

Private Studio, Public Impact: A Virtual Summit for Dance Studio Teachers and Owners

Monday July 26, 2026

Virtual

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

Deadline for Submission: **April 29, 2026**

Submit online at:

<https://www.ndeo.org/Learn/Conferences/Virtual-Summit/Dance-Studio-Teachers>

This Summit is designed for all independent dance studio teachers and owners: competitive, pre-professional, recreational, culturally specific, and community-based programs.

Private dance studios are often viewed as small businesses, competition hubs, or extracurricular spaces. But the reality is far more expansive.

Private studios are cultural incubators; whether they participate in competitions, prioritize concert training, center culturally specific dance forms, operate as recreational community programs, or prepare dancers for professional pathways.

We do more than train technique. We shape identity, emotional expression, aesthetic values, confidence, discipline, and career imagination. The private studio is often a young dancer's first sustained encounter with artistry, collaboration, creative risk-taking, and public performance. At the same time, studios remain welcoming spaces for adults discovering dance for the first time or returning to a long-held passion, making them hubs of lifelong artistic expression.

Private studio educators are shaping the next generation of dancers, audiences, educators, and cultural participants. But the independent sector also faces distinct and evolving challenges. Some studios navigate the pressures of competition culture, adjudication systems, and award-based hierarchies. Others navigate sustainability without the financial boost of competition circuits.

These choices ripple outward into collegiate dance programs, commercial industries, concert companies, adjudication systems, community arts spaces, and broader public perceptions of dance. Private studios are a diverse and critical part of the dance ecosystem.

We invite all dance studio teachers and owners to share your practices, questions, innovations, and lived experiences this summer at our 2026 Virtual Summit: *Private Studio, Public Impact: A Virtual Summit for Dance Studio Teachers*.

Below are some questions to consider as you craft your session proposal:

- How do you navigate the challenges of creating rigorous programming that allows for students to take different pathways - collegiate, commercial, concert, recreational, community-based, or no future with dance at all?
- How do your leadership decisions shape studio culture and student outcomes?
- How do you explore dance history in the studio in order to preserve the roots and avoid appropriation?
- How do you navigate the increased socio-emotional needs among youth in the classroom?
- How do you utilize technology in the classroom to foster and encourage growth?
- How do you balance entrepreneurial demands that require educators to also be marketers, administrators, and business owners?
- How do you prioritize process-based training while meeting performance-driven goals?
- How do you navigate cycles of trend consumption and aesthetic replication
- How do you navigate social media concerns regarding shortened attention spans, approval based worthiness and comparison.
- How do you preserve genre integrity while responding to evolving cultural trends

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

Proposal Procedures:

- 1. Presenters:** ONE "Main Contact" Presenter must submit each proposal regardless of the number of co presenters. **NDEO will communicate primarily with the Main Contact**, who is responsible for passing on information to all co-presenters. Individuals may only submit ONE proposal as Main Contact; however, they may be co-presenters on other proposals. **All presenters must register for and attend the virtual summit.** If any presenters change after proposal acceptance, contact conference@ndeo.org immediately. NDEO reserves the right to cancel the session if presenters change, and any changes must be approved by Virtual Summit staff.
- 2. Proposal Review:** Proposals are reviewed by a committee of peer adjudicators from the NDEO membership. Presenters should expect to hear the status of their proposal no later than May 15, 2026.
- 4. NON-MEMBERS:** Session Submission Fee: A \$15 fee MUST be paid in order to submit your session proposal. Unpaid proposals will NOT be considered. There is no fee for current NDEO members
- 3. NDEO Membership and Attendance Policies:** All presenters must be (or become) NDEO members by **June 1, 2026**. All presenters must register and pay the event registration fee by **June 1, 2026**. Memberships must remain current through event dates. *NDEO reserves the right to cancel the session and/or remove presenters if these policies are not followed.*

All proposals require the following:

**All character limits include spaces.*

Below are the questions you will be asked in the proposal submission form. We encourage you to have an offline backup in case anything goes amiss with the form submission.

- 1. Session Title: 50-character limit** (Includes spaces. Titles that exceed the character limit will be cut off.)
- 2.) Biographies for All Presenters: 800-character limit for each bio.**
- 3. Session Description: 900-character limit.** The session description should clearly communicate the content and experience of your session to both proposal reviewers and attendees. If selected, this description will be used in Virtual Summit materials to entice attendees to come to your session.
- 4.) Consideration of the following question(s):**
 - Describe how your experiences working in the Dance Studio Setting

- How do you plan to engage participants in a virtual format?

Review of Proposal & Presenter Deadlines

April 29, 2026 – Proposals Due

May 15, 2026 – Deadline by which Accepted Proposals
Notified

May 22, 2026 – Acceptance Confirmation Deadline

June 1, 2026 – Presenter Membership Deadline

June 1, 2026– Presenter Registration Deadline

July 27, 2026 – NDEO Virtual Summit

Questions? Contact conference@ndeo.org