

Santa Barbara Dance Institute

Dance Teaching Artist

2026–27 School Year

Immediate need: experienced dance educator with a minimum of 3 years teaching experience, including at least 2 years in early childhood settings

About SBDI

Santa Barbara Dance Institute (SBDI) is a Santa Barbara-based nonprofit on a mission to make high-quality dance education accessible to everyone — regardless of income, zip code, or ability. Founded in 2005 by Latinx dancer and educator Rosalina Macisco, SBDI has spent twenty years bringing free, inclusive dance programming directly to the communities that need it most — into schools, early childhood centers, public libraries, and senior care facilities across Santa Barbara County. We serve all ages and stages of life, from toddlers to seniors in memory care, and we do it with cultural intentionality: most programs are offered in English and Spanish, with Latin rhythms and traditions woven throughout. We are a small, passionate team that values every person's strength, works with openness and respect, and believes the arts have the power to change lives. If you're driven by equity, creativity, and community, we look forward to hearing from you.

About This Opportunity

SBDI is seeking a Dance Teaching Artist for after-school elementary programs and early childhood in-school classes at public school sites in Goleta. Whether you're building on solid experience or ready to go deeper in your practice, we want to grow with you.

This is not a solo teaching role. Every SBDI class has two instructors. SBDI staff handles school relationships and administrative coordination, so you can focus on lesson planning and teaching. Teaching artists who have worked at other organizations often describe the level of mentorship, coaching, and day-to-day support at SBDI as exceptional — and unlike what they've experienced elsewhere in their careers.

Programs & Schedule

- **After-school — Elementary (TK/K and 1st–2nd grade):** Goleta public school sites, Tuesdays–Thursdays, 2:30–4:30 pm
- **In-school — Early Childhood (pre-K inclusion class):** Goleta school sites, Wednesday's at 11am and Thursday's at 10am
- September – May 2026–27 school year
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and/or Thursdays — candidates may commit to one, two, or all three days
- Part-time position

Compensation

Teaching Artists are hired on a part-time basis at a rate of \$50 per class (45–50 minutes). For the after-school program, no fewer than two classes are scheduled in succession per day.

Professional Development & Training

All Teaching Artists participate in structured professional development at no cost:

- **Summer Intensive — July 6–17, 2026** (Monday–Friday, 8:00 am–3:30 pm, Foothill Elementary School): “The Art of Teaching Dance: The Essentials” — a two-week intensive provided at no cost. Full attendance for the entire program is expected.
- Teaching Artist workshops offered throughout the school year
- Self-assessment and development goals completed with an SBDI mentor

Responsibilities

Teaching Artists plan and teach weekly classes, design end-of-session presentations, and communicate promptly with the SBDI team. We’re looking for someone who:

- Has a well-developed dance content knowledge in a variety of styles
- Brings dynamism and an engaging presence into the room
- Is as passionate about the art of teaching as they are about their art form
- Possesses confident, positive classroom engagement skills
- Openness to receiving feedback
- Creates inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments where children of all abilities can belong, participate, and succeed
- Has solid knowledge of child development (working with ages 4–9)
- Thrives in a collaborative team dynamic and is ready to commit to a full school year
- Can teach in multiple languages, including Spanish and/or American Sign Language (strongly encouraged)

Requirements

- Minimum of 3 years of teaching experience, with at least 2 years in early childhood education settings
- Love to play with children, bachelor’s degree, and/or certifications in a dance-related field
- A reflective practice around teaching and curiosity to grow and learn with others
- Extensive physical movement, high energy, and stamina required

How to Apply

Candidates will be asked to offer a sample class and please send a cover letter indicating why you wish to work for SBDI, along with your work history as a PDF to:

Rosalina Macisco, Artistic Director

rosalina@sbdi.org

805-245-0794

Equal Opportunity Employer

SBDI is an equal opportunity employer. We value a diverse team and inclusive culture and encourage applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, or veteran status.