**Basic Information**

Full Name: Maria Bobrowski-Artola

Title of Experience: Tapping into Culture Through Dance

[Competency/Competencies](https://www.uc.edu/campus-life/honors/about/competencies.html): Global Studies + Community Engagement

Expected Start Date: September 7th 2021

Expected End Date: February 2022 TBD (WorldFest Date)

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| **Personal Connection**  **Section must include:**  · Explanation of why this experience matters to you  · Explanation of how this experience will help you progress toward becoming a [global citizen scholar](https://www.uc.edu/campus-life/honors/about.html)    *As a Mexican immigrant living in the midwest, I often feel isolated and limited in the ways that I can share and express my passion for Latin art. Growing up, I found myself needing to suppress my ‘cultura’ in order to fit in with my peers and assimilate into mainstream culture. As I’ve rediscovered myself in college, I have realized the importance of not only embracing my passion for Latin Culture but also learning about it through new expressive means and sharing it with others.*  *Growing up, Salsa dancing was a way for my Latin community to express themselves and share art with the community. I have always wanted to connect with this portion of my culture, and learn this new skill but was never able to whilst growing up in Cleveland, Ohio. As I’ve come to learn more about cultural enclaves that exist in Cincinnati, I’ve discovered that there are other community members who share this equal passion for engaging in Latin dance culture and learning new skills.*  *This experience will not only allow me to embrace my Mexican roots through new expressive means, but will allow me to tap into the very diverse community that makes up Latin Dancing. Through engaging in this experience I will have the opportunity to participate in cultural exchange and immerse myself in a new skill which will develop my definition of global citizen scholar even further.*    Advisor Revisions/Feedback |

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| **Abstract**  **Section must include:**  · Brief description of the experience and explanation of how you will reach the 75+ hours requirement  · Description of risks (if any) inherent in this experience and safety precautions you will take  · Itinerary, including locations and dates, for any travel experience    *In order to meet the requirements for this self-design proposal, I will first be attending private dancing lessons with a dancing partner (Matthew Soliman) on Tuesday evenings held at KamaSalsa Dancing Studio in Clifton. Here we will be instructed by our experienced advisor: Diana Hoffman where we will learn the fundamental techniques necessary to perform a representative Latin dance (Salsa) performance. Beyond building core skills through private instruction (13 hours), we will also commit to an additional 3 hours of practice each week. Twelve of these hours will be completed by attending Salsa on the Square on Thursday evenings from September 9th through September 30th. Following these events we will continue to practice together on campus spaces through January (amounting to 51 hours of additional engagement.) These hours will be primarily spent designing, documenting, and choreographing our final performance of a Salsa Dance at WorldFest in February of 2022. In January, we will again work with our advisor Diana Hoffman for an additional 15 hours (Dates TBD) to assist in the choreography of our final performance at WorldFest, where I will not only be performing but also serving as a cultural ambassador for the other attendees (3 hours).*  *Total Hours of Engagement: 94*    Advisor Revisions/Feedback: |

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| **Advisor**  **Section must include:**  · Experience advisor name and contact information  · Description of why advisor was selected  · Specific plans to engage with advisor    *Note: Advisor(s) should have knowledge or expertise in an area related to the experience and be able to help you craft your experience goals. Honors advisors, undergraduate students, and family members cannot be experienced advisors.*    *Advisor Name: Diana Hoffman*  *Diana Hoffman was chosen as our advisor because of her expertise in teaching and promoting Latin dancing and culture. As our primary instructor for Latin dancing and choreography, she will be guiding our goals as we learn the art of Salsa and tap into the Latin dance culture of Cincinnati. Diana attended the University of Cincinnati and understands the values of immersive engagement with local communities to promote a passion for mutual learning and expressive art. After working in Miami, Florida, she fell in love with the Latin dance scene and wanted to provide a space for others to explore that culture and environment in Cincinnati. When she returned to Cincinnati she looked for Salsa dance clubs and started practicing more and more. Now, Diana teaches Salsa and other dance styles at KamaSalsa. Diana exemplifies the lifelong commitment of exploring cultures to promote a community of global citizen scholars.*    Advisor Revisions/Feedback: |

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| **Goals Related to Competency/Competencies:**  **Section must include:**  · Two specific and measurable **experience** goals related to chosen [competency/competencies](https://www.uc.edu/campus-life/honors/about/competencies.html) outlining the intended results/outcomes/achievements  · Two specific **personal** goals related to chosen [competency/competencies](https://www.uc.edu/campus-life/honors/about/competencies.html) outlining how you hope to grow as a result of this experience  · Examples of activities and explanation of how each will assist in the progress toward the goals    *Experience Goal 1: Schedule and Attend 13 private couple dancing lessons with experienced advisor Diana Hoffman and dance partner Matthew Soliman.*  *Experience Goal 2: Conduct a choreographed performance at WorldFest encompassing the dancing skills learned throughout the private instruction and additional practice.*  *Specific Goal 1: Connect with new community members and Salsa on the Square and invite friends who have never engaged in this activity to immerse themselves in this community event.*  *Specific Goal 2: Embrace a cultural tradition that is rooted in both my geographic and family heritage by incorporating traditional Mexican dance such as banda into my dance curriculum.*  *Examples:*  *13 Private Couple Salsa Instruction at KamaSalsa Studio will provide the necessary fundamental skills to engage in the art of Latin Dance.*  *Attending Salsa on the Square events located at Fountain Square in downtown Cincinnati to practice the skills learned at private lessons.*    Advisor Revisions/Feedback: |

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| **Academic Resources Connected to the Goals**  **Section must include:**  · Two to three academic resources connected to your goals  · Title and author of each resource  · Description of how resources will help make progress toward the goals  *Note: Academic resources are professional/academic works that can be used to assist your understanding of the topic. Some examples are books, research journals, documentaries, or videos.*    [*Creativity, Self Expression, and Dance.*](https://www.jstor.org/stable/3332433)  *Peter J. Arnold*  *In this article, Arnold explores the connection between and will allow me to better understand the psychology of expression through art.*  [*Everynight Life: Culture and Dance in Latin/o America*](https://www.dukeupress.edu/everynight-life)  *Celeste Fraser Delgado*  *In this article, Delgado will help me reflect on how I am immersing myself in a culture that goes beyond the activity and performance I will be engaging in in Cincinnati.*    Advisor Revisions/Feedback: |

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| **On-going Reflection**  **Section must include:**  · Method for ongoing reflection  · List questions you plan to ask yourself to gauge your growth related to your goals as well as understanding of the selected competency/competencies    *The on-going reflection should help you process the experience and progress toward the goals you have identified.*  *Note: A variety of methods can be used for reflection. Some examples are videos, drawings, blogs, songs, and journals.*    *In order to properly document the reflections and learning that will be made throughout this 13 week experience, a video blog of the skills, goals, and final project will be made during and following each session leading to one final video that will be available on my learning portfolio.*  ***Reflection Questions:***   1. *What skills were learned today, what challenges did we face?* 2. *How confident do I feel in immersing myself in a new skill?* 3. *How has this (private) lesson allowed me to connect with Latin Culture and how can I integrate what I learned into other endeavors?* 4. *What did I learn today about the power of dancing in order to release and express emotion?* 5. *How will I take what I learned and apply it in different contexts?* 6. *How are we marking our progress?* 7. *What are we doing outside of our time dancing together to engage in Latin dance culture?* 8. *How do I feel connected with others through this experience?*   Advisor Revisions/Feedback: |

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| **Sharing Your Learning**  **Section must include:**  · At least one method to actively share what you learned focused on growth connected to competency/competencies  · A specific audience and why the audience was selected    *While social media can be an effective platform for sharing, only posting on your learning portfolio or social media account(s) does not reach a targeted audience.*    *Concluding the 13-weeks dedicated to developing the Salsa technique, we intend on sharing the summary of our learning through a performance at WorldFest. With the guidance of our advisor, Diana Hoffman, we will produce a choreographed piece that will encompass the expressive and passionate nature of Latin Dancing to the rest of the Bearcat community. The audience at WorldFest was selected because the people who attend WorldFest come from different backgrounds and are attending to experience the joy of exploring other cultures and the beauty of different dances. Additionally, a performance at WorldFest will expose not only campus members, but our local community to the beauty of connecting with culture through dance.*    Advisor Revisions/Feedback: |

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| **Budget (if applicable)**  **Section must include:**  · Itemized budget of expenditures with sources to justify estimates (review information on [Honors Grants](https://www.uc.edu/campus-life/honors/students/grants.html))    *The UHP no longer provides honors grants for unpaid research or internships. You can still complete these as honors experiences, but cannot receive a grant.*    [Budget Proposal](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z6OJwu4Wrx70U3zmDO-LvPU9Cyh2tTxjVtuW7MA6yd8/edit#gid=0) *Enter budget information in this space.*    Advisor Revisions/Feedback: |