



BailaCura

“Using the power and passion of dance to raise funds and support for cancer research and patient care.”

An open letter to North Carolina Dance Community and the Public,

Writing on behalf of our Board of Directors and the BailaCura organization, I want to provide our official stance and enable an open discussion within the community. I believe that people are the greatest asset of any organization and emphasize that I truly believe in each person on our team. However, it is still important to have a clear and transparent policy to maintain the integrity of our team and hold ourselves accountable for our actions.

Our **Mission Statement** is to use the power and passion of dance to raise funds and support for cancer research and patient care. Intrinsic to this purpose is a virtue that values every single person, regardless of background. In fact, I believe that is it our differences that embody that inalienable value.

As such, our policy is that “BailaCura has zero tolerance for cyberbullying, harassment, advocating for violence, racially- or hate-filled remarks, and discrimination” and we now have a review process to address any incidents that are brought to our attention.

I do believe in freedom of speech and an individual's autonomy to whatever beliefs that they may hold. Where the line is drawn is when speech becomes reflective of our organization and that speech goes against our organization's virtues. While no one is perfect, and I myself have my own biases and issues, my intention is that by establishing a transparent guideline, we may continue to grow together as individuals, as a team, as a dance community, and continue sharing our passion of dance to good work for others.

MATTHEW A. BERGENS
President, BailaCura