



127 West. 127th Street, Suite 220, New York, NY 10027
naomi@dvpnyc.org or ellis@dvpnyc.org 917.499.2899

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Introductory Teacher Training Program for Professionals
April 12th, 14th, and 15th 2024 in New York City



After attending this 3-day course, qualified professionals who are interested in leading creative aging programs based on the Dances For A Variable (DVP) model will:

- Possess a functional understanding of aging globally
- Recognize and debunk myths about physical activity and dance for older adults
- Understand how creative aging programs support positive aging
- Apply basic strategies to engage with older adults in creative dance
- Learn the foundational structure of the DVP-MOVEMENT SPEAKS® class
- Be able to teach activities in the MOVEMENT SPEAKS® model
- Learn specific suggestions to ensure success when building community-based creative aging programs
- Receive access to the DVP-MOVEMENT SPEAKS® trainee member portal listed on the national database of trained teaching artists.

Additionally, participants will observe in-person MOVEMENT SPEAKS® classes in New York City with DVP lead teachers, have an opportunity to practice teaching volunteer older adult students, and receive personalized feedback. Following successful completion of the training and entry into the DVP-member portal, participants will be qualified to develop and lead models based on DVP MOVEMENT SPEAKS®.

ABOUT THE LIVE, IN-PERSON TRAINING:

As the global population ages, health care, social work, and arts programming providers are being faced with a demand to serve the growing needs of this population. Recent research has illuminated the extent to which dance and creative aging programming are uniquely positioned to offer positive aging benefits.

This 3-day training led by Artistic Director, Naomi Goldberg Haas, and lead teaching artists Rebecca Hite and Theo Gilbert, offers functional training in the award-winning MOVEMENT SPEAKS® program – a model for creative aging and dance. Following this model, selected professionals will be qualified to lead and build creative aging dance programs in their communities based on the MOVEMENT SPEAKS® model. Trainees will also be invited to join the DVP MOVEMENT SPEAKS® member portal which supports continuing education, access to exercise videos, and research to support advocacy and fundraising. Designed for dance professionals, this introductory workshop prepares participants to expand creative aging programs in their community.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

NAOMI GOLDBERG HAAS is the founding artistic director of Dances for a Variable Population (DVP) since 2005, which promotes strong & creative movement among adults of all ages and abilities. DVP's model of community creative aging education program MOVEMENT SPEAKS® has served 5000 older adults in NYC and is a model in best practices for creative aging in community-based performance and education programs for older adults. Goldberg Haas has been a leader in the field of creative aging, starting with founding the successful intergenerational and mixed-ability dance company, Los Angeles Modern Dance & Ballet (1990- 2004). She danced with Pacific Northwest Ballet and holds an MFA from Tisch Dance/NYU. Goldberg Haas received the LMCC President's Award for Performing Arts (2014), served on the Age Friendly Media, Arts & Culture Working Group (2015–2018), and received the DANCE USA 2019–20 Fellowship for Artists addressing Social Change.

REBECCA HITE (Teaching Artist/Dancer) has been a lead teaching artist with DVP since 2012 and presented conferences at NDEO, LIVEon NYC, and Central Connecticut College. She received her MFA in dance choreography/performance from Smith College in Northampton, MA, where she was also a teaching fellow and guest artist at Amherst College. She holds a BA in dance from Connecticut College. Rebecca has worked with David Dorfman and Monica Bill Barnes. Along with working with DVP, Rebecca is a freelance choreographer and teacher in NYC and collaborates with Raja Kelly/The Feath3r Theory, MachineH Dance, and is co-creator and co-artistic director of Reject Dance Theatre.

GILBERT (Teaching Artist/Dancer) is a Native New Yorker, Movement Motivator, and Dance Fitness Professional. She lives in the Bronx and teaches Zumba Gold and numerous Dance Fitness classes throughout the city. She says her “favorite group to teach is elders, gathering so much from their wisdom and humor!” She has been a lead Teaching Artist with DVP since 2015.



APPLICATION PROCESS

To ensure success, DVP has a rigorous selection process for trainees. In our experience working with older adults, we find teaching artists who possess a high proficiency in pedagogy and dance technique are most effective at adapting the methodology.

PREREQUISITES

- Possess documented proficiency in at least one major dance style (ballet, modern, jazz, hip-hop, Latin, classical Indian, ballroom, etc.) or qualified movement art
- Possess skill in dance, musical and/or theatrical improvisation and “thinking on their feet” personality
- Possess an infectious and positive, can-do personality
- Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of functional anatomy – ideally through a form of structured study in medicine, nursing, exercise science, fitness, or anatomy
- Possess a strong desire and interest to work with older adults of all abilities and backgrounds

Exceptions to these prerequisites will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

To apply for the INTRODUCTORY TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM, submit the following material:

- COVER LETTER (2 pages maximum) detailing your experience and interest in this program and how you are prepared to develop a program based on MOVEMENT SPEAKS® in your community
- NARRATIVE BIO (200-word limit)
- RESUME including contact info.
- HEADSHOT

Selected individuals will be contacted for a phone/video conference interview.

COST

Cost of the program (which includes first-year access to an on-line membership portal): \$1,500

Made payable to Dances For A Variable Population via check. To learn more about the cost of the program and payment options please contact Ellis Wood at ellis@dvpnyc.org.

TRAVEL AND LODGING

Training takes place in New York City.

[FRIDAY, April 12th]

10:15 AM – 6:00 PM,

Greenwich House Older Adult Center At Westbeth, and then moves to The Martha Graham Studio

Westbeth Older Adult Center: 155 Bank Street, New York, NY 10014

Martha Graham Studio: 55 Bethune St, New York, NY 10014 (Same building around the corner)

[SUNDAY, April 14th]

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM,

Alvin Ailey Studio: 405 W 55th St, New York, NY 10019

[MONDAY, April 15th]

10:45 AM – 5:00 AM

Mott Street Older Adult Center, and then moves to the DVP office.

Mott Street Older Adult Center: 180 Mott St, New York, NY 10012

DVP Office: 127 West 127th Street Suite 220, New York, NY 10027

Founder and Artistic Director: Naomi Goldberg Haas naomi@dvpnyc.org

Managing Director: Ellis Wood ellis@dvpnyc.org

Phone: 917-499-2899