

How your financial support helps the Virtual Dance Room

We approach the end of 2025 as we host our 297th week of VDR (Virtual Dance Room) sessions. The covid-19 pandemic was the catalyst that forced us into new thinking about dancing – giving birth to Virtual dancing.

We not only appreciate your continued interest in virtual and in-person programs, we also cherish your continued participation in our fundraising activities. If the VDR provides you with any amount of enjoyment, entertainment, etc., please take the time donate to the VDR. By doing so, you demonstrate that continued access to the VDR matters to you and to the IFD community.

Virtual dancing presented the IFD community (International Folk Dance) with formidable challenges and some of us turned these challenges into significant opportunities. Many of us learned to use innovative techniques and technologies that renewed and revived many IFD communities. Effects of the pandemic helped us enhance our connections to old dance friends, helped us meet new dance friends, and transformed (and sustained) the IFD movement in ways we hadn't imagined.

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


Overcoming restrictions of the pandemic has helped connect with a treasure-trove of dancers around the world. The fact that we're still going at this indicates there is a future for face-to-face, virtual and hybrid dancing.

Since March 2020, VDR/EDC and Door County Folk Festival (DCFF) are fortunate to have received donations from many individuals and groups – donations 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.

Participant funding helps us update and maintain our computer and audio/visual equipment, upgrade our internet service, rent studio and storage facilities, and provide honoraria to dance instructors and musicians – something we'd really like to do more of.

Virtual Dance Room/Ethnic Dance Chicago and Door County Folk Festival plans for the coming year include:

- repairing, replacing, upgrading audio/video, computer, internet and sound equipment
- obtaining insurance for operating equipment
- looking for a suitable and reasonably-priced dance studio space for Friday and possibly for third Saturday dances
- offering ongoing virtual dance classes on a different night, or possibly starting earlier on Fridays
- conducting "field trips" to dance with groups in ethnic communities and for dining in ethnic restaurants
- organizing joint activities with ethnic dance groups and dance instructors in the Chicago Area
- reviewing video materials from VDR and DCFF sessions and publishing these materials on the web, making them public
- digitizing and cataloging analog recordings (records, tapes) that have not yet been computerized
- presenting ethnic dance workshops taught by local ethnic dance leaders/groups and/or traveling instructors
- inviting local ethnic musicians to play for dances
- finding a new home in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin for the Door County Folk Festival
- negotiating with orchestras such as "Orkestar Vereá", "Orkestar Izvor", "All Girl Band" or "Orkestar Izvor", etc. to play for hybrid dance events
- exploring new ways to recruit new blood into face-to-face dancing
- discovering new ways to develop new leaders/teachers, and integrating them into in-person, hybrid and virtual dance communities

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