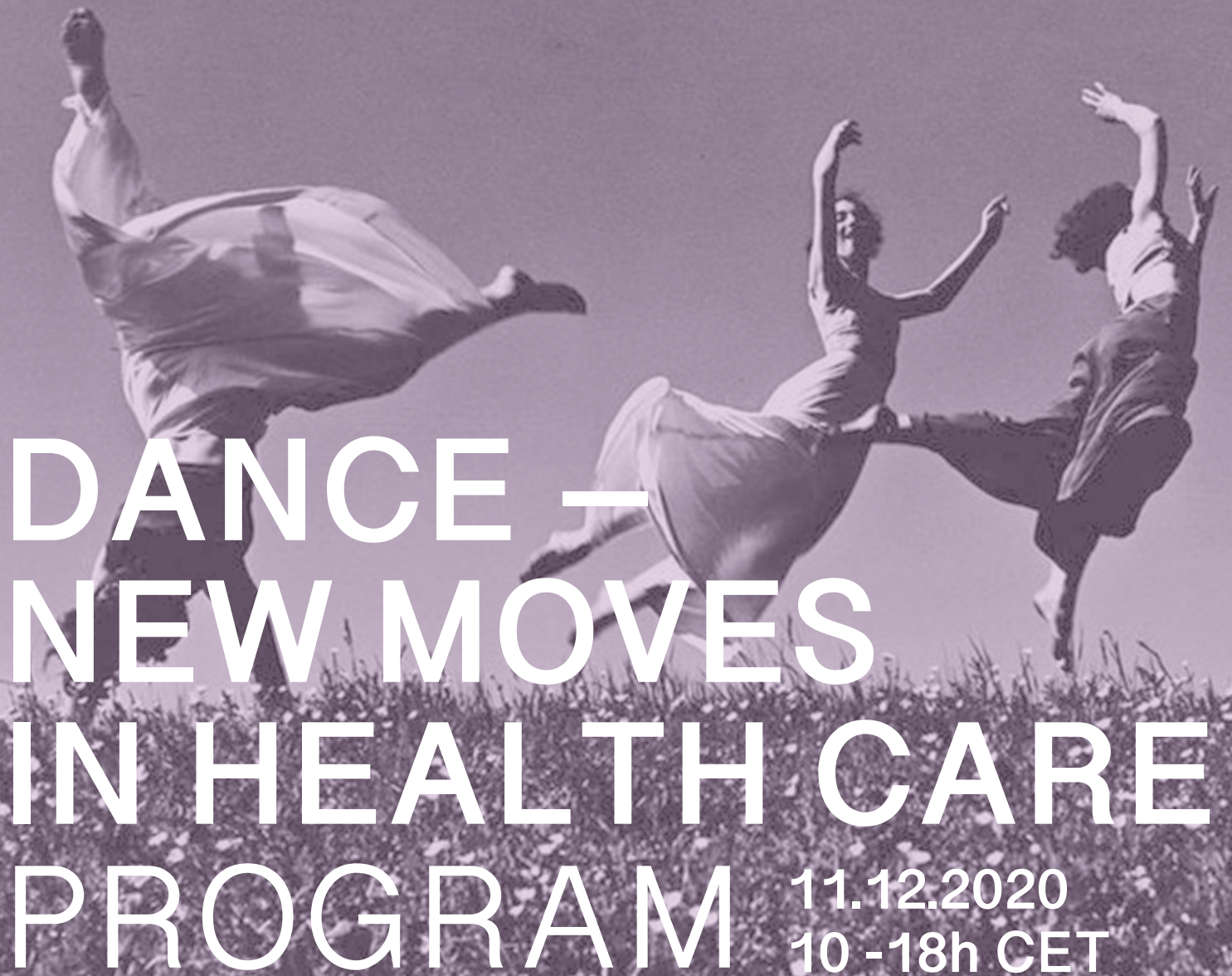




ARTS for HEALTH  
AUSTRIA




# DANCE – NEW MOVES IN HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

11.12.2020  
10 - 18h CET

A FORUM by the Dance & Creative Wellness  
Foundation and ARTS for HEALTH AUSTRIA

In cooperation with

 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Arts, Culture,  
Civil Service and Sport



**Stadt  
Wien**

# PREFACE

Sustainable development is more than just a catchword. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, with 17 ambitious Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. In this context, arts and culture is increasingly recognised as an important dimension for achieving the SDGs – also with respect to SDG 3 which aims to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”.

The invaluable impact of the arts and culture on individual health and well-being, community cohesion and quality of life is being increasingly acknowledged. There are many admirable initiatives all over Europe which demonstrate specific approaches to involve culture in health policies and social care. But we need to move forward from examples of good practice to real cross-sectoral strategies. In that respect, some countries like United Kingdom, Ireland and Finland lead by example.

A year ago the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport initiated a discussion process in the “Arts for Health” workshop with around 90 stakeholders from various sectors.

I am happy to say that in the meantime a new organisation named “Arts for Health Austria” has been founded and that the forum “Dance – New Moves in Health Care” is taking place in Vienna – albeit under different circumstances than we had imagined.

Also during the pandemic, we are reminded once again of how culture and especially the performing arts can help foster cohesion and keep us connected, entertained and inspired!



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Mayer". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Andrea Mayer**  
Secretary of State for Arts and Culture

# PREFACE

The effect of art on our health and well-being is undoubtedly worth examining and researching - from an artistic as well as a medical perspective. How reciprocal this interplay can be experienced is already outlined when we talk about the “enjoyment of art”. We know which exciting dimensions and social benefits can emerge behind the artistic work.

This is particularly clear in the genre of dance, which has always confronted the human body with questions of health very closely. The field of research seems endless and to undertake “New Steps / New Moves” here, as the title of the forum of the two organizers so nicely announces, promises exciting insights. I am particularly happy when art leaves its own limits and evokes new encounters in the social discourse. Dance can do that and the fact that the forum is filled with scientists from sociology, neuroscience, health economics, music and many more is evidence of a very broad field in which everyone can benefit from one another.



The importance of such cross-disciplinary thinking is becoming increasingly clear in our modern, highly complex societies. The importance of the relationship between art and culture and human health is not yet adequately understood. Our current crisis, our life in a pandemic, shows us the need to get to know and use this relationship better.

I wish all participants, speakers and discussants a stimulating day and an intensive togetherness.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Veronica Kaup-Hasler".

**Mag.ª Veronica Kaup-Hasler**  
amtsf. Stadträtin für Kultur und  
Wissenschaft in Wien





# DANCE – NEW MOVES IN HEALTH CARE

An online forum by the **Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation** and **ARTS for HEALTH AUSTRIA**

Friday, 11th of December 2020 | 10:00 – 18:00 CET

This is an event in cooperation with the Department of International Cultural Affairs at the Federal Ministry for Art, Culture, Public Services and Sport, as well as MuseumsQuartier Vienna. The overwhelming evidence of the health benefits of arts and specifically dance interventions, as highlighted by the World Health Organisations (WHO) 2019 report, mean that many European countries such as Finland, Sweden and the UK have already embraced and integrated the model of ‘arts on prescription’ into their existing health care structures.

In Vienna, this topic became part of the dialogue for the first time in December 2019 at the ‘Arts for Health’ workshop, presented by Federal Ministry for Art, Culture, Public services and Sport. The challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic have made this topic even more prominent and relevant, as individuals and communities seek to adapt and self-manage in the face of such physical, mental and social health challenges.

The Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation’s series of European Forums aim to bring together stakeholders from the health, arts, education and local government sectors and to bring awareness to the potent role of dance and other arts as alternative and complementary interventions to address some of today’s global physical, mental and social health challenges.

“Dance – New Moves in Health Care” presents an overview of the different approaches and potential dance-based programs already implemented across Europe and the US. We focus on the successes and the challenges of other countries, innovation and future developments. This year’s forum in Vienna, brings together international experts and practitioners from the fields of dance for health, dance sociology, neuroscience, health economics as well as from the public and private health sector.

We highlight the recent developments in health and ‘virtual’ applications of dance-based programs that target at-risk populations. During this time of confinement dance practitioners were forced to develop an online alternative to maintain, what is for many a physical and social lifeline. Many positives came from this necessity, as practitioners discovered that ‘virtual’ dance actually facilitated access to quality dance-based programs and overcame geographical, social and cultural barriers. The directors of the Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation predict that this on-line offer is here to stay and organisations such as Dance for PD® (USA), Switch2Move(NL), MoveDanceFeel(UK), Konzert Theater Bern (CH) continue to develop creative on-line interventions to supplement live activities long after the lockdown measures have been lifted.

# PROGRAM

## DANCE – NEW MOVES IN HEALTH CARE Online Forum 2020

09:00 – 10:00	Virtual Registration
10:00	Kick Off and Format of the Day – Host: <b>Liz King</b> Welcome and Introduction by Sponsors, D&CWF and AfHA
10:20	Short Video
10:25	<b>Clare Guss-West</b> The Spectrum of Dance.
10:40	<b>DDr. Oliver Peter Graber</b> Neural plasticity in Music and Dance.
11:10	<b>Kai Lehtikainen</b> A European Perspective on Dance for Health.
11:40	<b>Edith Wolf Perez</b> Dance for Health in Austria. An Outlook.
12:00	Andrew Greenwood: Energiser ‘The experience’
12:15	<b>Begoña San José</b> Developments in E-Health and How Dance can be integrated.
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch Break (75min)
14:00	<b>Eldridge Labinjo</b> : Energiser
14:05	<b>Clare Guss-West</b> Benchmarking of Best Practice in Dance for Health Programmes.
14:25	<b>Andrew Greenwood</b> A Case Study of ‘Dance and Well-being’ in the Netherlands.
14:50	BREAK OUT GROUPS
15:20 – 15:50	Coffee Break (30min)
15:55	Sum up of the BREAK OUT GROUPS
16:30	<b>David Leventhal</b> A Digital Lifeline: Dance for Parkinson’s in the virtual space.
16:55	<b>David Leventhal</b> : Energiser ‘Best practice - online’
17:10	Q&R / Movement Wrap Up
18:00	FINISH

# SPEAKERS

## THE SPECTRUM OF DANCE

### **Clare Guss-West**

The Spectrum of Dance – reviews the role of dance in human life from Art, through Performance to Dance for Health and Dance as Therapy, in order to establish a clear basis for the Forum day's discussions. The Forum itself will focus on the broad applications of Dance for Health as potential services within a health care context. To this end the session will propose a 2020 definition of Dance for Health as a starting point.

## BENCHMARKING OF BEST PRACTICE IN DANCE FOR HEALTH PROGRAMS

Dance-based practices for health are burgeoning across the globe addressing those living with neurological conditions, mental health concerns, or developmental challenges and fostering measurable, qualitative and quantitative therapeutic outcomes. In certain countries, e.g. the UK and Sweden, a general medical practitioner may already 'prescribe' the Arts. However, in most countries the dance for health sector lacks a coherent understanding of what health care actually needs in order to implement initiatives as mainstream, complementary care.

Insights and data from an international survey, developed by a group of dance for health professionals in the US, Canada and Europe builds an effective bridge between the sectors to establish an international consensus on core benchmarks that would facilitate the implementation of dance-based practices in a health care context.

CLARE GUSS-WEST, BHum MA, is a professional dancer, choreographer, holistic health practitioner, author and wellness business developer specializing in integration of holistic health principles to dance practice.

Clare currently directs a creative 'Senior Dance' and research initiative for Konzert Theater Bern/ Bern Ballet, in partnership with Bern University, Institute of Sport Science department. She leads a University Diploma in 'Dance, Health & Aging' at the University Côte d'Azur, France and her teaching approach is certified CPD by the Pôle National Supérieure de Danse, Cannes et Marseille and The Royal Academy of Dance.

As co-director of the European Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation she is leading an international benchmarking initiative for the sector. In her Foundation role and as Chair of IADMS Dance for Health Committee, Clare lobbies for the validation of dance and its role in innovative preventative healthcare.

[www.sussed-solutions.com](http://www.sussed-solutions.com)



# SPEAKERS

## NEURAL PLASTICITY IN MUSIC AND DANCE

**Oliver Peter Graber**

The daily training (lasting several hours a day) in the fields of music and dance leaves “traces”, not only in the musculoskeletal system, but also in the brain. Using selected examples from specialist literature, the lecture has a focus on so-called functional imaging (fMRI and PET) of the human brain, introduces the phenomenon Neural plasticity in general-based-upon instrumental music as well as ballet and thus explores cross-connections of physiology, music and dance. Additional topics will be „marking“ and „learning by observation“. Finally, two upcoming projects of the lecturer – that once more are bringing music, ballet, science, therapy and coaching together – will be introduced.

OLIVER PETER GRABER works internationally as a composer, musician and dramaturg. He taught in the university sector, including „Musikwirkungsfor-schung“ (research on the impact of music on the human physiology) at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, and was dramaturg at the Vienna State Ballet from 2013 to 2020. In particular, he is dedicated to projects at the interface between music, ballet and science.

[www.graber-op.eu](http://www.graber-op.eu)





# SPEAKERS

## A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE ON DANCE FOR HEALTH

**Kai Lehtikoinen**

Several studies show that dance has significant benefits for the physical and mental health of various demographic groups. Kai will present recent research findings on dance for health. Some successful dance-based service innovations such as the work of “dance ambassadors” in elder care will be discussed in reference to the concept of cultural well-being and its link to cultural rights. Recent policy recommendations on the arts and culture in hospitals and other health service organisations published by the Finnish ArtsEqual Research Initiative will be introduced.

KAI LEHIKONEN (PhD) leads Uniarts Helsinki's Center for Educational Research and Academic Development in the Arts (CERADA). He is Vice Director of ArtsEqual Research Initiative, a 6-year multidisciplinary research consortium funded by the Academy of Finland's Strategic Research Council. In ArtsEqual, he also leads the Arts, Health, Welfare & Care research team. Formerly professor in CERADA, his interests stretch from social engagement to well-being and from identities to expanding professionalism in the arts and arts education.

His more than 90 publications include, for example, peer-reviewed articles on dance in eldercare, two monographs on dance, two anthologies on expanding professionalism in the arts, an anthology on pedagogy in higher arts education, and an edited review of international literature on arts, health and well-being. In addition, he co-edits the book series Critical Studies in Dance Leadership and Inclusion for Palgrave Macmillan. His work towards decision making includes policy recommendations, memberships in ministerial task forces, and a temporary advisor's position in WHO Regional Office for Europe.

[www.kailehikoinen.academia.edu](http://www.kailehikoinen.academia.edu)





# SPEAKERS

## DANCE FOR HEALTH IN AUSTRIA. AN OUTLOOK.

### **Edith Wolf Perez**

In December of last year, the Federal Austrian Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport invited the arts community to the workshop “Arts for Health”. It was the first time that the “official Austria” has put the spotlight on this topic. The ensuing discussions highlighted the ongoing activities as well as the shortcomings in the area.

On the practical side, arts intervention in the health context have a long history in Austria with some ongoing dance interventions dating back to the 1980s.

However, there are no structures in place to document these activities and provide an overview of the field. In order to give a voice to these individual projects, to present them as a collective movement, to provide an interface between science and arts, and to show their significance in the field of health and well-being, the association Arts for Health Austria has been founded. At the Forum “Dance – New Moves in Health Care” the association and its projected profile will be presented for the first time to the public.

EDITH WOLF PEREZ, has combined her two passions, dance and writing: She was a co-founder of the dance magazine *tanzAffiche* which she continues to edit online as the webzine *tanz.at*. Already as a student at Laban she started to be involved in inclusive dance projects and was consequently a dance provider in various health settings in London. She holds an M.A. in European Cultural Policy and Administration (Warwick University, UK). As a writer on dance, arts and cultural policy she has published extensively in trade magazines and newspapers.

She has been artistic director of the summer school at the festival Bolzano Danza, and was consulting member of various arts funding commissions. She is a member of the advisory board of the Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation and is co-founder of ARTS for HEALTH AUSTRIA. Currently she is embarking on a PhD thesis on Dance and Health at the University

[www.tanz.at](http://www.tanz.at)



# SPEAKERS

## DEVELOPMENTS IN E-HEALTH AND HOW DANCE CAN BE INTEGRATED.

### **Begoña San José**

Change is the only constant. Adapting to change is the only way forward. A year ago, this presentation would have focused on the impact of art, and specifically of dancing on mitigating the effects of chronic ill health, on obesity or sedentarism, highlighting the impact of dance, as a fun and social form of physical activity.

Today, the above remains true, of course, but a new dimension has been added. This pandemic has highlighted the need for a change, the need to reconnect to people, the need for social contact, the mental wellness dimension that we used to take for granted. This pandemic has also driven the adoption of tele-health and tele-everything solutions as a way to bridge and build connections when physical contact is not possible/advisable. Dance, as other health interventions, have adapted to the remote format, facilitating its access to those that need it the most. A lot still needs to be done, but the first steps have already been taken. Let the dance start.

BEGOÑA SAN JOSÉ, is committed to contributing to a healthier world. She is passionate about health and health innovation, where she has dedicated her professional career. She studied Clinical Psychology in Spain, Health Services Research-Epidemiology (MSc and PhD) in The Netherlands and has both training and experience in Business and Management. She has worked for leading multinational insurance companies and has engaged in several projects in the fields of mental health, holistic healthcare, personalized medicine, value-based-healthcare and others.

She is the founder of BEandGO, People and Healthcare Consulting, and currently supports start-ups and corporates in their collaboration opportunities to bring better health to the people. She is a strong believer in the power of art to boost personal development, in its therapeutic features and practices and supports several forms of it, including music, crafts and painting, cooking and dancing among others.

[www.beandgo.eu](http://www.beandgo.eu)



# SPEAKERS

## A CASE STUDY OF ‘DANCE AND WELL-BEING’ IN THE NETHERLANDS. **Andrew Greenwood**

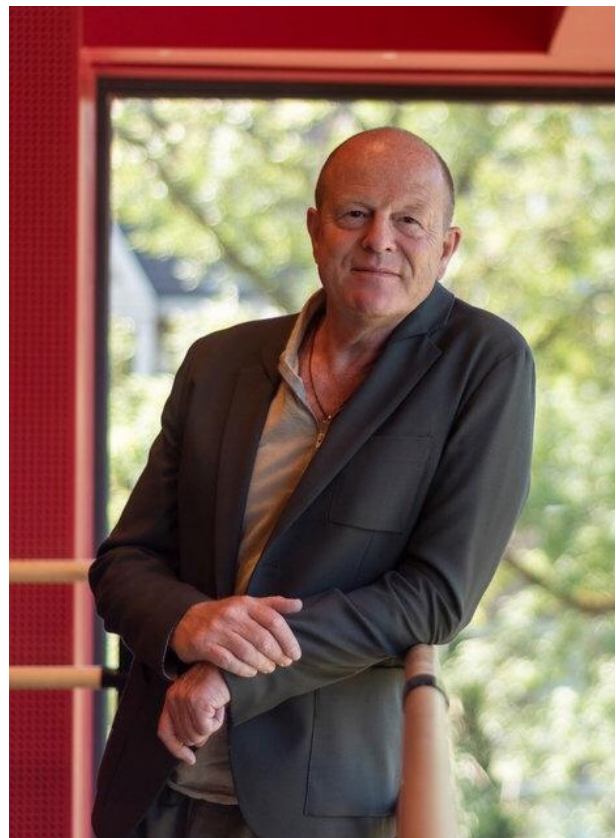
The case study presented is a “Creative First Aid Box” that Andrew has developed for an Education project for health care workers in the region of Brabant, the Netherlands. The tool box contains creative movement and music programs to stimulate the physical, mental and social interaction of their clients. It addresses mobile professional carers in the neighbourhoods as well as those working in care homes.

It is a policy aim in the Netherlands to keep seniors in their own homes for longer. The project is supported by a 3-year research grant including a cost analysis. In his presentation Andrew will talk about the direct and indirect impacts of the project. What are the concrete contributions to the policy programme? What are the underlying principles? Are there important preconditions? To which social themes does it make a positive contribution? How can you measure the economic impact?

ANDREW GREENWOOD, is a dancer and international ballet master. Seven years ago he started to dedicate a big part of his work in dancer's health (injury prevention & rehabilitation), offering guidance in how dancers can enhance their personal well-being, physically and mentally. That would provide the foundation of knowledge when he discovered that not only Dance needs Health but Health needs Dance. His focus shifted to improving the life of people with chronic physical or mental impairments, and he created his method Switch2Move. He is extensively teaching in Europe including Russia as well as in Australia. In 2016, he co-founded and since co-directs the Dance and Creative Wellness Foundation. In 2020, he was nominated as advisor of the Ballet Inclusive Education Programs of the National Opera in Amsterdam.

Andrew is a popular keynote speaker and presented his ideas and practice of dance for health and well-being in TED talks, at the European Parliament or at the Pushkin Museum Moskau. In 2020 he has made a series of films which were broadcast on Dutch television.

[www.switch2move.com](http://www.switch2move.com)





# SPEAKERS

## A DIGITAL LIFELINE: DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S IN THE VIRTUAL SPACE. **David Leventhal**

For nearly 20 years, Dance for PD® has provided people living with Parkinson's around the world with interactive, live dance experiences that engage, inspire and connect. What happens when a robust dance for health program moves into the virtual space? How are issues of access, inclusion, connection and creativity addressed in a fully online program?

Dance for PD® founding teacher David Leventhal will provide an overview of challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned from a living digital experiment, revealing a list of benefits that make the case for on-going, permanent programming in the online space.

DAVID LEVENTHAL is a founding teacher and Program Director for Dance for PD®, a program of the Mark Morris Dance Group in New York that has been used as a model for classes in more than 300 communities in 25 countries.

He leads classes for people living with Parkinson's disease around the world and trains other teaching artists in the Dance for PD® approach. He has co-produced five volumes of a successful instructional video and helped conceive and design Moving Through Glass, a dance-based Google Glass App for people with Parkinson's. He received the 2018 Martha Hill Mid-Career Award, the 2016 World Parkinson Congress Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Parkinson's Community and was a co-recipient of the 2013 Alan Bonander Humanitarian Award from the Parkinson's Unity Walk. As a dancer, he performed with the Mark Morris Dance Group from 1997-2011, appearing in principal roles in some of Mark Morris' most celebrated works.

[www.danceforparkinsons.org](http://www.danceforparkinsons.org)





# PROGRAM

## BREAK OUT GROUPS

**Clare Guss-West**

p5

Is it Therapy or Therapeutic?

**Begoña San José**

p9

Dance for Health, let's take next steps.

**Andrew Greenwood**

p10

Measuring Impact: validating the social return of investment.

**David Leventhal**

p11

Dancing in the Time of COVID.

**Eldridge Labinjo**

p13

The Power of Words: looking at positive critique, questions, and framing.

**Johannes Gregoritsch**

p13

Dance, Arts and The Right to Health - any challenges for Public Institutions?

**Katherine Taylor**

p14

The role of Dance in Mental Well-being.

**Iva Rohlik**

p14

Teaching Strategies for Adapted Practice.



# MODERATORS

## THE POWER OF WORDS: LOOKING AT POSITIVE CRITIQUE, QUESTIONS AND FRAMING.

**Eldridge Labinjo**



After an international career as a neoclassical dancer, Eldridge retrained for ten years to become both a theatre director and a Master Coach of Strategic Interventions.

Based in the Netherlands he works primarily with businesses focused on social impact, universities such as Erasmus University and cultural institutions like Scapino Ballet Rotterdam. He is an external communications consultant in the UK for Unite the Union and around Europe at various startup accelerators for entrepreneurs giving master classes in communication skills. He is one of three Statutory Directors of the Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation.

## DANCE, ARTS AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH - ANY CHALLENGES FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS?

**Johannes Gregoritsch**

Johannes Gregoritsch works at the Austrian Social Insurance. Born in Vienna in 1961, he graduated in Law at the University of Vienna with his Doctorate Theses on Human Rights. He is a lecturer in legal matters, e.g. at Sigmund Freud University, Vienna.



# MODERATORS

## THE ROLE OF DANCE IN MENTAL WELL-BEING

**Katherine Taylor**



Katherine works in children's services as a clinical psychologist managing the new Arts, Culture and Mental Health program with Greater Manchester i-THRIVE, part of the national transformation of children's services. She researched at Arts for Health for 3 years, alongside clinical work with families. She studied the role of creativity in bipolar disorder because of the known links and also due to her own experiences of engaging creatively to manage extreme moods throughout her 20s.

## TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR ADAPTED PRACTICE

**Iva Rohlik**

Iva Rohlik was a semi-soloist of the Vienna State Opera and Hamburg Ballet's John Neumeier. She is a choreographer, psychotherapist and holds a Mag. phil degree from the University of Vienna in theater, film and media studies, art history & journalism.

Iva is convinced of the positive effects of movement on every area of life and loves to share her enthusiasm for dance with people of different ages and backgrounds. She has initiated numerous social and participatory projects of all age groups.



## HOST OF 'DANCE – NEW MOVES IN HEALTH CARE' **Liz King**

Liz King has worked professionally as a dancer and choreographer since 1967. In 1982 she co-founded TTW – Tanztheater Wien, which would become Austria's first independent contemporary dance- theatre company. TTW toured extensively throughout Europe.

In 1989 she became director and choreographer at Stadttheater Heidelberg. In 1996 she returned to Vienna to re-start TTW 2, bringing with her a young team of dancers. In 1999 the company moved into the Volksoper Vienna creating an innovative environment for contemporary dance for large audiences.

In 2005 Liz King founded D.ID Dance Identity which she now leads with the film maker Max Biskup. D.ID created the Choreografisches Zentrum Burgenland which is now situated in the Kultur Kongress Zentrum Eisenstadt. D.ID hosts dance artists and emerging choreographers from Austria and across the globe, collaborates with European Dance Organisations in EU Creative Europe projects and presents every year an international festival at KUZ Eisenstadt.

Liz has been a leader in Austria since 2007 in promoting artists to implement their work in community based activities, especially with refugees and local communities.

**[www.dance-identity.com](http://www.dance-identity.com)**





# ORGANISERS

## ARTS FOR HEALTH AUSTRIA

### Katy Geertsen



Katy is a dedicated professional dance artist and teacher who enjoys exploring every aspect of what dance and the arts can mean to individuals and their communities across the globe. She believes dance can provide every individual with a means of expression, communication and with a pathway towards a healthier life. Katy graduated in 2011 with a first class BA (Hons) degree from Trinity Laban – Conservatoire of Music and Dance. She continued to expand her horizons at the post-graduate LINK Dance Company of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in Perth, Australia.

Her studies led her to concentrate on her belief that dance can provide every individual with a pathway towards a healthier life. She worked with those who identify with having a disability or suffer from social exclusion. She was appointed as the rehearsal director with a dance company for the mature dancer and in 2015 she completed the Mark Morris Dance Group – Dance for PD® Teacher Training course. Since then, she has worked as a passionate ‘Dance for Health’ teacher and advocate in the field and now brings her unique experiences to Austria.

### Chris Wang

The dancer, dance educator and arts advocate, Chris Wang, was born in St. Pölten, Austria, and received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Vienna and Linz in the fields of dance performance and dance pedagogy respectively. As a dancer Chris worked with renowned artists and choreographers as part of the ballet company of the Oper Graz as well as a freelancer with choreographers such as Jérôme Bel, Natalia Horecna, Helge Letonja, Nikolaus Adler. As a dance educator and advocate for the arts Chris Wang has worked, taught and assisted social dance projects to make dance more inclusive and support the work of integration of refugees in Austria. Since 2019 he studies *Dance Science* at University Bern and has continuously visited workshops related to *Dance with Seniors* in an effort to promote Dance for Health and Well-being in Austria and beyond.



# ORGANISERS

## THE DANCE & CREATIVE WELLNESS FOUNDATION

In a climate of global health epidemics and an aging population, institutions such as the World Health Organization, the World Economic Forum and the EU Health Strategy are calling for innovation and quantum leaps in health. Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation partners believe that dance plays an important role in solving these problems.

The annual forums it runs are think tanks and platforms for brainstorming and debating. They bring together important stakeholders – dance institutions, practitioners, healthcare innovators, health insurers and political decision-makers – to explain and discuss the field of dance for health and well-being in a lively exchange of ideas and experiences.

The Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation was established by Clare Guss-West, Andrew Greenwood and Eldridge Labinjo in 2016 with the support of the Dutch National Ballet & Opera, where the first forum took place. The following dance and creative wellness forums took place in collaboration with renowned hosts such as Staatsballett Berlin (Germany), Sadler's Wells & Rambert (London, UK), Ballet Preljocaj (Avignon, France) and Konzert Theater Bern (Switzerland).

The Directorate Team of the Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation was invited by the European Parliament in Brussels in 2019 to present dance as a proactive response to public health problems.

**[www.danceandcreativewellness.com](http://www.danceandcreativewellness.com)**



# ORGANISERS

## ARTS FOR HEALTH AUSTRIA

The workshop “Arts for Health”, hosted by the BKA, on the 5th of December in 2019 began the first discussions around this essential topic in Austria. Despite remarkable initiatives and projects, arts in the context of health and well-being has neither received awareness from the broad public nor sufficient appreciation from the cultural and health sectors. The current lack of structural support for health-related initiatives in Austria are at the core of matters and concerns leading to the establishment of the association Arts for Health Austria.

The Association ARTS for HEALTH AUSTRIA(AfHA), which stands for the promotion of Arts-Interventions in the context of Health and Well-being, intends to address these structural shortcomings.

AfHA will act as a platform for arts activities in the public health sector in Austria, as an interface between artists, researchers and health institutions as well as an international networking instrument and contact point for everyone interested in this field. Currently, debates and discussions regarding arts-interventions in health care are in the beginning stages in Austria. The initiatives of Arts for Health Austria will refer to the experiences of existing international institutions with similar objectives and goals. The proponents of AfHA are well connected internationally and intend to develop concepts and activities in close cooperation with like-minded organizations across the globe. The Forum ‘Dance – New Moves in Health Care’ on the 11th of December 2020, hosted by the Dance & Creative Wellness Foundation, is the first event organized and co-hosted by Arts for Health Austria.

**[www.artsforhealthaustria.eu](http://www.artsforhealthaustria.eu)**



**ARTS for HEALTH  
AUSTRIA**