



Youth Dance Exchange

Promoting US - China Collaboration in the Performing Arts

The Youth Dance Exchange is a unique experience for young aspiring dancers attending American high schools and pre-professional dancers from top Chinese dance institutes to connect through a shared art form.

The exchange aims to inspire cross-cultural artistic expression and showcase youth from the US and China collaborating in the arts.

Talented students from The Edge School of the Arts - a noted dance studio located in Queens, New York - travel to Beijing for a one-week intensive training in Chinese folk and classical dance. During the program, the dancers take part in APSA's student-focused language learning and 21st-Century professional skills training to enhance their learning experience abroad.

“Dance is one of my passions because I can't see myself doing anything else. Having freedom of movement and expression allows me to become what ever I want to be. I'm passionate about cultures. Studying art and societies gets me thinking of what I'm really capable of doing. The APSA program helps me reach my goals as a dancer and encourages me to be courageous.”

ASHLEY SANTIAGO
2015 & 2017 DANCE SCHOLAR

Investing in Global Youth



Since 2013, Americans Promoting Study Abroad (APSA) and Edge School of the Arts (ESOTA) have partnered to facilitate the Youth Dance Exchange. Together they have brought 38 young dancers from New York to Beijing. APSA and ESOTA hope to provide a total of 100 American dancers with a cross-cultural exchange by 2020.

Impact on Dance Scholars:

- 6 Dance Scholars have returned to China for a second time and 1 participated in the APSA China Scholars Program
- 97% say their cultural awareness and interest in cultural dance increased
- 92% say their leadership skills were enhanced
- 94% are still connected to the arts

2013 – 2017 New York Dance Scholars by City

Queens 25

Nassau County 6

Brooklyn 4

Bronx 2

Manhattan 1

TOTAL: 38



US-China Dance Exchange

The Youth Dance Exchange seeks to give ambitious young dancers the opportunity to experience first-hand what it means to be a global citizen and cross-cultural dancer.

The Youth Dance Exchange is an intensive week of artistic growth, career exposure and cross-cultural immersion. During the exchange, the American dancers referred to as Dance Scholars, train daily at a premier Chinese dance school under the instruction of renowned professionals. Outside the studio the Dance Scholars explore the city immersing themselves in the local language and culture.

Throughout the exchange, the Dance Scholars connect with a network of professionals representing a variety of fields to gain exposure to careers and companies that are making a global impact today. The culmination of the exchange is a collaborative US-China performance to best display the accomplishments and collective talent of the young American and Chinese dancers.



Professional Chinese Dance Instruction

Dance Scholars gain over 20 hours of professional Chinese Dance instruction while deepening their exposure to creative diversity within the field of dance, through daily instructional training in Chinese traditional and folk dance forms. Through these classes Dance Scholars gain an understanding of China's rich history and culture, providing them with the opportunity to broaden their dance skills.

Language Immersion

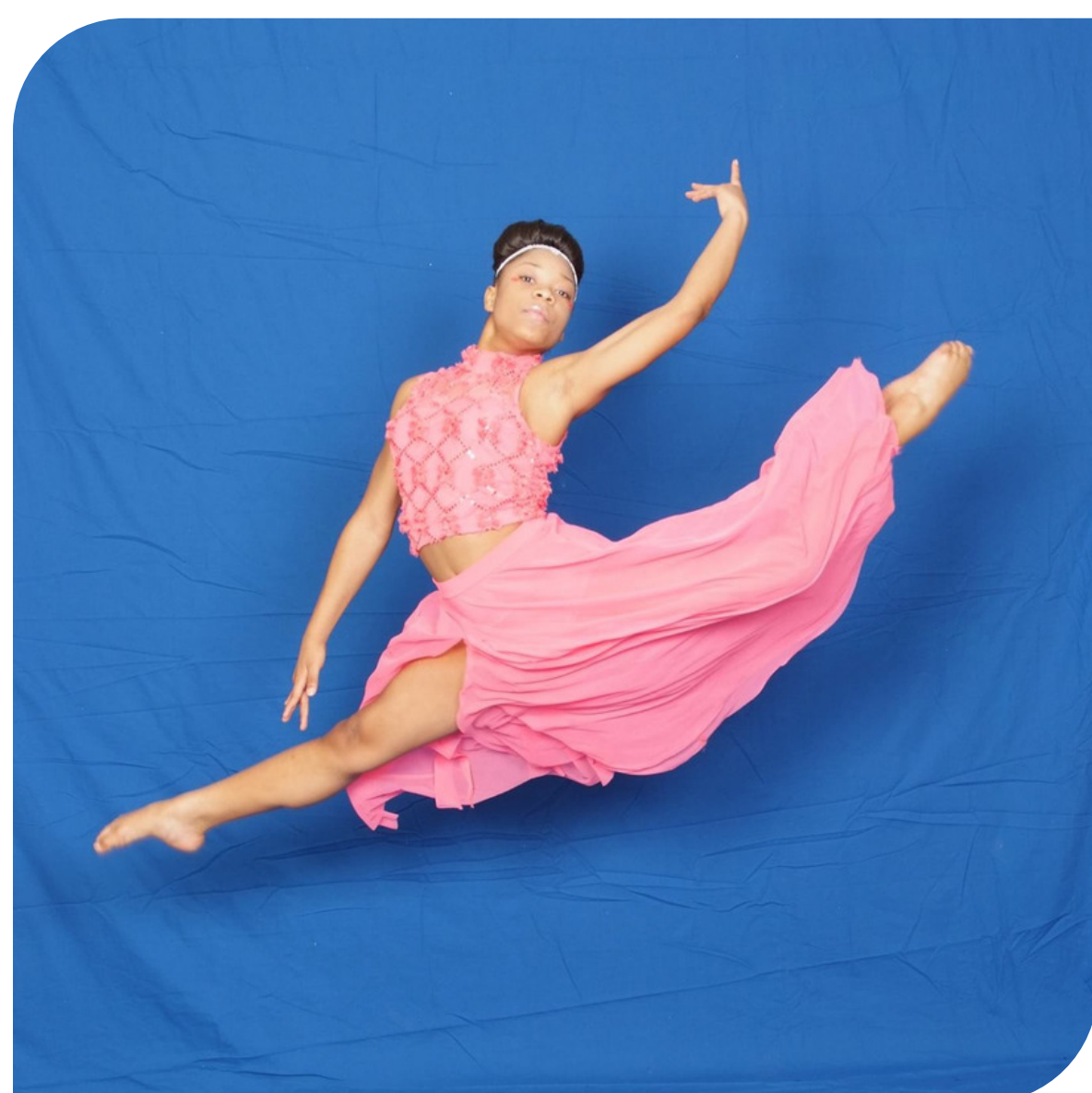
Dance Scholars participate in 10-16 hours of introductory Chinese language instruction prior to arriving in Beijing and will take part in 15 hours of instruction during the exchange. Dance Scholars are able to apply and improve their language skills by engaging with native speakers during excursions as well as their dance instructors and Chinese dance students.

Cross-Cultural Connections



Cross-Cultural Dance Collaboration

A highlight of the exchange is the cross-cultural dance collaboration that takes place between the American and Chinese dancers. This interaction provides an opportunity in which the young artists can share their talents and break through communication barriers by utilizing the international language of dance. The two groups connect and collaborate to prepare a choreographed performance that they will present to an international audience. This experience provides both dance groups with a deeper understanding of each other's culture, history and dance styles. These collaborative sessions are facilitated by a Chinese and American dance instructor.



Cultural Immersion

During the exchange, the Dance Scholars will explore Beijing to witness first-hand China's rich history, rapid modernization and internationalization. Through APSA's immersive excursions to various sites around the city, the Dance Scholars will gain exposure to many aspects of Chinese culture while acquiring travel skills to navigate foreign environments.

US-China Dance Performance

At the end of the exchange, the American and Chinese dancers will take part in a professional performance to showcase their collaboration and promote future artistic exchanges between the United States and China. The dancers will perform in front of an international audience and ticket sales will directly support future US-China dance exchanges.

Fostering Global Youth



21st-Century Professionals Skills Training

Integrated into the Youth Dance Exchange is professional skills training to give Dance Scholars the opportunity to connect with an international community of seasoned and young professionals living in Beijing while also visiting a range of companies and organizations including; the American Embassy, the American Chamber of Commerce, Project Pengyou among other multinational corporations based in Beijing.

Through the Youth Dance Exchange participants will:

- develop greater understanding of various career paths available within the creative industry, through workshops and panels with a range of experts.
- build an international network of dance experts through intensive professional training with renowned dance instructors.
- deepen their exposure to creative diversity within the field of dance through daily instructional training in Chinese dance forms
- create a portfolio of their progress throughout the program to develop the skill of articulating their professional achievements.



“Dance is my version of voiceless communication. To be a cross-curricular dancer is the ability to take various learnings in dance and adapt it to what I’m currently working on.”

ALEXIS HORTON
2017 DANCE SCHOLAR

Invest Today



The Youth Dance Exchange is funded entirely from fundraising efforts carried out by selected Dance Scholars, ESOTA and APSA. Make a donation or join the fundraising efforts through the online campaign:

<https://www.crowdrise.com/send-new-york-dancers-to-study-abroad-in-beijing>

**Exchange Investment:
\$3000 per Dance Scholar
Exchange Total:
\$30,000 Fundraising Goal**

**These 10 Dancers have raised nearly \$10,000
for the 2017 Exchange. Help them to raise the
remaining \$20,000.**



Tailoring Cross-Cultural Exchanges for High School Youth

APSA designs cross-cultural exchanges for high school youth so they can become accustomed to travelling internationally, gain skills to process their personal experience abroad and learn how to apply a global perspective to their daily lives. During exchange programs, APSA encourages students to step outside of their comfort zone and to become aware of the personal growth that can take place when they are visiting another country. Critical to the success of working with high school youth, APSA integrates mentorship into each program and develops balanced learning opportunities for student to; travel to a new country, connect with people from a different culture, learn a foreign language, develop relevant professional skills and discover a world of potential academic and career opportunities.

Americans Promoting Study Abroad (APSA)

501(c)3 Non-profit Organization

www.apsaglobal.org

Contact: Uchechi Kalu

PR and Alumni Relations Head

Email: uchechi@apsaglobal.org



Empowering a Diverse Generation of New York Dancers

Based in Queens New York, The Edge School of the Arts (ESOTA) has provided over 20 years of professional dance instruction to children and youth in the local community. Modeled after the prominent Bernice Johnson Cultural Arts Center, which stood as a beacon of cultural and artistic excellence in Southeast Queens for 50 years, ESOTA continues to foster the next generation of diverse, talented and ambitious young dancers. ESOTA encourages their dancers to internationalize their portfolios by broadening their repertoire of dance to include traditional and folk styles and inspires them to seek opportunities abroad to engage with other cultures through dance. In partnership with APSA, ESOTA helped develop the annual Youth Dance Exchange that now takes place in Beijing each Spring. ESOTA's extensive dance expertise helps ensure the quality of the experience during the exchange and their permanent role in the Queens community provides a platform to support dancers throughout their dance careers. During the exchange, ESOTA staff facilitate collaboration with the Chinese dance instructors and work together to choreograph the US-China Dance Performance.

Edge School of the Arts (ESOTA)
www.edgeschoolofthearts.com
 Contact: Wendy Edge
Customer Service Manager/Tour Manager
 Email: wendy@edgeschoolofthearts.com
 Phone: 917-319-1521



Cross Cultural dance is on a pedestal in my mind. Everyone's culture is beautiful and what's better than one beautiful culture is the unity of cultures. A portion of the world's problems today have to do with unity and other people being looked down on. If something like dance has the power to bring cultures together and display how beautiful it can be together, then I'd love to be a part of it. A cross cultural dancer would be a courageous leader that has potential and drive to change this world for the better.

SADIYAH STEPHENS
2017 DANCE SCHOLAR