

A Request for Your Financial Support for the Virtual Dance Room

We approach the end of 2021, our 33rd month of virtual dancing and our 92nd Virtual Dance Room (VDR) session. The Covid-19 pandemic has presented the International Folk Dance Community with formidable challenges, while simultaneously being the catalyst for some significant opportunities to use innovative techniques and technologies to revive and enhance our connections with old friends, to meet and engage with new friends and to transform dancing in ways we hadn't imagined.

For us organizers and instructors, one of the biggest challenges has been how to fund such activities. We're now incurring different types and different levels of expenses without having traditional revenue models of at the door admission fees.

We appreciate your continued participation and interest in VDR programs, and we also cherish your continued participation in our fundraising activities. If the VDR provides you with any amount of enjoyment, entertainment, etc., please take a minute to donate and demonstrate that continued access to the VDR matters to you. (See options below)

The pandemic has helped connect a treasure-trove of dancers around the world, which indicates there is a future for virtual and hybrid dancing. Since August 2021 (when some groups resumed in person dancing) VDR's Friday Zoom sessions have ranged between 80 and 100 logins. While this is slightly down from the 100 and 120 logins prior to August, this is still a respectable number that supports continued interest in virtual dancing.

Since March 2020, The VDR and Door County Folk Festival (DCFF) are fortunate to have received many donations from groups and individuals that have helped us sustain, enhance and improve our abilities to produce quality events. Donations have ranged between \$2 and \$1,000. We express our extreme gratitude to all participants who've taken the time to contribute.

As of September 2021 VDR expenses increased significantly. However, donations to the VDR have decreased. Participant funding helps us update and maintain our computer and audio/visual equipment, upgrade our internet service, rent our studio facilities, and provide honoraria to dance instructors and musicians.

Virtual Dance Room plans for December & January include live music for Bulgarian dancing (Friday 12/17) with "Grupa Verea", a Late Night Global Dance After-Party (Saturday 12/18-19), with guest leaders from North America, Asia, Australia and Europe and plenty of live music, a Holiday Marathon Dance Party (Friday 12/24) and DCFF Video Review Party #2 (Saturday, 1/8/22).

Plans for the near future include presenting ethnic dance workshops with local ethnic dance leaders/groups, inviting local/remote musicians to play for events, and exploring possibilities for producing future in-person dances and hybrid Door County Folk Festivals.

We're also negotiating with the "All Girl Band" (that played a fantastic dance for FACONE on December 11th), to play virtually for one or more VDR events in Q1 of 2022. Additional plans include finding ways to bring new blood into face-to-face dancing, developing new leaders/teachers, and integrating them into new-found virtual dance communities.

Visit <https://www.virtualdancerroom.net/donate/> for links to donation options or follow the links below:

- **[Click to Donate via PayPal using:](#)**
 - your Credit Card or Debit Card
 - your PayPal Account – Send to: pcollins@jordan-webb.net
- **Donate via Venmo (from your mobile device):**
 - Venmo ID: @Paul-Collins-164
- **Donate via Zelle (from your online bank account):**
 - Click: Send Money with Zelle
 - Send to: Paul Collins - pcollins@jordan-webb.net
- **Donate via Check or Money Order:**
 - Payable to EDC or Ethnic Dance Chicago
 - Mail to: EDC, P O Box 25548, Chicago, IL 60625

Once again, we thank you for your participation and interest in the VDR. We cannot do it without you.

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