

# SUMANA SEN MANDALA

## Curriculum Vitae

DIRECTOR

Dansense~Nrtyabodha, Inc.  
a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

MFA-DANCE, 2020

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

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## EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2020-2021      **The Molly Blank Fund – ASU Gammage Teaching Artists Program  
Tempe, AZ**
- ASU Gammage Teaching Artist trained in Kennedy Center Arts Integration method
  - Listing on ASU Gammage Teaching Artists Roster
- 2020            **Masters of Fine Arts in Dance  
School of Music, Dance and Theater, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**
- Areas of Interest: Somatics, Rasa, Creative Tools, Collaborative Action Research, Social Justice & Civic Engagement
  - MFA Applied Project: *Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance* (LVHD)
  - MFA Thesis: *Paradoxes to Intersections—Discovering the Invitations as a Bharata-Nrityam Teacher in the United States* (<https://repository.asu.edu/items/63003>)
- 2000 ~        **Continued Workshops and Master Class participation in dance arts**
- 1996-1999    **Pedagogy Course  
Nrithyodaya, Chennai, India**
- Completed teacher’s training course in Bharata Nrityam Classical Dance
  - Full-time training under prominent dancer and scholar Padma Bhushan Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam in a ‘gurukula’ environment
  - Researched and edited manuscripts by Dr. Padma for publishing
  - Organized & documented institution’s vast collection of books into a library for staff & students
- 1994-1996    **Study of Kagura (Shinto Dance) with Hokkaido Shrine Troupe  
Sapporo, Japan**
- 1994           **Bachelor of Arts in French and Economics  
College of Arts & Sciences, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**

## INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITY

- 2000 ~        **Dansense~Nrtyabodha, Inc.  
Founder & Director**
- Teach Indian Classical Dance with cultural orientation classes in Indian heritage
  - Teach theory of Natyashastra via Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam’s pedagogy
  - Choreograph dance items for students to learn/perform
  - Produce events to promote Dansense students or visiting artists
  - Collaborate with artists to present a variety of programs to the community
  - Manage dance school as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

- 2019-2020 **Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ & Dansense~Nrtyabodha, Inc., Scottsdale, AZ**  
***Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance (LVHD)*** is A collaborative action dance project to apply my research in developing a constructivist pedagogical framework of Bharata-Natyam, in which informational learning is carefully scaffolded with transformational learning. The purpose of the research is to expand the relationship of Bharata-Natyam practice from holding memories of the land left behind to making memories in the land of the present and forge a path for the growing diaspora to join the mainstream in collaborative activist dance work. The *LVHD* process was informed not only by Bharata-Nrityam pedagogy, reflective practice and somatic principles, but also by the intention to nurture empathy, to collaborate meaningfully, and to promote a collective consciousness. It began with students and dancers of Bharata-Natyam and led into collaborative research and creative work with survivors of sexual and domestic violence for over a year of lessons and workshops. *LVHD* culminated in 2 public sharings on February 29 and March 1, 2020, at the Hackett House in Tempe, AZ. (see Creative Work & Performances)
- 2017~ **Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**
- Solo Instructor for DCE 194— Bharata Natyam: Lens Refocused, (Spring 2020)
  - Co-teacher to Prof. Mary Fitzgerald, teaching Bharata Nrityam movement, DCE 231—Movement Practices II (Spring 2020)
  - Teaching Assistant to Prof. Liz Lerman, supporting Dance Education students of Atlas of Creative Tools online (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
  - Teaching Assistant to Prof. Eileen Standley, DCE 136—Somatic Practices I (Fall 2018)
  - Solo Instructor & Summer Faculty Associate, Introduction to Dance—DCE 100—Introduction to Dance, online course (Spring, Summer, Fall 2018)
  - Solo Instructor, Introduction to Dance—DCE 100—Developed syllabus and taught in-person class (Fall 2017)
- 2017 **Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ**
- 4-day residency program to teach members of Verve Dance Company an introductory course on Bharata Nrityam
  - Produced original recorded music by musicians from India for the choreography (8min 25 sec) originally by Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam and adjusted for beginners by me.
  - Culminated in the GCC Winter Dance Program, “Grace”
- 2012 **McCallum High School, Austin, TX**
- Developed and taught introductory course in Bharata Nrityam technique and performance to intermediate-level dance students
  - Choreographed original dance to original composed music in collaboration with Poornima Rao
  - Adjudicated student submissions to National Honor Society for Dance Arts
- 1996-1999 **Nrithyodaya, Chennai, India**
- Dance and Sanskrit language instructor for elementary and intermediate classes
- 1994-1996 **Informal Classes in Bharata Natyam for a select group of Japanese learners Sapporo, Japan**

## CREATIVE WORK & PERFORMANCES

2020

### *Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance (LVHD)*

A collaborative action dance project

LVHD is a collaboration of Bharata Natyam (BN) dancers and survivors of sexual and domestic violence to bring their stories to the community. It is the culmination of over a year's lessons, workshops and collaborative meetings, beginning with students and dancers of Bharata-Natyam and leading into collaborative research and creative work with survivors of sexual and domestic violence. LVHD The project began with my introducing and exploring different approaches to dancing and creating with BN, including Bharata Nrityam, with 4 BN dancers at ASU. With these additional creative tools and an introductory advocacy training by ACESDV staff Doreen, the dancers paired up with 4 survivor-members through ACESDV, while 3 survivor-members worked directly with me to generate their own pieces. Having been in a mode of actively sharing, creating, thinking and dancing together for the past year, i put together this garland of mini performances to be experienced by audience participants. LVHD is a multi-layered collaborative action project: it is dance as a language of empowerment; it is joining a movement to end violence in our communities; it is awakening a collective consciousness. It seeks to do what dance has always done—build community for everyone.

In-Kind Support: Arizona Coalition to End Sexual & Domestic Violence, the ASU School of Film, Dance & Theater, the Sexual & Relationship Violence Prevention Program at ASU, and Arizona South Asians for Safe Families

Supported by:

- Lifelong Arts Engagement Grant—Arizona Commission on the Arts, an agency of the State of Arizona
- Tempe Arts Grant—City of Tempe
- ASU Applied Project Grant
- Sexual and Relationship Violence Prevention Grant through Changemaker Central

Sharings:

- February 29 & March 1, 2020—Hackett House, Tempe, AZ

2019-2020

**Kriti**

Choreography in collaboration with 8 dancers to research how tradition can be translated from ancient thought to contemporary lived experiences through various movement practices. After the first iteration, worked with dramaturge and live musicians to prepare for the next performance.

Description: A multicultural work that treats ancient stories from India with contemporary perspectives leading to individual and collective discoveries about common values and questions we have as human beings across time and borders. What is a story? How do we listen? I love our stories and learn something new from them with every retelling. Those who made them gave us so many different ways of seeing wisdom. Perhaps that is part of the wisdom— to keep looking from different perspectives. So, with the help of my co-conspirator artists, we share an exploration of the stories that evoke Ganesha and the ideas we gleaned from them, utilizing our varied, yet collective approaches. The original Bharata-Natyam choreography by N. Srikanth appears as a reminder to recognize our roots and foundations, even as we set out to explore new frontiers.

## Performance:

- March 14 & 15, 2019—Spring Graduate Project Presentations, School of Film, Dance & Theater, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- September 22, 2019—Dansense Symposium 2019, ASU Kerr Cultural Center, Scottsdale, AZ

2019

**Uncontainable** (Work in progress)

Choreography in collaboration with 1 dancer and 2 musicians improvising around a developed structure to reflect on the Indian idea of “kalasha,” a container representing the feminine ideal. It is worshipped, placed out of reach, and *whose* hopes, beliefs, stories does it contain? I am that container, right here. I hold my own stories. Listen.

## Performance:

- March 22, 2019—Dance Studio and Music Composition Collaboration Night, FAC 122, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- March 14 & 15, 2019—Spring Graduate Project Presentations, School of Film, Dance & Theater, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

2018

**Wrap, Self, Awake**

Performance in collaboration with double-violinist Gingger Shankar, this set of pieces was set for the *Agents of Change Summit* of the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence. Together they touched on the subtle meanings and feelings that one might experience in a culture of oppression and violence (*Wrap*-10 minutes), trying to make sense of these meanings and feelings (*Self*-5 minutes), and then, in gaining control of them, becoming aware of oneself and the strength within and with community (*Awake*-10 minutes).

## Performance:

- August 5, 2018—API-GBV Agents of Change Summit, Omni Hotel at California Plaza, Los Angeles, CA

- 2018 ***A Pox on Cancer***  
 As an outcome of the class “Animating Research” offered by Liz Lerman, i created a work in process in collaboration with Dr. Grant McFadden and his team at the Biodesign Institute at ASU. The research involved learning about Dr. McFadden’s groundbreaking work in oncolytic virotherapy and making connections to popular traditions of Indian mythology which refer to the powers of the poxvirus. This was a site-specific performance of about 15 minutes with my studio dance students, youth volunteers from the community and dancers at ASU.
- Performance:
- April 4, 2018—“Science Exposed”, Biodesign Institute of ASU, Tempe, AZ
- 2017 ***Chakra***  
 This 10-minute solo piece tries to make sense of the turmoil of our times and how their intensity draws us in towards a spiraling oblivion as we try to make sense of them. The piece invites the audience to observe and participate on the stage to emphasize that our connection with each other gives us hope and strength to overcome.
- Performances:
- October 7, 2017—Arizona Dance Festival curated by Desert Dance Theater, Tempe Center for the Arts, Tempe, AZ
  - October 26-27, 2017— Fall Graduate Project Presentations, School of Film, Dance & Theater, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 2017 ***Konohanasakuyahime***  
 This is a collaborative duet with dancer Chikako Sato, of about 7 minutes, exploring our own relationship over 23 years with reference to the ancient story of sisters Konohanasakuyahime and Iwanagahime.
- Performance:
- July 22, 2017— Débuted during Bharata Natyam performance with Sharadha Dance Studio at Sunpiazza Theater, Sapporo, Japan.
- 2016 ***Guru Vandana***  
 This 15-minute work included producing original music in Pancharagam and Panchatalam with visiting Carnatic musicians from India and choreographing, coordinating and teaching 16 alumnae of Arathi School of Dance from around the country. The piece was to honor our dance teacher Asha Gopal.
- Performance:
- October 16, 2016—Arathi School of Dance’s 35th Anniversary at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale, AZ.
- 2015 **Arangetram/Student Débuts**  
**Madison, WI**
- Trained and taught 2 students aiming to complete their débuts
  - Choreographed 3 original dances for the students
    - Varnam—Shankarabharnam Raga, Adi Tala (25-30 min)
    - Andela Ravamidi Padamulada (6 min)
    - Vaishnava Janato (8 min)

2015

**EMBRACE—A conversation about change**

This production was a collaboration with artists Nirmal Raja and Dara Larson for Stage Sanchaar. A multi-layered concept using dance and installation and digitized art, “EMBRACE” looks at change and the struggle we face personally and as a society when confronted by its necessity. It consists of 4 core pieces (about 1 hour) exploring tradition and the process of change it must undergo. This production invites the audience to interact with the artists and the art at the end as the dancers hold up a clothesline-inspired installation by Dara Larson called “Lines of Communication”. The audience has to weave through this to exit the venue.

Performances:

- April 18, 2015— Début in support of RedLine Gallery’s Shelter Education Program at Theater Unchained, Milwaukee, WI
- April 30, 2016—In support of Scottish Rite Theater’s programming to underserved schools at Scottish Rite Theater, Austin, TX. This performance had an added dimension of live music by Poornima Rao and orchestra, live painting and improvisational dance in a call and response essay.

2014

**Arangetram/Student début  
Austin, TX**

- First student of Dansense to perform her début after 6 years of instruction.
- Choreographed 5 original dances for the student, including a Mallari preceded by the Lord’s Prayer in Sanskrit and English to keep in bearing with the student’s faith.
  - Mallari—Gambhiranattai Raga, Khanda-jati Triputa Tala (8 min)
  - Jatiswaram—Kamas Raga, Rupaka Tala (6 min)
  - Varnam—Shankarabharnam Raga, Adi Tala (29 min)
  - Devotional Song—Kanyaka Mary Amme (7 min)
  - Tillana—Natakurinji Raga, Adi Tala (11 min)

2013

**The Power of YOU**

This hour-long production took inspiration from those who empower women in the face of violence and oppression. The work was produced for Stage Sanchaar and includes 2 pieces. The first is a dramatic interpretation of Kalki Krishnamurthy’s short story “The Letter” addressing widow remarriage and women’s education. The second piece, “Trigunatita” uses original music and was choreographed as a abstract tableau of a domestic violence survivor’s journey through the 3 *gunas* or innate tendencies to reach inner peace and to be celebrated.

Performances:

- October 2, 2010— Début in support of Arizona South Asians for Safe Families at Kerr Cultural Center, Scottsdale, AZ.
- October 26, 2013—In support of SAHARA of South Florida at Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center, Hollywood, FL



2011

***Charukeshi***

This is an original creation from music composition in collaboration with Poornima Rao to choreography examining the effects of Prakriti on Purusha, Energy on Latent Consciousness. This 10-minute work utilizes three different stories of Parvati and Shiva from different regions in India to highlight the varying effects of one on the other.

Performances:

- April 2, 2011— Début in Stage Sanchaar’s production “Shiva—Timeless Ideal, Endless Inspiration” at Boyd Vance Theater, Austin, TX.
- September 24, 2011—10 Minutes Max curated by Dance Umbrella at Austin Ventures Studio Theater, Austin, TX.

2011

***Shiva—Timeless Ideal, Endless Inspiration***

This production for Stage Sanchaar included a suite of Bharata Natyam dance created in collaboration with members of Stage Sanchaar and musician Oliver Rajamani. This included the original piece “Charukeshi”, as well as an original dance to Oliver’s Romani-influenced Bho Shambho.

Performance:

- April 2, 2011—In support of the Arts & Fitness Program for Young Children at Boyd Vance Theater, Austin, TX.

2009

***Final Curve***

“Final Curve” takes its name and inspiration from Langston Hughes’ poem. It is a collaborative work with Stage Sanchaar members, reflecting on the past and looking to the future.

Performance:

- December 31, 2009— Début as a selection for First Night Austin, a city-sponsored New Year’s Eve Event, at the prime time of near-midnight in City Hall. This application process for First Night Austin was very rigorous and competitive, focusing on diversity and family-friendliness. City Hall, Austin, TX.

View excerpt at: [https://youtu.be/rocDX\\_M510](https://youtu.be/rocDX_M510)

2009

**Bhagavat Mela Natakam Festival  
Thanjavur, India**

Upon invitation, I performed Bharata Natyam as a guest artist during the prestigious annual Bhagavata Mela Natakam Festival held in the village of Melattur in Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu, India. The Festival is a 10-day event of dance-drama presentations by male artists preserving centuries-old traditions. It is held annually around the month of May.

- 2008 **Naatakam**  
“Naatakam” was Stage Sanchaar’s maiden production specifically choreographed for First Night Austin 2009, a curated, family-friendly event to celebrate the New Year. The production was a collaboration amongst the members of the newly formed Stage Sanchaar, including original music, various dance styles of India, and an adaptation of a fable into rhyming dialogue geared toward a younger audience.
- Performance:
- December 31, 2008— Début as a selection for First Night Austin, a city-sponsored New Year’s Eve Event, at the prime time of near-midnight in City Hall. This application process for First Night Austin was very rigorous and competitive, focusing on diversity and family-friendliness. City Hall, Austin, TX.
- 2003-2004 **Mahasivaratri Dance Celebration**  
**Bay Area, California**  
This annual Dance Celebration (which started in 2001) curated by Anuradha Prabhashanker invites selected artists to present thematic dance pieces to celebrate the dance of Shiva on the actual day of the lunar month.
- Performances:
- 2003—Original choreography to music set by Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam for “Bho Shambho” (composition of Swami Dayananda Saraswati)
  - 2004—Performed Tillana (Kanada Raga, Adi Tala, Composition of Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam) in collaboration with Radhika Shankar
- 2001 **Performance for CRY (Child Rights and You)**  
**Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**  
Arranged and performed a solo Bharata Nrityam concert to raise over \$1000 for earthquake relief in India under the auspices of CRY.
- 1996 **Momotaro**  
This work was created as an experiment in demonstrating Bharata Natyam’s expressive mode using a popular Japanese folktale. The process and contextual integrity was supervised by famed Kabuki master Gunji-sensei.
- Performance:
- 1996— Début in Bharata Natyam performance with Chikako Sato and Rabeya Sen under the auspices of the Sapporo International Communication Plaza, Sapporo, Japan.

## FACILITATIONS/OUTREACH

- 2021 **International Community for Movement**  
May 22: Movement co-facilitator for event session, “Celebrating Movement Heritages”
- 2020-2021 **Guest Lectures**  
November 4: DCE 136—Somatic Practices I  
February 11: DCE 300—Moving Histories (Introduction to Bharata-Natyam)  
March-April: DCE 231—Movement Practices II

- 2019 **Interactive Lecture—Divine Inspiration, Kolkata, India**  
December 29: Choice & Intention in our Dance—Invited to speak to students and academics about dance as an academically viable subject and the application of the dancer's strengths to other walks of life.
- 2019 **Workshop—Nrityalaya, Kozhikode, India**  
December 21: Choice & Intention—What makes us dance? 2-hour workshop with senior dance students of Nrityalaya exploring intentions in dance through creative practice exercises. Focusing on communication in dance, we worked through tools of deep listening and empathy.
- 2019 **ASU Dance Experience 2019**  
October 19: Creative Practices Session Co-instructor. The ASU Dance Experience is a day of dance technique and creative practice experiences for high school students, community college students, ASU dance minors, studio dancers and Arizona dance teachers, designed to promote ASU's Dance Department.
- 2019 **Dansense Symposium 2019**  
September 22 at ASU Kerr Cultural Center—Organized & Produced the inaugural Dansense Symposium of Indian Dance Teachers, the first of its kind in the Phoenix area. Dansense invited teachers of Indian dance from around the Phoenix area to initiate a conversation among teachers, students and dance lovers from in and outside the Indian diaspora. This served as a baseline to grow from and create more such opportunities to think more deeply about our dance experiences in the US. Well-received and attended by over 125 people.
- 2019-2020 **Guest Lectures**  
September 16: DCE 136—Somatic Practices I (Introduction to Expression & Musical Influences on Movement)  
September 10: DCE 501—Philosophy of Dance (Rasa in Indian Dance)  
Spring Semester: DCE 354—Creative Approaches to Teaching Dance I (Team-Teaching undergraduate students in the Dance Education program)  
March 18: DCE 117—Feldenkrais I (Facial Movements in Bharata-Natyam)  
March 18: DCE 331—3rd Year Movement Practices (Structure & Experiment in Dance)  
March 12: DCE 300—Moving Histories (Introduction to Bharata-Natyam)
- 2019 **Teaching Artist**  
March 2: Arizona High School Dance Festival—Bharata-Natyam and Story-telling
- 2018 **Guest Lecturer**  
Fall Semester: DCE 136—Somatic Practices I (Introduction to Abhinaya, Finding the Rhythm)
- 2017 **Lecture-Demonstration  
Sapporo, Japan**  
July 20, 2017: Invited to give a lecture-demonstration on Bharata Natyam under the auspices of Sapporo International Communication Plaza. With an attendance of 30+, the lec-dem was followed by several attendees trying out the expressive aspect of Bharata Natyam.  
  
View excerpt at: <https://youtu.be/oZBWzvcUt0A>

- 2016 **Guest Lecture**  
**Dr. Claudia Brown's Art History Seminar**  
**Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**  
October 4, 2016: Invited to speak to a Graduate Art History Seminar on "Dance—  
Art Without Borders"
- 2009-2011 **Guest Speaker**  
**India Fine Arts**  
**Austin, TX**  
Invited to speak under the auspices of India Fine Arts at various venues in Austin  
including St. Stephens Preparatory School and the Texas School for the Deaf.
- 2001 **Guest Lecture**  
**Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, AZ**  
Invited to speak in conjunction with the exhibition "Wolfgang Laib: A  
Retrospective". Facilitated a Teacher In-Service Workshop and a Brown Bag Lecture  
on "Beyond Space, Time and Consciousness".
- 2000 **Guest Lecture**  
**Department of Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**  
Invited to speak on "Religion as an Experience of Rasa in Dance."

## CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 **National Dance Education Organization 22nd Annual National  
Conference**  
**Poster Presenter**  
**Virtual**  
**October 23-25**  
Presented "LVHD—A Collaborative Action Dance Project" to share the  
practical application of my MFA research addressing the role of a dance  
educator and choreographer in bringing about a better understanding of  
the power of dance for the dancer, the collaborator and the community,  
with a focus on collaboration and creative tools.
- 2020 **Traditional Challenges, Challenging Tradition: Helping Students Find Agency in Bharata-  
Natyam at the Junction of Ancient Indian Thought, Somatic Practices & Feminist Pedagogy**  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15290824.2019.1705304>  
Published: 6 February in the *Journal of Dance Education*
- 2020 **2020 Sexual Violence in Higher Education Symposium Performance**  
**Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ**  
**January 24**  
Showed select performances from *Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance (LVHD)*  
developed through collaborations between Bharata Natyam dancers and survivors  
of sexual/domestic violence.

- 2019           **National Dance Education Organization 21st Annual National Conference**  
**Workshop Presenter**  
**Miami, FL**  
**October 25**  
    “Creative Process at the Intersection of Teaching and Learning: Perspectives on Engagement”—Discussion of process behind creating “Kriti” (2019) and through collaborative engagement among ASU dancers, dramaturge, and musicians from India, interwoven with experiential activities.
- 2018           **Collaborative Action Research Network Conference**  
**Dance Symposium Presenter**  
**Manchester, England**  
**October 26**  
    Presented my research methodology as related to collaborative action research in session, “The Value of Voice in Tradition: Re-examining Bharata-Natyam education in the US.” Gained expert advice regarding methodology refinement and approaches.
- 2018           **National Dance Education Organization 20th Annual National Conference**  
**Poster Presenter**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**October 6**  
    Presented findings of initial research on the relationship to learning Bharata-Natyam in the diaspora and tradition in poster presentation titled “Tensile Tradition: Bharata-Natyam Pedagogy in the U.S. —From traditional voice to vocal tradition...”
- 2018           **Dance Science and Somatics Educators Conference**  
**Roundtable Presenter**  
**University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY**  
**August 2-5**  
    Presented “Bharata-Natyam in the South Asian Diaspora—Tensile Tradition”, examining the symbiotic relationship of somatics and Bharata-Nrityam tools with Bharata-Natyam education in the South Asian Diaspora to promote greater agency in the Bharata-Natyam student in the US.
- 2018           **Shifting the Narrative—Art As Liberation Project**  
**Participant**  
**Earthrise, Petaluma, CA**  
**June 22-24**  
    Funded by The Blue Shield of California Foundation, this project explores the arts as a medium for transforming community and survivor narratives about IPV with a vision “of a California where communities have embraced domestic violence as a community response-a-bility, embracing freedom with our fierce spirit and commitment to beloved community.”  
    <https://artasliberation.wixsite.com/artasliberation>

## GRANTS

- 2020           **Arizona Commission on the Arts Organizational Relief Grant**  
**\$4000**

- 2020 **Student Enrichment Grant**  
**\$500**  
**Graduate College Travel Award**  
**\$500**  
To undergo an artist residency at Nrityalaya School for Classical Dance & Music, Kozhikode, India, to support MFA research—January, 2020
- 2019-2020 **ASU Sexual and Relationship Violence Prevention Grant via Changemaker Community Action Grant**  
**Flexible Funding (>\$700, including in-kind support)**  
Funding for costumes, poster/flyer printing, banner printing, survey form printing, meeting space rental & advocacy support toward successful completion of MFA-Dance Applied Project, “Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance” in February-March, 2020.
- 2019-2020 **ASU Applied Project Funding Grant**  
**\$800**  
To complete MFA-Dance Applied Project, “Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance” in February-March, 2020.
- 2019-2020 **Tempe Arts Grant**  
**\$1000**  
To complete MFA-Dance Applied Project, “Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance” in February-March, 2020.
- 2019-2020 **Arizona Commission on the Arts Lifelong Arts Engagement Grant**  
**\$2500**  
To complete MFA-Dance Applied Project, “Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance” in February-March, 2020.
- 2018-2019 **Katherine K. Herberger Scholarship in Film, Dance and Theatre**  
**\$1000**  
In recognition of achievements and academic goals.
- 2016-2017 **Arizona Commission on the Arts Professional Development Grant**  
**\$1000**  
This grant supported an intensive master workshop in Kozhikode, Kerala, India: “Varnam Construction and Musicality in Bharata Natyam”. The workshop enabled my participation in the process of choreography of the most involved genre of dance in Bharata Natyam, the Varnam. It not only met my immediate artistic and educational needs but also indicated areas in which I would require further investigation.

## ARTIST COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- 2019 **Viraja and Shyamjith**  
Hosted a guest artist lecture for Dansense students, family and friends to learn about other schools of Bharata-Natyam and their training methods and aesthetics.

- 2019 **Sponsorship**  
Provided sponsorship to Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society for “Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society, Fall Break, 2019 Workshop” to allow for volunteers to officially record their service hours with a non-profit organization.
- 2019 **Ganesan Gajendran & Carnatic Ensemble**  
Hosted the ensemble of 4 musicians (G. Ganesan-mridangam, R. Sai-vocal, G. Nataraj-flute, and R. Selvaprasad-violin/konnakkol), arranging work & performances in the Phoenix area, and hosting rehearsals for the same.
- Performance/Work:  
September 15-21—Music improvisation and composition for *Kriti*.  
September 16—Guest artists supporting my lecture in DCE 136, Somatic Practices I.  
September 22—Live music support for Dansense Symposium 2019 presenters.
- 2019 **Fiscal Sponsorship:**  
Provided fiscal sponsorship for Artist/Facilitator Coley Curry to work for and receive payment from corporate client.
- 2018 **Anjan Saha & Dr. Kaberi Sen**  
Sponsored visit to the Phoenix area of Sitarist Anjan Saha and Odissi dancer Dr. Kaberi Sen from Kolkata, India.
- Performances:  
September 14—Co-produced 2 jam sessions at *The Nash*, Phoenix, AZ. Sitarist Anjan Saha with tabla artist Rajat Sen and Jazz musicians, Adam Roberts, Eric Rasmussen and Stan Sorenson, played to a full house both times.
- September 15—Produced and sponsored rare chamber demonstration and performance by Odissi dancer Dr. Kaberi Sen and Sitarist Anjan Saha, accompanied by tabla artist Ayan Banerjee on topic: “Dance-Making with Music, Text and Form with specific reference to selections from Jayadev’s *Gita Govinda* and Tagore’s *Bhanushingher Padabali*.” Offered free of charge as per mission of Dansense-Nrtyabodha.
- 2018 **Samavesha-Stories of Gender & Identity from the Mahabharata**  
Produced a performance by N. Srikanth and Aswathy Nair in the Bharata-Natyam and Mohiniattam styles of dance, respectively. Introduced Liz Lerman’s Critical Response Process to the audience and artists for the first time in the setting of an Indian performance. Production was offered free of charge to promote the arts and art appreciation in the community.
- Performance:  
April 8—ASU Kerr Cultural Center, Scottsdale, AZ.

2010 ~

**N. Srikanth**

In keeping with its mission to promote Indian classical dance arts and culture, Dansense has sponsored N. Srikanth, a prominent dancer and guru of Bharata Natyam and practitioner of the Bhagavat Mela Natakam Theater, on his U.S. tours every year since 2010. He is able to conduct workshops, lecture-demonstrations and is commissioned to choreograph works for Bharata Natyam dance teachers around the U.S.

Workshops sponsored by Dansense:

September, 2016—Workshop in Scottsdale, AZ.

August, 2013—Workshop in Mequon, WI.

July-August, 2012—Workshops and Performance in Austin, TX.

August, 2010—Master Workshops in Austin, TX.

2016-2017

**Ganesan Gajendran & Carnatic Ensemble**

As part of the mission of Dansense, I complete the paperwork for Artist Visas for up to 4 members of the Carnatic Ensemble. Dansense also hosts the ensemble and arranges performances and work during their tour in the US.

Performances:

September 9, 2017—Co-sponsored Carnatic Ensemble's Lecture-Demonstrations for the Volunteer Enrichment Program and Musical Adventures class at Musical Instrument Museum, Scottsdale, AZ.

September 2, 2016—Produced and co-sponsored a jam-session/performance between the Carnatic Ensemble and local Jazz Musicians under the Auspices of the Asian Arts Council of the Phoenix Art Museum for the First Friday Series. 300+ audience participated in the interactive performance.

Recordings:

September, 2017—Recorded and produced original music by the ensemble to use for dance programs, including "Guru Vandana" which debuted on October 16, 2016.

2016

**Aswathy Nair**

Promoting master artists, provided Artist Visa paperwork so that Aswathy might tour the U.S. to conduct Master Workshops and debut her performance of "Amba-Shikhandi" in October, 2016.

2016

**Raaga Rang**

This performance was co-sponsored by Dansense in keeping with its mission. It featured an upcoming Sarod player and established Tabla player in an evening of music in September, 2016. Dansense~Nrtyabodha, Scottsdale, AZ.

## MEMBERSHIPS

2020~

Dance Studies Association

2020~

ABHAI—Association for BHaratanatyam Artistes of India

2017~

National Dance Education Organization  
Arizona Dance Education Organization

2016~

Arizona Dance Coalition



- 2017-2020 Graduate Dance Organization—Led effort to make the GDO a recognized student organization at ASU in 2019, Past President
- 2013-2015 Wisconsin Dance Council
- 2011-2013 Dance Umbrella, Austin, TX

## OTHER WORK INFORMING MY PRACTICE

- 2020~ **Peer Reviewer**  
*Journal of Dance Education*
- 2021 **Trainings**
- June—Bloom365—BringLove365: Healthy Relationship & Teen Dating Abuse Prevention Education
  - May—YWCA Minneapolis Racial Justice Facilitator Training Program
- 2021 **Facilitations**
- January-June—Co-facilitator, Psychophysical Antiracism Study Group, Michael Chekhov Association
  - Facilitation Team, Liz Lerman LLC—Critical Response Process (CRP)
    - January 13-14—CRP Workshop with students and faculty, Yale School of Drama
    - May 17—CRP Workshop for ASU Leadership Academy
- 2020 **Antiracism Training**  
**Academics for Black Lives & Wellness**  
August—Participated in 21-day online training. Academics for Black Survival and Wellness was organized by a group of Black counseling psychologists and their colleagues who practice Black allyship. Guided by a Black feminist frame, we hope to foster accountability and growth for non-Black people and enhance healing and wellness for Black people. (<https://www.academics4blacklives.com/>)
- 2020 **Restorative Justice & Gender Based Violence**  
**American Bar Association Webinar**  
July 22—Attended panel and received resources for legal professionals and advocates to discuss Restorative Justice as a key foundation for criminal law reform.
- 2020 **Sexual Violence Core Advocacy Training**  
**Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence**  
June 22-26—Completed five-day, 40-hour comprehensive sexual violence advocacy training examining the dynamics and sociocultural context of sexual violence; learning about advocacy strategies, crisis intervention, professional ethics, privileged communication, and traumatic impact of sexual assault, including complex needs and intersectional identities of survivors (<https://www.acesdv.org/education/>)

- 2018 **Projects to contribute to the Clothesline Project at ASU  
Tempe & Scottsdale, AZ**
- September 28—Proposed and conducted 2 simultaneous workshops for 7th and 8th grade boys and girls to introduce the ASU Clothesline Project, discuss healthy relationships through creative activities, and make t-shirts to be displayed on the Clothesline
  - October 13—Coordinated with Arizona South Asians for Safe Families & arranged for domestic violence survivors to create T-shirts for the Clothesline Project at ASU
  - October 20—Conducted Dansense lesson for Vijaya Dashami celebrations with students ages 5-adult, revisiting Sita's character (from the epic *Ramayana*) as victim and the challenges of being blamed or not believed, relating this to the Clothesline Project, awareness about domestic/sexual violence and healthy relationships; all students made t-shirts to be displayed on the Clothesline
- 2018 **Adjudicator  
ASU Spring Dance Fest  
Tempe, AZ**
- 2017 **Adjudicator  
Arizona Dance Education Organization  
Phoenix, AZ**
- December, 2017—Invited to adjudicate 16 dances for the Student Choreography Contest, themed "Life's Challenges".
- 2000-2002 **Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Phoenix, AZ**
- Administrative Assistant & Project Coordinator
  - Provided translation for hotline calls and other advocacy services to South Asian survivors of domestic violence; conducted outreach to local South Asian community
  - Created & conducted statewide needs-assessment survey, including data analysis. The survey concluded that there was a greater need for culture-specific advocacy in the field, which has since grown with support from the coalition. This work was funded by application of a grant from Philip Morris.
- 1994-1996 **Sapporo Board of Education  
Sapporo, Japan**
- Assistant Language Teacher
  - Worked and volunteered at Yamanote Yogo Gakko, School for Special Needs Students. Collaborated with teachers and staff to create the "Share the World" program to bring international experiences to the students of the school who could not go on field trips nationally or internationally, unlike children in other schools.