



Statement on Commitment to Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

February 17, 2025

On this President's Day, the American Dance Therapy Association reaffirms its steadfast commitment to fostering an inclusive, diverse, and accessible environment where all individuals are respected, valued, and empowered. We recognize that the evolving socio-cultural and political landscape, including recent actions by the U.S. government to dismantle DEIA-related initiatives, poses threats to our ongoing commitment to enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Yet, the ADTA will remain unwavering in our dedication to embracing the unique attributes, characteristics, and perspectives of all individuals and communities.

We believe that diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are not just aspirational principles, but foundational values that must guide our work, practices, and relationships. ADTA's commitment to these values is reflected in our belief that an inclusive environment sparks innovation, strengthens community bonds, and empowers our members. We continue to stand in solidarity with historically marginalized and underrepresented groups, including people of color, LGBTQIA+ identified individuals, people with disabilities, and others whose voices have historically been silenced or excluded. As we navigate these challenging times, we will continue to prioritize these communities and create spaces where every individual, regardless of race, ability, ethnicity, spiritual beliefs, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, immigration status, military status, or political views, can feel valued, respected, and supported.

This commitment to DEIA is rooted in our organizational Values approved by the ADTA membership:

- **Integrity:** We practice honesty, transparency, and dignity in all that we do, ensuring that our actions never harm or burden others.

- **Embodiment:** We honor and respect the wisdom and rights of all bodies, recognizing that each body carries its unique story and importance.
- **Authenticity:** We foster safer and braver spaces for genuine expression, where all members can show up as their true selves.
- **Transgenerational Recognition:** We acknowledge and honor the narratives of our past, present, and future, ensuring that each story is valued in the work we do.
- **Community and Connection:** We create spaces where individuals can belong, engage, collaborate, and build together, forging deeper, more meaningful connections.
- **Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:** We embrace differences, actively participate in anti-racist and anti-biased work, and hold ourselves accountable to creating just systems and structures within the association.
- **Liberation:** We use dance and creativity as tools to empower, reclaim, and liberate individuals and communities.

Our efforts to uphold DEIA are in alignment with the ethical standards set forth in the ADTA's Code of Ethics, particularly our commitment to Multicultural Competence (2.3) and Advocacy and Promotion of Social Justice (6.0), which emphasize the importance of cultural context in therapy and the need to continuously develop the awareness, knowledge, and skills to work competently with diverse client groups. We also recognize the necessity of examining our own cultural identities and worldviews to better understand and honor those of our clients, colleagues, students and members.

ADTA will remain vigilant in addressing and dismantling systemic inequities and barriers to inclusion and access. This commitment is not merely a reflection of our values; it is central to the mission and the very core of our work for our members and with the communities that we serve.

As we move forward, ADTA will remain responsive and accountable to our members. We are committed to continuously seeking ways to amplify the voices of the marginalized through deepening our collective understanding of cultural humility and marginalization while supporting *all* individuals.

In solidarity,
The ADTA Leadership

ADTA Code of Ethics: 6.0.a Dance/movement therapists cultivate awareness of and address oppression and disparities in power and privilege, resulting in barriers to wellness, at individual, institutional, and societal levels. Dance/movement therapists advocate for equitable access to services and culturally competent care.

What action can you take? The ADTA encourages you, as you are willing and able, to be involved in creating change:

- **Support communities and populations affected by recent government action.**
 - Continue providing essential services for individuals impacted
 - Connect with local immigration coalitions
 - Be a part of creating safe space for individuals/communities

- **Engage in advocacy.**
 - Contact your local and state representatives
 - Sign petitions on issues you care about
 - Engage in community action and advocacy
 - [Testify for trans rights](#)

- **Donate to and/or support organizations creating action.**
 - [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](#)
 - [NAACP](#)
 - [Human Rights Campaign](#)
 - [Advocates for Trans Equity](#)

- **When safe to do so, call out bigotry and hate.**
 - Address harmful behavior
 - Educate others
 - Move in solidarity with those affected

- **Stay informed.**
 - [Federal Registrar of Executive Orders](#)
 - [The White House](#)