

**APPLICATION** – please follow the format provided below.

**A. Abstract:**

I am seeking funding to support a project that would pair my dance experience and USF with that of an international program; Dance for Parkinson's. This highly regarded program, founded in 2001, certifies dance professionals to provide dance to patients with Parkinson's disease. Researched studies point to the benefits of dance for this population. Specifically, the funding requested would be used for an airline ticket to New York to attend a mandatory two day workshop as well as providing funds for a mandatory online introductory course that must be completed to begin the certification process.

**Word count: 95 words (100 words allowed)**

**B. Proposal:**

The goal of this project is to become certified to teach dance to Parkinson's patients, and to establish USF as the first and only location in Tampa to offer this program. This is a new extension of my research agenda of using dance as a language in interdisciplinary collaborations. Dance for Parkinson's fuses the dance and medicine genres to provide patients with an alternative method to physically engage their bodies other than traditional therapy. At present, Dance for Parkinson's is offered nationally and internationally in over one hundred locations spanning here in the United States as well as in twenty other countries. In Florida, it can be found in Jacksonville, Gainesville, and other Florida locations, but none exists yet in Tampa. My personal interest in this project stems from a fundamental belief that dance can serve so many purposes beyond the performance stage. In addition, it can collaborate and pair with other disciplines to provide meaningful alliances that bring artistry, understanding, illumination and sometimes skill sets to participants. This aligns with my prior research producing videos for social justice. The language and use of dance served social justice organizations who educate and advocate on behalf of social issues. As such, the video projects demonstrated the power of dance to assist in the strategies of other genres.

Dance for Parkinson's functions similarly in the respect that it uses dance paired with medicine to assist in the strategies of Parkinson's programs to address confidence, balance and motor skills while in addition, providing an opportunity to create a safe, supportive and artistic community as an alternative way to work on these issues.

To lift directly from the Dance for Parkinson's website:

*"The fundamentals of dancing and dance training –things like balance, movement, sequencing, rhythm, spatial and aesthetic awareness, and dynamic coordination-seem to address many of the things people with Parkinson's want to work on to maintain a sense of confidence and grace in their movements. Although participants from all over the world tell us they find elements of the class therapeutic, the primary goal of our program is for people to enjoy dance for dancing's sake in a group setting-and to explore the range of physical, artistic and creative possibilities that are still very much open to them." -David Leventhal, Dance for PD founding teacher, Brooklyn, NY."*

I have contacted and received encouraging support from VSA, who are eager to discuss a collaboration with me on this project.