

Middance Constitution

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be Middance.

Article II - Purpose

*Middance will operate under the slogan "making a difference through dance" and is an organization that will teach, celebrate, perform, collaborate, and make a difference in the larger world through its efforts.

*We are pioneers in taking this campus and the larger community forward to a higher plane of diversity, tolerance, and harmony through music and dance.

*Middance offers a space where we can learn from each other and grow together as we each bring our knowledge of dance as cultural and as formal training.

*Always pushing the envelope, challenging the status quo, raising awareness, and centering around the celebration of diversity through our common ground of dance, Middance will take us each as Middlebury students to new heights.

*The organization's purpose is to act as both a catalyst and a medium for efforts of collaboration between various groups on campus.

Article III - Membership

Middance is open to all Middlebury College students and is a non-exclusive, no try-out dance group. All we ask for is talent (people who are comfortable enough in their own abilities to perform) and passion. Middance is an organization involving the mind, body, and soul. Each individual provides a body electric with rhythmic energy, a mind open to all that we stand for, and a soul eager to ignite a flame in everyone that we reach.

Article IV - Officers

*Co-directors - The co-directors will consist of two or three (only if one of the two is to go abroad during the school year) Middlebury College students who basically head the organization. They oversee all of the technical details such as: arranging rehearsal and performance space, keeping choreographers on task, choosing the theme of each show while taking into consideration input of all Middancers, maintaining a cohesive and cooperative atmosphere, acting as leaders in terms of talent and dedication, and having a heightened sensitivity and awareness with regards to how Middance can transform the community and ignite social change.

*Secretary - The secretary is one Middlebury College student who is in charge of such things as: maintaining and monitoring the email list serve, designing and creating programs for each show, and overseeing publicity for each show as well as workshops.

*Treasurer - The treasurer is one Middlebury College student who is in charge of finances for the organization and serves as the liaison between the student organization and the SGA Finance Committee.

*Workshop Coordinators (2) - The workshop coordinators are two Middlebury College students. One functions as the overseer of the workshops held once every other week on campus. The other is in charge of coordinating outreach efforts within the local community, i.e. the local public school system and the Middlebury College Figure Skating Club.

*Choreographers (unofficial and temporary) - Choreographers are self-chosen for each show and must adhere to the following guidelines: have a substantial amount of choreography completed 1.5

months prior to show, coordinate rehearsal schedules in collaboration with the co-directors and CCAL, take attendance at each rehearsal, and provide lighting requests and music upon request of the tech crew.

Article V - Elections

Elections shall be completed by March 15 of every spring for the coming school year. Nominations will be made by the current leading officers based upon who they think has reflected and embodied the spirit and energy of Middance. There are no guidelines in terms of seniority or formal dance training. The nominees need only demonstrate passion, dedication, and drive. Voting will be held anonymously via ballot during dress rehearsal of the spring show, thus including the entire core group of dedicated members. At least two-thirds of the participating membership shall be present and majority vote rules.

Article VI - Meetings

Every other week, Middance's core members will hold workshops within the club and advertise to the larger campus community, open for anyone to come and learn new styles of dance. At the beginning of each term, the leading officers will assemble as needed to get organized in terms of working out details for the show and workshops for the term. Other than this, details and communication will take place via a Middance list serve. More direct communication may occur between choreographers and their dancers, the workshop coordinators and participating members, and between leading officers, but none of these require formal or scheduled meetings per say.

Article VII - Committees

There will be a core group of performers, again not chosen by auditions but merely desire and dedication, who will choreograph, rehearse, and perform once a term. It is up to the discretion of the co-directors and the workshop coordinators if there is a need for the formation of temporary committees per outreach project.

Article VIII - Faculty Advisor

There is no faculty advisor for this organization.

Article IX - Affiliations

The organization has no official ties with any local, state, national, or international pre-existing organization. However, as previously stated, Middance would like to establish a lasting rapport with the local Middlebury public school system but on more of a community outreach status than an official affiliation.

Article X - Discrimination Policy

This student organization operates in full accordance with Chapter Four, Section n, A of the Middlebury College Handbook concerning Student Organization Policies of Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Anti-Hazing, Freedom of Inquiry and Expression, Student Publication, Funding, Advertising, and Scheduling. Any and all changes made to the Student Organizations Policies section of the Middlebury College Handbook will immediately become policies adopted by Middance.

Article XI - Ratification

1. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.

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2. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Article XII - Amendment

1. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
2. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

*Notes:

This organization was founded by Gillian Wood '04 in the spring of 2002 and transformed into an official college club via a constitution in the spring of 2004.

Addendum

Middance will operate under the slogan "making a difference through dance" and is an organization that will teach, celebrate, perform, collaborate, and make a difference in the larger world through its efforts. Middance is a space where Middkids from all backgrounds and walks of life can come together through dance. It is an organization founded on celebration, passion, and channeling our talents into making a difference within the confines of the Middlebury campus and beyond. We are pioneers in taking this campus and the larger community forward to a higher plane of diversity, tolerance, and harmony through music and dance. Amidst our lives of chaos and hardships, dance is often what keeps us going individually and collectively. It offers an escape from the world, a place of solace, and a moment of personal freedom. Middance also offers a space where we can learn from each other and grow together as we each bring our knowledges of dance as cultural and as formal training. We will teach, learn, and grow together as we become more versatile dancers and hone our individual dance style of choice. While not an activist organization, the overall vibe of Middance will maintain a socially progressive undertone relevant to current events either on campus or in the world at large. Always pushing the envelope, challenging the status quo, raising awareness, and centering around the celebration of diversity through our common ground of dance, Middance will take us each as Middlebury students to new heights.

The organization's purpose is to act as both a catalyst and a medium for efforts of collaboration between various groups on campus. As dance is universal and spans across race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, culture, etc, every group on campus could potentially have a dance outlet and energy to it. Thus, Middance aspires to unite those groups for various events and performances to ignite our collective energies and efforts into one powerful force. Middance hopes to work with such obvious dance organizations as Riddim, On Tap, Footloose, GT Breaking, Classical Dance Middlebury, Co-ed Cheerleading, Gumboot, and Capoiara, as well as cultural organizations such as ALC, AAA, Women of Color, MASO, ISO, Arabesque, UMOJA, PCSO, etc, and other organizations such as MOQA, FAM, etc. Middance hopes to breach any gaps and meld any tensions between any and all groups on campus through a celebration of dance. It will participate in various events sponsored by the aforementioned organizations as well as host its own show each term and invite such organizations to participate, donating all proceeds to a pre-chosen charity. In short, Middance is more of an over-arching organization that provides a space for diverse peoples to transform the world around them through music and dance. Middance intends to reach beyond the student body out into the Middlebury community itself. In our efforts to use dance as a medium and catalyst for raising awareness for various social issues, as a celebration of diversity, and recognizing dance itself as a powerful tool, we plan to venture into the local school system to inspire youth, focusing our energies on junior-high and

high-school age. Because Middlebury is such a small community, many of the local youth do not have exposure or easy access to various dance forms, not to mention exposure to different races, classes, etc. Thus, we intend to enrich the lives of these rural Vermont youth by developing a dance program, involving them in both a workshop aspect as well as performance opportunities. Keeping with our collaborative efforts, we hope to network with the college organization MIX as they venture into the local public school system as well. In a similar vein, we intend to involve local youth in another fashion as well, now focusing our energies on younger children. The figure-skating program of Middlebury College involves children of faculty and staff of the college. They are always looking for college students with dance background to bring dance to these children to help them with their skating, as well as their grace, strength, presence, and confidence. We will offer classes in varying styles of dance, taught by one or two of our members at a time, rotating through styles of dance and thus giving any and all Middance members the opportunity to teach and work with local youth.

Approved as to form: May 5, 2004