

SUMANA SEN MANDALA

Curriculum Vita

DIRECTOR

Dansense-Nrtyabodha, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) charitable organization
www.dansense.org

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EDUCATION

- 2022-2023 **Critical Response Process (CRP) Certification**
Completed year-long certification under guidance of CRP originators Liz Lerman and John Borstel with in-depth practice and project development
- 2020 **Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Dance**
School of Music, Dance and Theater, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- Areas of Interest: Pedagogy, Ethnography & Analysis, Rasa Theory, Creative Tools, Collaborative Action Research, Social Justice & Civic Engagement, Healing & Somatics
 - 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>)
- 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 (BA) in French and Economics**
College of Arts & Sciences, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

EXPERIENCE

- 2023-present Co-Director, Critical Response Process (CRP) Certification Program,
Liz Lerman LLC
- 2000-present Founder & Director
Dansense-Nrtyabodha, Inc.
- 2022-2024 Faculty Associate
School of Music, Dance, & Theater
Arizona State University

RESEARCH

Publications

- 2023 Book Chapter (Pending)
"Layers of Reflection: Unveiling the Essence of Community in Dance" for book on Dance in Higher Education, edited by Sherrie Barr & Karen Schupp
- 2022 Mandala, Sumana Sen. "Turning the Corner from Epistemic Myopia to Gnostic Rasa: Dances From South Asia and Postsecondary Dance Programs." *Journal of Dance Education*. 2022. DOI: 10.1080/15290824.2022.2037611
- Mandala, Sumana Sen. "Traditional Challenges, Challenging Tradition: Helping Students Find Agency in Bharata-Natyam at the Junction of Ancient Indian Thought,

- 2021 Somatic Practices & Feminist Pedagogy." *Journal of Dance Education*, 21:2, 92-102.
2021. DOI: 10.1080/15290824.2019.1705304
- 2020 Mandala, Sumana Sen. "Paradoxes to Intersections—Discovering the Invitations as a Bharata-Nrityam Teacher in the United States." ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2020.

Conference Presentations

- 2024 National Dance Education Organization 26th Annual National Conference
"Shifting Reflections on Belonging and Pedagogy," Panel Presentation
- National Dance Education Organization & International Somatic Movement Education & Therapy Association 2024 Somatic Special Topic Conference
"Intrinsic Somatic Approaches in Bharata-Natyam"
- 2023 National Dance Education Organization 25th Annual National Conference
"Catching the rhythm, ready for the day," Warm-up session & "Encounters & Belonging Beyond "South Asian" Dance," Panel Presentation
- 2022 National Dance Education Organization 24th Annual National Conference
"Cross-Cultural Dialogues in Art-Making," Workshop with Professor Mary Fitzgerald
"Greetings & Thanks..." Led Warm-up session based on R&D work funded by Arizona Commission on the Arts
"Creativity Across Disciplines and DEI issues in OPDI Courses," Panel Presentation
- National Dance Education Organization
Panelist for Webinar, "The Struggle Continues: Claiming Identity, Practice and Joy" & Virtual Professional Development Session: Feast of Stories
- 2021 Dance Studies Association Conference, Rutgers University, NJ
Paper presentation for panel "Activating Equity: Transforming Pedagogical Practices in Tertiary Dance Education" (October 15)
- National Dance Education Organization 23rd Annual National Conference (Virtual)
Workshop with Professor Mary Fitzgerald—Feast of Stories: Collaborations in Indian dance technique to enrich curriculum and Paper presentation for panel "Where are all the South Asian Bodies in Higher education?"
- Arizona Coalition To End Sexual and Domestic Violence Conference
Forward Together: Reimagining Justice and Healing for Survivors
Presentation with Doreen Nicholas—"Healing through self-expression in CADP"
- 2020 National Dance Education Organization 22nd Annual National Conference (Virtual)
"LVHD—A Collaborative Action Dance Project" Poster
- Sexual Violence in Higher Education Symposium, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
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: "Creative Process at the Intersection of Teaching and Learning: Perspectives on Engagement"

Dansense Symposium 2019, Scottsdale, AZ

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.

2018

Collaborative Action Research Network Conference, Manchester, England

Presenter: "The Value of Voice in Tradition: Re-examining Bharata-Natyam education in the US."

National Dance Education Organization 20th Annual National Conference

Poster: "Tensile Tradition: Bharata-Natyam Pedagogy in the U.S. —From traditional voice to vocal tradition..."

Dance Science and Somatics Educators Conference, Buffalo, NY

Presenter: "Bharata-Natyam in the South Asian Diaspora—Tensile Tradition"

Shifting the Narrative—Art As Liberation Project, Earthrise, Petaluma, CA

Participant: 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-ability, embracing freedom with our fierce spirit and commitment to beloved community."

<https://artasliberation.wixsite.com/artasliberation>

Choreographic Research

2024

Rasa Anubhava—the Experience of Emotions Workshop Series

- Chennai (India)—Katradi Trust, May 2024
- Kozhikode (India)—Nrityalaya School for Classical Dance & Music, June 2024
- Kolkata (India)—Bharata Nritya School of Dance, June 2024
- Tokyo (Japan)—Tokyo University of the Arts, July 2024

2023

Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance* (LVHD*): Participants from the 2020 iteration have joined me in taking LVHD to a national iteration and work has begun on planning and fundraising, for a process that will start in Spring 2025 and continue through Fall 2026, culminating in a new presentation. (in process)

Changing Bodies, Shifting Landscapes

- (18 minutes, 7 dancers, 5 musicians) Produced and choreographed with dancers and with original music score created by Carnatic music ensemble
- A collaborative work to reflect on changes in the female body that occur throughout life, specifically referring to menstruation and customs and inequities due to it
- 1st section—set choreography of karana movements reflecting stories of the shame and embarrassment but also of confidence from kindness and understanding
- 2nd section—real-time composition, moving from predetermined form to open score, representative of how we can expand our experiences and explore new ways of being/relating as women across generations, cultures, and genders
- Built on conversations through the Critical Response Process with dance collaborators bringing together different movement practices and music collaborators improvising an original music score to support the movement
- Supported in part by AZ Commission on the Arts
- Showings
 - June 24: 1st iteration, ASU Kerr Cultural Center
 - September 16: 2nd iteration, ASU Kerr Cultural Center

2022

Mangalam

- (10 minutes, 2 dancers) Produced & choreographed Work in Progress, funded by Arizona Commission on the Arts Research & Development Grant

- November 6: debuted work as part of Dansense-Nrtyabodha 2022-23 Series Event “A Collaboration in Music & Dance” at ASU Kerr Cultural Center, translated research into collaborative piece with 5 artists from different musical and dance disciplines.

2021

Prakriti Surging

A collaborative work in progress:

Prakriti Surging a stand-alone work in two phases (film and multimedia performance), brings together a constellation of female artists/activists with varied disciplinary and cultural lenses.

Collaborators: Eileen Standley, Sai Pratyusha Gutti, Coley Curry

When My Stomach Misses Home, Mesa Arts Center

Hack the MAC Series: Workshop in partnership with Local First Community Kitchen with food performance artist Jisun Myung. Workshop that asks participants to consider the kitchen as a site of play, intention and memory and sharing cooking as a performance, a collaboration and a placemaking ritual that brings comfort through repetition and memory.

2020

Look into my Voice, Hear my Dance (LVHD)

(Full-length, 12 movers, 2 musicians)

A collaboration of Bharata Natyam dancers and survivors of sexual and domestic violence to bring their stories to the community, culminating from more than 1 year of 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.

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

View trailer at <https://vimeo.com/dansense/lvhd>

2019-2020

Kriti

(15 minutes, 8 dancers, 4 musicians) Choreography in collaboration with 8 dancers to research how tradition can be translated from ancient thought to contemporary lived experiences through various movement practices. Produced with original musical score.

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. 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

View excerpt at <https://youtu.be/qUw3GHRPvUM>

2019

Uncontainable

(Work in progress-12 minutes, 2 dancers, 2 musicians) 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

(25 minutes) 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

(15 minutes, 8 dancers) Site-specific performance created in collaboration with Dr. Grant McFadden and his research 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.

Performance:

- April 4, 2018—“Science Exposed”, Biodesign Institute of ASU, Tempe, AZ

2017

Chakra

(10 minutes) Solo piece tries to make sense of the turmoil of our times and how their intensity draws us in towards a spiraling oblivion.

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

2015

EMBRACE—A conversation about change

(Evening-length work, 4 dancers) A multi-layered concept using dance, installation and digitized art in collaboration with artists Nirmal Raja and Dara Larson, “EMBRACE” looks at change and the struggle we face personally and as a society when confronted by its necessity. Audience participation includes weaving through installation art to exit the venue. For Dansense-Nrtyabodha’s company Stage Sanchaar.

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.

View solo except at <https://youtu.be/j1hnmXniDN8>

- 2013 ***The Power of YOU***
(Evening-length work, 4 dancers) With inspiration from those who empower women in the face of violence and oppression; in 2 parts—dramatic interpretation of Kalki Krishnamurthy’s short story “The Letter” addressing widow remarriage and women’s education, and “Trigunatita,” an abstract tableau of a domestic violence survivor’s journey through the 3 *gunas* or innate tendencies. For Dansense-Nrtyabodha’s company Stage Sanchaar.
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***
(10 minutes, 4-6 dancers) 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 work utilizes three different stories of Parvati and Shiva from different regions in India to highlight the varying effects of one on the other. For Dansense-Nrtyabodha’s company Stage Sanchaar.
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.
- 2009 ***Final Curve***
(15 minutes, 6 dancers, 9 chorus) “Final Curve” takes its name and inspiration from Langston Hughes’ poem, a collaborative work with dancers, reflecting on the past and looking to the future. For Dansense-Nrtyabodha’s company Stage Sanchaar.
Performance:
- December 31, 2009— Début as a selection for First Night Austin, City Hall, Austin, TX.
- View excerpt at: https://youtu.be/rocDX_M510

TEACHING

Courses Taught

- 2017-present Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- Ethnography of Dance Practices (DCE402)
 - Dance Analysis and Theory (DCE 301)
 - Introduction to Dance, in-person & online course (DCE 100)
 - Generative Critique: The Critical Response Process (DCE 494, 598)
 - Bharata-Natyam—Lens Refocused (DCE 192)
 - The Atlas of Creative Tools (DCE 494, 598)
 - Creative Practices II
 - Movement Practices II
 - Somatic Practices I

Instructional Development

- Ethnography of Dance Practices: Developed the syllabus and a new class structure, to expose students to a wide range of dance culture practices and learn how anthropological perspectives and theoretical frameworks have been used in understanding dance across contexts and are shifting towards the conscious experience of dance.
- Dance Analysis & Theory: Significantly revised the syllabus and taught the course, a critical

inquiry into the nature of dance. Through investigation, description, interpretation and evaluation, students consider choreography/dance events both verbally and in written form. Traditional views of considering dance are contrasted with contemporary studies that relate dance to culture and consider the complex ways in which relations of gender, class, ethnicity, race and power are both reflected and produced through choreography/dance and their viewing.

- Introduction to Dance: Significantly revised the content and pedagogy of the course to include and more deeply examine dance practices of the marginalized majority.
- Bharata-Natyam—Lens Refocused: Developed this course with Bharata-Nrityam and engaged pedagogical values to not only learn technique but also critically examine the theoretical and embodied knowledge of the dance form.

Mentoring

- 2023-24: Mentoring 4th year Dance Students for their final Transitions Projects
- 2022: Honors Thesis Committee Member for ASU Architecture Student Ananth Udupa—“Othering Space: Translating Bharatanatyam into Architectural Process”
- 2019: Honors Thesis Committee Member for ASU Student Shourya Kothakapu—“Bharatanatyam and its effect on Stress, Mood, and Anxiety”
- 2019: Teaching Internship Instructor: Providing mentorship to Dance Education Students

Further Teaching

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2000-present | <p>Dansense-Nrtyabodha, Inc.
Founder & Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach Bharata-Nrityam, Choreograph dances for students • Produce dance arts events, Collaborate with artists from various disciplines • Engage with community through Collaborative Action Dance Projects • Grant-writing, Visa-sponsorships, Fiscal-sponsorship • Culture-bearing, Creative space-making, Justice work • Manage dance school as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization |
| 2023-present | <p>Critical Response Process (CRP) Certification Program, Co-Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide current cohort through program requirements, including planning their demonstration projects and individual project plans • Plan & facilitate online group meetings • Review & respond to workbook assignments and reflections |
| 2022 | <p>Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October-November: 4-week residency program for Bharata-Nrityam workshop for Verve Dance Company, resulting in original choreography with dancers “Purvaranga-Gratitude & Love to the World Around Us” • December 2-4: Presentation at GCC Winter Dance Concert, “Elemental” |
| 2017 | <p>Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Invited Lectures

- 2024 SLC 320/HON 394 Compassion: A Dialogue Between The Humanities, The Sciences, And The Arts
DCE 300—Moving Histories
DCE 136—Introduction to Somatic Movement
- 2023 DCE 170—First Year Seminar I
DCE 136—Introduction to Somatic Movement
- 2022 DCE 300—Dancing Histories
DCE 571—Graduate First Year Seminar II
DCE 231—Movement Practices II
DCE 136—Somatic Practices I
- 2021 DCE 300—Moving Histories (Introduction to Bharata-Natyam)
DCE 231—Movement Practices II
DCE 501—Philosophy of Dance
DCE 136—Somatic Practices I
- 2020 DCE 136—Somatic Practices I
DCE 354—Creative Approaches to Teaching Dance I
DCE 117—Feldenkrais I (Facial Movements in Bharata-Natyam)
DCE 331—3rd Year Movement Practices (Structure & Experiment in Dance)
DCE 300—Moving Histories (Introduction to Bharata-Natyam)
- 2019 Interactive Lecture—Divine Inspiration, Kolkata, India
“Choice & Intention in our Dance”—Dance as an academically viable subject and the application of the dancer’s strengths to other walks of life.
Workshop—Nrityalaya, Kozhikode, India
“Choice & Intention—What makes us dance?” 2-hour workshop with senior dance students of Nrityalaya exploring intentions in dance through creative practice exercises.
ASU Dance Experience 2019
DCE 136—Somatic Practices I (Introduction to Expression & Musical Influences on Movement)
DCE 501—Philosophy of Dance (Rasa in Indian Dance)
Arizona High School Dance Festival—Bharata-Natyam and Story-telling
- 2018 DCE 136—Somatic Practices I (Introduction to Abhinaya, Finding the Rhythm)
- 2017 Bharata-Natyam Lecture-Demonstration—Sapporo International Communication Plaza, Sapporo, Japan
(View excerpt at: <https://youtu.be/oZBWzvcUt0A>)
- 2016 Art History Seminar, ASU: “Dance—Art Without Borders”
- 2014 Milwaukee Public Library—“Tagore: A Celebration” with Milwaukee Poet Laureates Jeff Poniewaz and Antler
- 2009-2011 Guest Speaker for India Fine Arts, Austin, TX—“Understanding Bharata-Natyam” at various venues, including St. Stephens Preparatory School and the Texas School for the Deaf

GRANTS & AWARDS

2024	Scholarship Award to attend 2024 API-GBV National Summit: Growing from Our Roots \$350 2024 Katherine Lindholm-Lane Arizona Dance Educator of the Year from Arizona Dance Education Organization
2023	Arizona Commission on the Arts Creative Capacity Grant for FY2024 \$3850
2021	Arizona Commission on the Arts Research and Development Grant \$5000
2021	Arizona Commission on the Arts Organizational Relief Grant \$5000
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.

PAID FACILITATIONS

- 2024 • Critical Response Process Trainer/Facilitator, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Department of Theatre. August 19
- 2023 • Critical Response Process Trainer/Facilitator for ASU Cultural Affairs, ASU Foundation Management Team, University College, Arizona State University, ASU's Enterprise Brand Strategy and Management "All Hands" Workshop
- 2022 • Critical Response Process Workshop Trainer for PeerLA Cohort IX—ASU Leadership Academy, ASU Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College "Principled Innovation: a process of becoming" Conference at Heard Museum
- 2021 • Michael Chekhov Association Psychophysical Anti-Racism Study Group Co-facilitator for monthly meetings of Michael Chekhov Association, including MICHA DEI Listening & Exchange Circle
- Facilitator for event session "Celebrating Movement Heritages" for International Community for Movement, Royal Central School for Speech & Drama, U.K.
- 2019, 2020 • Critical Response Process Workshop for Yale School of Drama

SERVICE

Facilitation

- 2023 • Invited to be co-facilitator for Townhall meeting between Faculty and Students of Dance Department, ASU, on issues of Equity and Inclusion
- 2022 • Facilitator for YWCA-Minneapolis' 20th Annual It's Time to Talk: Forums on Race" conversation following Keynote Speaker Angela Davis on "Paths to Collective Justice"
- Facilitation with Phil Stoesz at Multicultural Center, ASU: "Inter-Religious Storytelling"
- 2020-2021 • Arizona State University School of Music, Dance & Theater Liberation Coalition—group of graduate students working to identify and propose a process for students to be able to address equity and inclusion challenges with faculty and administration; led the development of a Reconciliatory Process and antiracism training for the group
- 2018 • Clothesline Project at ASU, Tempe & Scottsdale, AZ—conducted 2 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; coordinated with Arizona South Asians for Safe Families & arranged for domestic violence survivors to create T-shirts for the Clothesline Project at ASU; conducted lesson for dance students ages 5-adult on believing victims, relating this to the Clothesline Project, and made t-shirts to be displayed on the Clothesline Project

Organizations

- 2018-present National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)
 - (In Process) Developing 6-week online course for the Online Professional Development Institute (OPDI)—"Dance in India: Delectable Diversity, Taste of Technique"
 - Action & Accountability Committee
 - Auditor for Maryland Nonprofits Equity Program Audit Report to National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)
 - Advisory Council—Graduate Student Liaison
- 2021-present Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Dance Education*

Adjudications

- 2018 • Arizona State University Spring Dance Fest
- 2017-present • Arizona Dance Education Organization—Choreography Contest, Essay Contest

Sponsorship

VISA APPLICATION & TOUR SPONSORSHIP

- N. Srikanth & Aswathy V. Nair (Dancers), 2012-present
- Carnatic Ensemble—Gajendran Ganesan & company, 2014-present
- Roja Kannan, Priya Murle & Dance Troupe—“Madurai Chithirai Thiruvizha”, 2023
- C.S.M. Subramanyam—Bhagavatamela Artist, 2022, 2023
- Kaberi Sen (Odissi Dancer), Anjan Saha (Sitarist), 2018, 2022
- Viraja & Shyamjith (Dancers), 2019
- P. Unnikrishnan (Vocalist), 2017, 2018, 2020

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

- Coley Curry
- Pachanga Collective
- LXDEA Convivencia: Belonging Y Testimonio (2024)
- Phoenix Funk Fam

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2020-present Dance Studies Association
- 2020-present ABHAI—Association for Bharatanatyam Artistes of India
- 2017-present National Dance Education Organization
Arizona Dance Education Organization
- 2016-present Arizona Dance Coalition
- 2017-2020 Graduate Dance Organization, ASU
Past President (2019)
- 2013-2015 Wisconsin Dance Council
- 2011-2013 Dance Umbrella, Austin, TX

FURTHER CREATIVE WORK & PRODUCING EXPERIENCE

- 2023-present NAVARANG—A Performance Festival
Dansense-Nrtyabodha curates an annual spring festival of dance and performance artists from various backgrounds to bring together performance communities and audiences that do not usually intersect.
2023-Movement and Home
2024-Movement and Notions of Gender
- 2015-present Dansense-Nrtyabodha performances with live music ensemble from India (except 2018 and 2020).
These include invitations to other Indian dance schools and coordination and production of a cohesive program.
- 2019-present
 - Shivaratri—Annual Dansense-Nrtyabodha ‘Natya Aradhana’ or dance offering in celebration of the Festival of Shiva. This includes curating and producing programming that builds community among different dance styles from India.
 - Rasaboxes—Learning (under Professor Rachel Bowditch), Practice & Adaptation as a Creative Tool

in Creative Practices, studio lessons, workshops and dance residencies

- 2022
- Virtual Solo Performance on viewcy.com's Saturday Evening Indian Classical Dance, curated by Dr. Kaberi Sen
 - Produced Solo presentation of Dansense student Yashvi Velidi, to mark her *salangai puja* or 'receiving ankle bells' at ASU Kerr Cultural Center
 - Collaborative work on "Mangalam" with Glendale Community College Verve Dance Company members
 - "Tillana" for *Fall Forward*, School of Music, Dance & Theater, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 2018
- SAMAVESHA: Produced and debuted evening-length program for this work-in-progress by N. Srikanth and Aswathy V. Nair. Conducted the Critical Response Process for the artists, which led to their next iterations of the program touring since then around the world.
See trailer at <https://youtu.be/VMJgLiVHjkU>.
- 2017
- Konohanasakuyahime*
7-minute collaborative duet with dancer Chikako Sato, 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*
- 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.
 - Performance:
 - October 16, 2016—Arathi School of Dance's 35th Anniversary at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale, AZ.
- Carnatic Jazz Jam—Produced performance of Carnatic Ensemble with local Jazz Musicians at the Phoenix Art Museum with support from the Asian Arts Council. See excerpt at <https://vimeo.com/dansense/carnaticjazzjam>.
- 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)
- 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)

- 2011 *Shiva—Timeless Ideal, Endless Inspiration*
Full-length production for Stage Sanchaar included a suite of Bharata Natyam dance created in collaboration with members of Stage Sanchaar and musician Oliver Rajamani, including original music & choreography “Charukeshi”
Performance:
• April 2, 2011—In support of the Arts & Fitness Program for Young Children at Boyd Vance Theater, Austin, TX.
- 2009 Bhagavat Mela Natakam Festival
Thanjavur, India
Invited to perform 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.
- 2008 *Naatakam*
Stage Sanchaar’s—professional dance troupe under Dansense-Nrtyabodha—debut production specifically choreographed for First Night Austin 2009, a curated, family-friendly event to celebrate the New Year. An adaptation of a fable into rhyming dialogue geared toward a younger audience.
Performance:
• December 31, 2008—City Hall, Austin, TX.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2024 2024 API-GBV National Summit: Growing from Our Roots
August 27-29, San Francisco, CA
- 2021 Trainings
• Bloom365—BringLove365: Healthy Relationship & Teen Dating Abuse Prevention Education
• YWCA Minneapolis Racial Justice Facilitator Training Program
- 2020-2021 The Molly Blank Fund – ASU Gammage Teaching Artists Program
• ASU Gammage Teaching Artist trained in Kennedy Center Arts Integration method
• Awarded Stipend for Participation
• Listing on ASU Gammage Teaching Artists Roster
- 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/>)
• 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.
Sexual Violence Core Advocacy Training, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence
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/>)