

Forming a Creative Community and Opportunity for Movement Artists

UROP Group Proposal
Bare Bones Dance Theater
Submitted by: [Redacted]

Mission Statement

Bare Bones Dance Theater is a student-run arts organization that encourages and supports an artistic meeting of the minds. Through the production of an annual dance concert, the undergraduate dancers, choreographers, production team, and the larger community collaborate to produce a professional theatrical experience. In addition, the organization seeks to extend its artistic endeavors beyond the University of California, Irvine by hosting outreach performances and workshops for local high school students. Lastly, BBDT hosts professional artists from the greater Los Angeles area to teach dance workshops for reduced rates, providing students the opportunity to be exposed to the performing arts. BBDT welcomes undergraduates of all majors from UCI to participate and share their creative abilities to enrich UCI and the Orange County Community.

Thesis

For thirty five years, Bare Bones Dance Theater (BBDT) has been serving the artistic community at UCI by providing professional and student-led workshops for free, outreach experiences, and annual shows. BBDT has survived for over a year of online instruction due to Covid-19, and has successfully transitioned back into our in-person involvement. After all of the time away from each other and the artistic inspiration that blossoms at UCI, our return to campus was met with an eager and grateful community. This upcoming school year we are planning multiple events, including at least three workshops per quarter with professional artists and students in Orange County, our Annual Showcase, and an end of the year Unplugged event and gala. These events have shown to really strengthen the artistic community around UCI not only with the movement artists, but also for other visual and performance artists in our Unplugged events. We have strong outreach involvement with the highschools around the Irvine area, where they attend most if not all of the events throughout the year.

We are requesting \$3,500 to help facilitate all of the events Bare Bones Dance Theater has planned for the next upcoming year, and to continue our professional development and longevity for the upcoming years. With this extra funding, we will be able to continue our professional level workshops, our fully imagined annual showcase with our stage manager, lighting designer and photographer, our end of the year showcase and gala and more opportunities for outreach involvement. For the continuation of Bare Bones Dance Theater as a student organization after thirty-five years on campus, we graciously ask for this amount.

Purpose

Research Question

What positive impacts does Bare Bones Dance Theater have on UC Irvine students and the greater Southern California dance community? We provide a platform for creative expression through workshops and events such as our Annual Showcase. We also give students opportunities to network and meet industry professionals from various dance techniques and backgrounds, providing a valuable career experience for all those involved. We support the growth of our executive board members and other UCI artists.

Positive Impacts for UC Irvine Students

Bare Bones Dance Theater supports the artists of UC Irvine by providing several free and accessible workshops throughout the year. Since the Covid-19 pandemic brought about instability, many artists are still struggling to regain their footing in the industry. Our workshops give students the opportunity to build upon their creativity and gain valuable teaching and learning experience. In order to combat the difficulty of reintegrating into the dance industry, BBDT offers free opportunities to take or lead a dance masterclass. In the dance world, masterclasses typically range \$15-\$30 for only an hour which is a very expensive fee for students to cover themselves. Our workshops are completely free to participants because we believe all dancers should have the ability to further their dance education without facing financial hardships and insecurity. These workshops also benefit students hoping to pursue careers in dance and choreography because they provide real-life experience and give students the chance to explore their individual artistry and advance their dance education.

Positive Impacts for Our Executive Board Members

The executive board is essential to the function and success of Bare Bones Dance Theater. Our executive board consists of fourteen members who are divided into four main committees: marketing, outreach, workshop, and finance. We want our board to learn how to operate and maintain a non-profit organization while growing into determined and passionate leaders within the UCI community. Students on board benefit from receiving professional managerial experience prior to graduation and having to search for jobs. Being on board provides valuable career development opportunities.

Positive Impacts for the Dance Community and Industry Professionals

Bare Bones Dance Theater assists professionals by providing opportunities to teach and choreograph, fostering artistic expression. We would like to be able to pay our guest artists since the dance industry is still recovering from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. We

believe that they should be provided appropriate compensation for their knowledge and time. Our collaboration with industry professionals will not only benefit the artists themselves but also help foster a more diverse and rich dance education for UCI students..

Objective

With the transition back into in-person instruction at UCI, Bare Bones Dance Theater held back on providing a lot of workshops in person, not only because of concerns with Covid-19, but also so the dancers at UCI could properly transition back into the rigor and physicality of their schedules. We did have a few holistic and mindful workshops throughout the quarters, but we focused mostly on our Annual Showcase to rebuild our community in one big production and celebration of being in person again. With that being said, this upcoming year we are planning on starting off the year with a bang. We are planning on holding at least three workshops a quarter, giving opportunities to work with professional artists and giving the opportunity for artists at UCI to share their own ideas and work with the BBDT community. Fall quarter will start with our very first Collegiate Conference for Movement Artists in the early fall. This conference will bring in Orange County and Los Angeles area collegiate dancers for a weekend of workshops and a showcase to build connections and comradery with dancers outside of UCI. Winter Quarter will be focused on our Annual Showcase and outreach involvement associated with our workshops and the showcase. Spring Quarter will be focused on our Unplugged event and end of the year gala to celebrate a successful year of dance and art.

This last year we spent time collecting a list of contacts for our workshops in a Google sheets document that is shared with the entire executive board, to ensure options are available per quarter to best fit the needs of our community at the time.

This last year we were able to hold a few workshops online and in person including a workshop with a graduate student at UCI, [Redacted], some dance department alumna working with the Salt II Company in Utah, [Redacted] and [Redacted], and are planning on one last workshop in the end of this year with an industry professional based in LA.

We had great feedback from these workshops, and as we started to approach the beginning of Spring quarter finally started hearing from the community at UCI that they were ready for some more workshops in the future. Now that we have finally all transitioned back to in-person dancing, we feel that next year we can focus on hosting workshops throughout the year.

Intended Outcomes:

1. Provide more workshops for participants each quarter with diverse genres, including ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, ballroom, wellness, commercial, heels, Q&As, modern, tap, musical theater, etc.
2. Create networking opportunities for BBDT board members and participants with our number of events to come including our Collegiate Conference for Movement Artists, Annual Showcase, and Unplugged event.
3. Continue our outreach connections and relationships, and create more events for them to enjoy and participate in.
4. Provide opportunities to share, teach and enjoy the art coming out of our local community.

BBDT wants to continue the betterment of our community and our board for bigger and better opportunities to come.

Responsibility

Executive Board members are responsible for running Bare Bones and helping host numerous successful events. The co-artistic and executive directors, [Redacted] and [Redacted], will focus on restructuring quarterly programming as well as implementing new opportunities

that excite students to encourage more involvement. We will continue to engage with our faculty and campus organization advisor, [Redacted], through frequent email communication and occasional in-person meetings.

Co-Director Responsibilities:

- Facilitate weekly board meetings and make agendas ahead of time.
- Assist the workshop committee in networking with professional artists as well as UCI undergraduates and graduates.
- Assist the outreach committee in reaching out to our local contacts to invite them to BBDT workshop events.
- Manage social media accounts and oversee the marketing committee's progress with promoting our events.
- Monitor fiscal activity with the finance committee to ensure we pay guests artists a fair rate while having sufficient funds set aside for our future plans.
- Educate board members about managing a non-profit and how to maintain non-profit status.
- Manage the logistics of all BBDT events to create successful experiences.
- Keep faculty mentor up to date on our events and contact her for assistance, if necessary.

Timeline

Fall Quarter

Week 0

- Booting for promotion of Bare Bones Dance Theater on campus.

Weeks 1-3

- Facilitate and establish set weekly board members meetings.
- Reach out to prospective guest workshop artists.
- Schedule the quarter's workshops with the workshops, marketing and outreach committee.
- Make a plan with the marketing committee on how to promote our events.
- Work with artists in designing possible merchandise.
- Meet with our faculty mentor.

Weeks 4-10

- Collegiate Conference for Movements Artists (Week 4)
- Workshops: Week 2 (student teacher), Week 6 (professional artist), Week 8 (student)
- Facilitate weekly board members meetings.
- Organize the budget with the finance committee.
- Release merchandise line, starting sales with pre-orders.
- Ship merchandise.
- Promote workshops on social media and in classes.

- Meet with our faculty mentor.
- Start scheduling workshops for next quarter.
- Early planning for the Annual Showcase.

Winter Quarter

Weeks 1-2

- Facilitate and establish set weekly board members meetings.
- Schedule the quarter's workshops with the workshops, marketing and outreach committee.
- Make a plan with the marketing committee on how to promote our events.
- Meet with our faculty mentor.

Weeks 3-10

- Workshops: Week 3, Week 7, Week 9
- Annual Showcase.
- Facilitate weekly board members meetings.
- Organize the budget with the finance committee.
- Promote workshops on social media and in classes.
- Meet with our faculty mentor.
- Reach out to prospective donors.
- Reflect on research and continuously document progress.

Spring Quarter

Weeks 1-3

- Facilitate and establish set weekly board members meetings.
- Send out board member and co-director applications.
- Schedule the quarter's workshops with the workshops, marketing and outreach committee.
- Make a plan with the marketing committee on how to promote our events.
- Meet with our faculty mentor.
- Prepare research findings for UROP symposium.

Weeks 4-10

- Workshops: Week 2, Week 6, Week 8
- Unplugged, Virtual Showcase: Week 9
- Facilitate weekly board members meetings.
- Organize the budget with the finance committee.
- Promote workshops and Unplugged.
- Meet with our faculty mentor.
- Determine new executive board.
- Present at UROP symposium.

Itemized Budget

These are our itemized expenses for our 2022-2023 school year.

Item	Cost
Unplugged and Gala	\$1,450
Collegiate Conference for Movement Artists	\$200
Professional Workshops (2-3 per Quarter)	\$1,500-\$2,250 (\$250 per professional artist)
Merchandise Production and Shipping	\$1,800
Concert Costs (inviting guest artists, musicians, etc.)	\$1,500
Total	\$7,200

References

Covid-19 Impacts on the Performing Arts:

1. <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-10-30/disneyland-layoffs-theme-park-workers-universal>
2. <https://www.timeout.com/newyork/news/broadway-will-officially-stay-dark-until-2021>
3. <https://www.arts.gov/about/nea-on-covid-19/resources-for-artists-and-arts-organizations>
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/may/04/cameron-mackintosh-coronavirus-west-end-theatres-closed-till-2021>
5. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/arts/dance/american-ballet-theater-coronavirus.html>
6. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/10/arts/dance/alvin-ailey-retirements-coronavirus.html>
7. <https://www.arts.gov/about/nea-on-covid-19/resources-for-artists-and-arts-organizations>

Zoom's Social and Health Impacts:

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/29/well/family/meeting-people-pandemic.html>
2. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-cyberpsychology-page/202004/three-tips-mental-health-during-covid-19-and-zoom>

Campus Organizations and Student Socialization:

1. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2959934?seq=1>

Benefits of Arts in Education Institutions

1. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2019/02/12/new-evidence-of-the-benefits-of-arts-education/>

2. https://www.reyn.org/Downloads/The_Benefits_of_Dance.pdf
3. <https://blog.ed.ted.com/2018/04/02/why-dance-is-just-as-important-as-math-in-school/>

Positive Impacts of Art on Mental health

1. <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/blog/how-arts-can-help-improve-your-mental-health>
2. <https://hhs.edu/2018/11/10/holistic-massage-school-shares-the-health-benefits-of-dance/#:~:text=Dance%20offers%20many%20physical%20benefits,%2C%20enhances%20cardio%2Dpulmonary%20health.>