dance
- Successful applicants will be at an advanced level
- 35 to 45 hours per week, over 6 days
- The majority of courses are in-studio dance classes and rehearsals
- Within the same cohort, dancers can choose two options:
  - **AU/VCC Dance Diploma Program:** all AU studio classes with the addition of two VCC classroom courses per term
  - **Arts Umbrella Graduate Program:** just the AU studio classes\*

*\* These dancers do not receive a diploma or university transferable credits*

# Developing skills for a career in dance

Arts Umbrella has partnered with Vancouver Community College to offer an accredited post-secondary dance diploma as part of the VCC School of Music, Dance and Design. Students access other skills and career-based courses taught primarily by VCC Music faculty that support their studies in Dance. These courses offer relevant training to give graduates the skills they need to have successful careers in the arts. The AU/VCC Dance Diploma is unique in Canada: two



Photo: Albert Normandin

experienced education institutions together offering a post-secondary training program in dance.

After successful program completion, students earn a post-secondary diploma, granted under the authority of the British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education. Graduates of the diploma program who choose to further pursue 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 will allow Dance Diploma program graduates who are accepted into the Dance program in Contemporary Arts at SFU to transfer 30 credits in Fine Performing Arts course work, as well as elective credits as articulated in the British Columbia Transfer System.

# Alumni Experience

For years, our program has been developing intelligent and motivated dance students into strong and in-demand dance artists. Arts Umbrella graduates have been hired by critically lauded Canadian companies and by cutting-edge contemporary companies around the world, as far away as the Netherlands, Italy, and Israel.

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

**Ballet BC (Canada)**

**Batsheva Dance Company (Israel)**

**Nederlands Dans Theatre (Netherlands)**

**Kidd Pivot (Canada)**

**Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet (USA)**

**Swedish National Ballet (Sweden)**

**Sidra Bell Dance New York (USA)**

**Imperfect Dancers (Italy)**

**Ballet National Theater Mannheim (Germany)**

**BJM Danse (Canada)**

**Hofesh Shechter Company (UK)**

**Noord Nederlands Dans (Netherlands)**

**ProArteDanza (Canada)**

**Toronto Dance Theater (Canada)**





*"We are given incredible opportunities beyond ourselves—opportunities other programs and even professionals may not get—and are expected to rise to the challenge. We are taught not just choreography and technique, but respect, community, and perseverance. We are taught to value every experience, to take ownership of our own experience"*

**Rachel McNamee**

*Nederlands Dans Theatre*

2014 graduate of the VCC/Graduate Program

*"In the dance company, I was challenged and encouraged to see dance in a different light. The limits of physicality and creativity were pushed and expectations of focus and creative ownership were raised. The artistic staff and other dancers offered the support for me to be able to be vulnerable with dance in order to break out of my own boundaries. I discovered so much more during the 2 year graduate dance program at Arts Umbrella than I have in the entirety of my life thus far."*

**Shannon Ellis**

*Melbourne*

2009 graduate of the Graduate Program



# Renowned Guest Faculty

An essential aspect of our program is working with a variety of international guest instructors and choreographers. 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.

## Past Guests and Choreographers Include:

**Mauro Astolfi, AD**  
*Spellbound Contemporary Dance*

**Gioconda Barbuto**  
*Nederlands Dans Theatre*

**Eric Beauchesne**  
*Kidd Pivot*

**Francesca Caroti**  
*Forsythe Technologies*

**Shawn Housell**  
*International Choreographer*

**Thomas Klein**  
*Compañía Nacional de Danza de España*

**Donna Krasnow**  
*University of California*

**James Kudelka**  
*International Choreographer*

**Doug Letheren**  
*L-E-V*

**Fernando Hernando Magadan**  
*Nederlands Dans Theatre*

**Francisco Martinez**  
*Juilliard School*

**Walter Mateinni**  
*Imperfect Dancers Italy*

**Emily Molnar, AD**  
*Ballet BC*

**Crystal Pite, AD**  
*Kidd Pivot*



*"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  
Ballet BC

*"I have a huge respect for Artemis and what she is doing... I am able to work easily at AU, whether it is teaching technique at the summer intensive or choreography for the students. Arty passes on valuable concepts that go beyond technique while at the same time creating body and studio awareness in the students that goes a long way towards creating a much healthier culture in the professional dance world"*

**James Kudelka, O.C.**  
Choreographer  
Artistic Director,  
National Ballet of Canada  
(1996-2005)

*"Just over a year ago, I had the wonderful experience of working with the students of the AUDC. My time there was nothing less than extraordinary. The dedication, focus and work ethic these students already have is remarkable, and it became the source of inspiration of the work we created."*

**Fernando Hernando Magadan**  
Choreographer

Photos: David Cooper

**Amy Raymond**  
Dutch National Ballet

**Lesley Telford**  
Nederlands Dans Theatre

**Wen Wei Wang**  
Wen Wei Dance

**Tom Weinberger**  
Batsheva Danse Ensemble

**Alexandra Wells**  
Juilliard School



# Artistic Director

## Artemis Gordon

An artistic and pedagogical authority in Dance, Artemis Gordon was named Artistic Director of the Arts Umbrella Dance program in 1992 after graduating from the National Ballet School's Teacher Training Program. Since then, Artemis has developed the program to be internationally recognized for producing graduates who are dancing in companies around the world such as Ballet BC, Nederlands Dans Theatre I & II, Batsheva Dance Company, and many others.

Artemis has toured the Arts Umbrella Dance Company to Holland, Italy, Japan, New York, and Montreal and fostered collaborations with Nederlands Dans Theatre, Yokohama Ballet, Spellbound Contemporary Dance, Joffrey Ballet School, and L'Ecole supérieure de ballet du Québec.

In 2015, Artemis secured the affiliation between Ballet BC and Arts Umbrella, extending the impact of international choreographers in Vancouver and increasing opportunities for young dancers in Vancouver. Artemis won the 2016 YWCA Women of Distinction award in the Arts, Culture, and Design category. Her vision extends beyond dance, preparing students with skills to navigate their lives with discipline, rigour, and innovation.



*"It takes many years to master how to be in a rehearsal and be a valuable member to your fellow dancers; how to be a citizen in the world of dance, a citizen that will really bring dance forward. Because of that, our dancers can look you in the eye and talk. Bringing new works to the company is key to teaching students how to adapt quickly to new voices. Why do we do so many new creations? Because I don't want the dancers to do something that's already been done and then copy it. I want them to really apply a genuine physicality and make unique choices—instead of a copy of a copy of a copy."*

**Artemis Gordon**  
Artistic Director







# Important Dates

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## **January 2018**

*Registration deadlines for  
International auditions*

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## **January/February 2018**

*Auditions in Vancouver, Montreal,  
Toronto, San Francisco, and New York*

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## **March/April 2018**

*Auditions in Vancouver*

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## **April 2018**

*Video audition deadline*

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**Visit [artsumbrella.com/dance](http://artsumbrella.com/dance) in  
Fall 2017 for specific dates for  
registration and auditions**



# A typical Arts Umbrella day

A typical week day for an Arts Umbrella post-secondary student starts with a morning warm up, both guided and self-guided. A morning run along the famous Vancouver seawall or a gentle and restorative yoga class will prepare the body for a rigorous day of class and rehearsals. Throughout the year, dancers will take part in discussions on health and nutrition as well as conditioning classes to learn basics of anatomy and techniques to manage and prevent injuries. After warm up, dancers take a full ballet class with the Artistic Director or a guest instructor with a focus on classical alignment and dynamic and how to use both functionally in movement beyond classical ballet.

Afternoons are focused on repertoire or movement creation classes in addition to classes in contemporary, jazz and modern techniques. This can include learning previous repertoire, preparing for holiday outreach performances, working with guest choreographers on new creations, and preparing for out of town tours.

Three days per week, students will take their academic classes at Vancouver Community College after their dance class schedule for the day. During Careers in Dance, dancers learn about resume development, audition preparation, seeking financial assistance and maintaining emotional wellbeing. During Rhythm Studies, dancers develop a working knowledge of rhythm pertaining to dance. During Arts in Context, students discuss the development of art and performing arts throughout history.

After a Saturday break, Sundays are dedicated to rehearsing repertoire and working with guest choreographers.

## Class Schedule

*(subject to change)*

### SUNDAY

10:30 AM	Ballet
12:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Rehearsal

### MONDAY

8:30 AM	Warmup
9:00 AM	Yoga/Conditioning
10:30 AM	Ballet
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Contemporary
2:30 PM	Jazz
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM	VCC Academic Course

### TUESDAY

8:30 AM	Warmup
9:00 AM	Health/Anatomy
10:30 AM	Ballet
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Repertoire/Rehearsal
5:00 PM to 6:15 PM	VCC Rhythm Studies

### WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM	Warmup
9:00 AM	Yoga/Conditioning
10:30 AM	Ballet
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Repertoire/Rehearsal

### THURSDAY

8:30 AM	Warmup
9:00 AM	Health/Anatomy
10:30 AM	Ballet
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Repertoire/Rehearsal
5:00 PM to 6:15 PM	VCC Rhythm Studies

### FRIDAY

8:30 AM	Warmup
9:00 AM	Yoga/Conditioning
10:30 AM	Ballet
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Repertoire/Rehearsal

## Performance

Through the Arts Umbrella Dance Company, dancers have many opportunities to participate in professional calibre performances. Each month beginning in January, AUDC presents Sunday Performance Series as a chance to showcase the works-in-progress by guest choreographers. In May, AUDC presents Season Finale, the highlight and end of the season performance at the Vancouver Playhouse, to up to 2400 audience members. In addition, AUDC is invited to perform around Vancouver and beyond 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 six 2nd year dancers the opportunity to create their own choreographic works under Crystal's mentorship. Ideas discussed are: the integration of content, transition of work from the studio to the stage, production values, methods of generating choreographic material, and leadership. She guides the choreographers through the process to completion in June.

## Workshops

Workshops and mentorships are a key element of our program. Through Ballet BC and their guest choreographers, dancers have the opportunity to take part in Choreographic Workshops with Ballet BC's guest choreographers such as Walter Matteini and Francesca Caroti.

## Outreach

As part of Arts Umbrella's Outreach mandate, dancers take part in bringing the arts to kids in the Greater Vancouver area through Mixed Nuts. AUDC presents this family-friendly take on the traditional story ballet The Nutcracker with choreography by more than ten Vancouver-based choreographers. More than 4,000 students had the opportunity to see these performances in 2016. The Mixed Nuts performances provides dancers with the experience to quickly learn and perform different repertoire and roles in preparation for the arrival and creations of international guest choreographers.

## Professional Development

In addition to class and performance opportunities, dancers interested in teaching or assisting in our younger General Program will have the chance to do so throughout the year. This is a chance to learn and develop teaching and choreographic skills as well as to benefit from some financial assistance.







# International Summer Dance Intensive

Each August, ISDI is the time for dancers to completely immerse themselves in the study of technique and repertory, and to devote the time required to research new movement concepts. With an exceptional guest faculty, it is also a time when dancers 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.

*"ISDI opened my eyes to many new ways to approach my training. Having awareness of the purpose and intention behind what I was doing changed completely changed the way that I work. The discussions about dance, as an art form, stimulated an entire new understanding and curiosity about what it really means to be a dancer."*

**Katrin Denson**

*Arts Umbrella/VCC Dance Diploma Program Student*



# Senior Core Faculty



**ARTEMIS GORDON**

*Artistic Director*

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, Yokohama 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 20 years and has fostered and nurtured the professional training program, setting the high standard that Arts Umbrella is known for today.



**MARQUITA LESTER**

*Senior Ballet*

Marquita trained at the National Ballet School and

danced with The National Ballet of Canada, where she later returned to complete the Teacher's Training Program. Ms. Lester was Assistant to the Artistic Director of Alberta Ballet, and then made her indelible mark on Ballet British Columbia over a 19 year period as Ballet Mistress and Associate Director, working closely with Artistic Director John Alleyne. She has been a member of the Dance Faculty at Arts Umbrella since 2002.



**LYNN SHEPPARD**

*Company Rehearsal Director,  
Associate to the Artistic Director*

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, where she worked with such choreographers as Twyla Tharp, Mark Morris, David Parsons, Ulysses Dove, Brian MacDonald, Ginette Laurin, Danny Ezralow, and Margo Sappington. Lynn has been teaching at Arts Umbrella for 20 years.



**SABRA PERRY**

*Ballet*

Sabra has performed in works by George Balanchine,

Merce Cunningham, Thaddeus Davis, Ulysses Dove, Martha Graham, Nicolo Fonte, William Forsythe, Jodie Gates, Jae Man Joo, Desmond Richardson, and Juan Rodriguez. Sabra was a faculty member at Ballet Academy East in New York, a returning guest teacher at Alabama Dance Theater, and the Parksville Ballet School. She holds a BA in dance from SUNY/Empire State College in New York, and been teaching at Arts Umbrella since 2012.



**LESLEY TELFORD**

*Ballet/Contemporary*

Lesley has most recently danced with Netherlands

Dans Theater 1, where she worked with Jiri Kylian, Paul Lightfoot and Sol Leon, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Johan Inger, Crystal Pite and others. Previously, she also danced with Compañía Nacional de Danza and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. As a choreographer, she has created for NDT 1, Ballet BC, Hubbard Street Dance Company 2, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Ballet Vorpommern and Northwest Dance Project Launch. She has also completed a Master of Arts in Cultural Production at the University of Salzburg.

# Student Services

## Financial Assistance

Arts Umbrella is committed to making the arts as readily accessible to as many students as possible. A bursary fund is designed to assist families overcome financial barriers to providing arts education to students. Based on financial need, Arts Umbrella bursaries allow students to register in programs at a reduced rate.

[artsumbrella.com/scholarships-bursaries](http://artsumbrella.com/scholarships-bursaries)

Information regarding VCC scholarships and bursaries is available at [vcc.ca/applying/registration-services/financial-aid/](http://vcc.ca/applying/registration-services/financial-aid/)

## Housing

Arts Umbrella does not provide student housing and housing is the responsibility of the student. Arts Umbrella can offer guidance for students to find homestays within the Arts Umbrella community or through our agent, Home Sweet Homestay. Alternatively, we can provide guidance on renting in Vancouver. Please contact [dance@artsumbrella.com](mailto:dance@artsumbrella.com) for more information.

## Transit/Compass Card

All VCC students are eligible for the Translink Compass Card which provides unlimited public transit within Vancouver for just \$158 per term. More information at [vcc.ca/services/current-students/u-pass--compass-card/compass-card/](http://vcc.ca/services/current-students/u-pass--compass-card/compass-card/)

## Health and Dental Plan

VCC provides health and dental plans to all students. More information at [suvcc.ca/services/health-and-dental-plan/](http://suvcc.ca/services/health-and-dental-plan/)

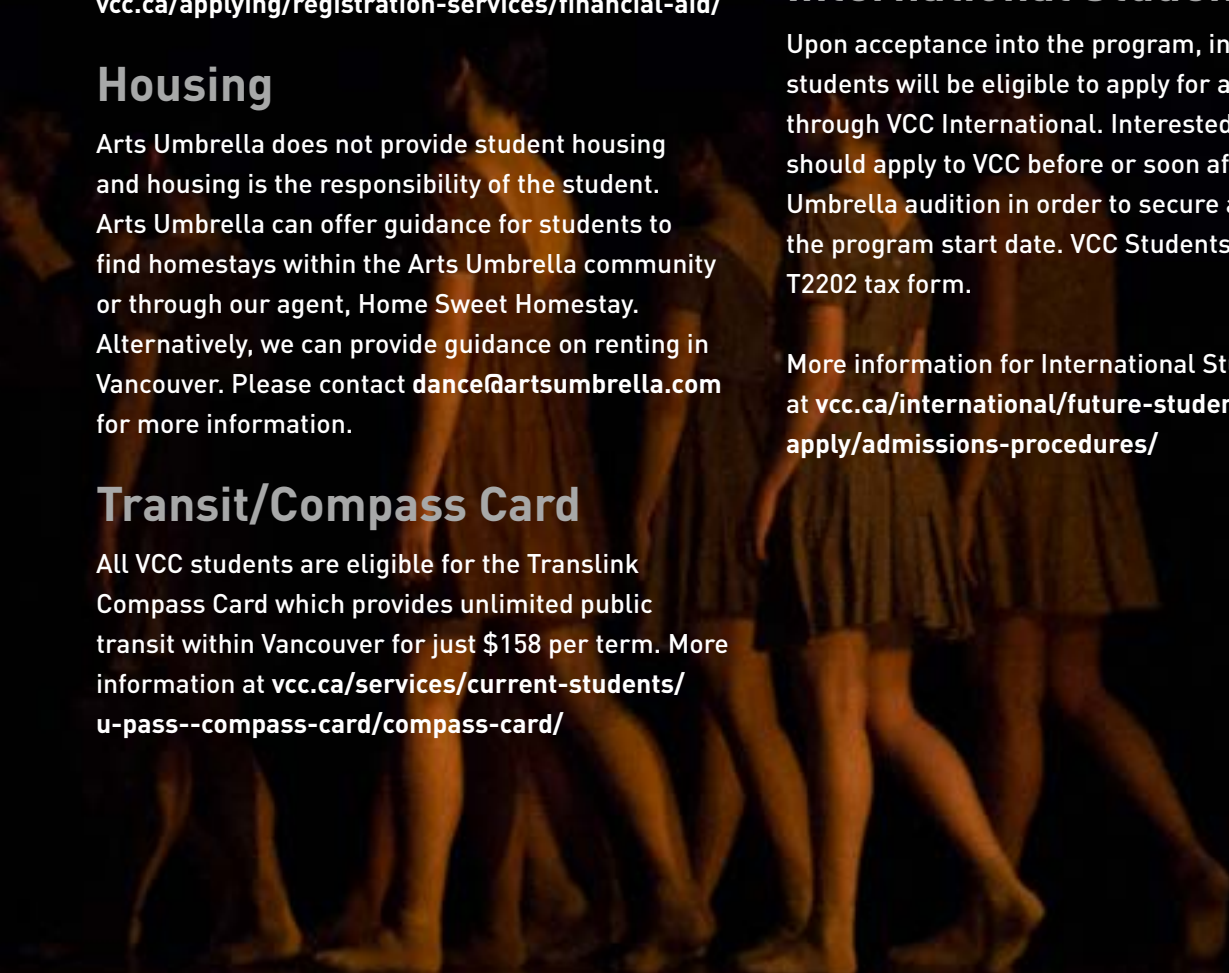
## Other Services

VCC provides a variety of other student services through the Student Union of VCC including Counselling, Disability Services, Financial Aid, ID/Library Card, International Student Services. More information at [suvcc.ca/about/online-suvcc-handbook/](http://suvcc.ca/about/online-suvcc-handbook/)

## International Students

Upon acceptance into the program, international students will be eligible to apply for a student visa through VCC International. Interested candidates should apply to VCC before or soon after their Arts Umbrella audition in order to secure a student visa by the program start date. VCC Students will receive a T2202 tax form.

More information for International Students available at [vcc.ca/international/future-students/how-to-apply/admissions-procedures/](http://vcc.ca/international/future-students/how-to-apply/admissions-procedures/)



# Auditions

## International Auditions

This year, auditions will take place in Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto, San Francisco, and New York (subject to change). For specific dates and locations, visit [artsumbrella.com/dance](http://artsumbrella.com/dance)

## Live Auditions

All live audition candidates must submit an audition registration form by indicated deadline\*

### CANDIDATES MUST THEN BRING TO THE AUDITION:

- Completed candidate form
- Current headshot (4" x 6") with name printed on back
- Cash or cheque payable to Arts Umbrella in the amount of \$25 for audition fees (non-refundable)

## Video Auditions

All video audition candidates must submit audition package by indicated deadline\*

### CANDIDATES MUST INCLUDE IN AUDITION PACKAGE:

- Audition registration form
- Completed candidate form
- Current headshot (4" x 6") with name printed on back
- Letter of reference
- Link to or DVD of audition
- Cash or cheque payable to Arts Umbrella in the amount of \$20 for audition fees (non-refundable)

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\* visit [artsumbrella.com/dance](http://artsumbrella.com/dance) for updated deadlines and audition forms





# The Audition

## Classical Ballet Class

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

## Movement Class

Some auditions may include short movement section after completion of ballet class for further physical assessment.

## Interview

For some candidates, there may be a requested interview with the Artistic Director to assess intellectual and emotional capacities.

## The Successful Candidate

How we define talent is the foundation of the curriculum and mandate of the program. We look for physical, intellectual and emotional capacity, and students chosen must display at least two of these characteristics in abundance.

Physical talent is defined by the ability to withstand the rigor of professional training without injury. Intellectual and emotional qualities are assessed after the audition in the interview.

Our view is that many physical challenges can be overcome with intelligence and desire.

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



# Results

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

Before or soon after the initial audition, applicants must apply to VCC and fulfill VCC academic requirements for acceptance to the program. International applicants should apply as early as possible in order to ensure that they have time to obtain their Canadian student visa.

Final acceptance will be confirmed through VCC upon fulfilment of VCC academic requirements, as well as a successful audition and final interview with Arts Umbrella.

We will accept up to 12 candidates each year and will add additional candidates to our waiting list at the Artistic Director's discretion.

**Contact us:**

**Arts Umbrella Dance**

1286 Cartwright Street

Vancouver, BC

V6H 3R8

604-681-5268

[dance@artsumbrella.com](mailto:dance@artsumbrella.com)





[artsumbrella.com/dance](http://artsumbrella.com/dance)



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