BALANCE DANCE STUDIOS



INFORMATION PACKET - 2025/2026

WHO WE ARE UNITE. GROOVE. KONNECT

OUR MISSION

UGK is a competitive youth hip hop and streetstyle crew at Balance Dance Studios. Directed by Haley Sikes, UGK trains dancers to be entertaining performers, while growing teamwork skills. The team performs at various events, competitions, and dance conventions across Texas, and holds many prestigious titles, including World of Dance Houston Junior 3rd Place Champions. For dancers ages 6-18, UGK focuses on building the youth community in Austin, and exposing more kids to hip hop and street culture.

MEET THE DIRECTOR



DIRECTOR HALEY SIKES

Haley Sikes is a dancer, performer, choreographer, and teacher, based out of the Austin area. She started dancing at the age of three, training in many different styles, with a focus on hip hop. Haley has been UGK Director for 6 years and director of FUSE Crew at our sister studio, The Dance Spot for 3 years. She has grown a community of talented hip hop dancers throughout the past 6 years, and will continue doing so by instilling confidence and passion in her students. Haley has many choreography credits, including competition choreography awards, working for local artists, and choreographing for shows across the country.

LIL' GROOVES A CESSS-8 AUDITION INFORMATION

MAY 22 | \$25 AUDITION FEE Lil' GROOVES AGES 6-8 | MAY 22 | 4pm-5pm

After having pre-registered, dancers should plan to arrive at the studio no less than 15 minutes before their audition time, to check in, complete any remaining paperwork (an application should be fully completed ahead of time – please fill out thoughtfully so we can get to know your dancer), and to warm up. Dancers should wear their best hip hop attire to auditions. Application and registration links will be linked from the UGK info webpage at balancedancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info.

Light makeup and hair accessories are acceptable. Dancers will learn a short combo, and will be asked to freestyle, as part of their audition.

Lil' GROOVES do not need to attend Innovate Audition Intensive

3:45pm - Check in/warm up 4:00-5:00pm - Learn combo and dance in groups 5:00pm - Parent Pick-up



INNOVATE AUDITION INTENSIVE

MAY 19-21 | DANCERS AGE 9-18



Junior Room (dancers auditioning for UNITE + UNITEpro): 4-7pm Teen Room (dancers auditioning for KONNECT + KONNECTpro): 5-8pm Senior Room (dancers auditioning for VELOCITYpro): 5:30-9pm

This intensive's purpose is for our dancers to grow their artistry and emerge as the best dancer and human they can be. UGK Company Directors will be attending the intensive to observe dancers in preparation for their auditions. Dancers will also learn a short combination at the intensive that they will perform at their audition on 5/22.

Dancers ages 9+ auditioning for UGK are required to attend the Innovate Intensive as well as their audition time on 5/22. Links for both will be available on the UGK information page at balancedancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info

AUDITION DAY

MAY 22

After having pre-registered, dancers should plan to arrive at the studio, no less than 15 minutes before their audition time, to check in, complete any remaining paperwork (an application should be fully completed ahead of time, along with headshot – please fill out thoughtfully so we can get to know your dancer), and to warm up. Application and registration links will be linked from the UGK info webpage at balancedancestudios.com/ugk-audition-info.

Please wear clothes that highlight your dancers personality and help them stand out. Light makeup and hair accessories are acceptable.

Dancers will learn a short combo, and will be asked to freestyle, as part of their audition. Dancers ages 9+ will perform the audition combo learned at the Innovate intensive.

> LIL' GROOVES Ages 6-8 | MAY 22 | 4-5pm UNITE Ages 9-11 | MAY 22 | 5-6pm UNITEpro Advanced Dancers Ages 9-11 | MAY 22 | 5-6:30pm KONNECT AGES 12-18 | MAY 22 | 6:30-7:30pm KONNECTpro Advanced Dancers Ages 12-14 | MAY 22 | 6:30-8pm VELOCITYpro Advanced Dancers Ages 14+ | MAY 22 | 8-9pm

During the Innovate Intensive, dancers may be asked to audition for a team that is outside of their age grouping. Please contact Haley Sikes if you have any questions or concerns regarding the team of your dancer prior to auditions.

AUDITION RESULTS

Evaluation:

Balance Dance Studios will bring in outside judges to help evaluate auditioning dancers, and provide objective feedback for team placement. In addition, director feedback is considered, as well as past attendance, work ethic, attitude and performance quality (for returning company members). Judges and directors will share feedback after auditions and collaborate to determine the crew best suited to dancers' abilities, commitment level and expressed goals (per their application). *If your dancer cannot attend choreo week, they may be refused placement on UGK*

Results:

Dancers will be notified on Friday, May 23rd, via email, of their audition results/placement. After that, one parent and dancer are REQUIRED to attend a mandatory crew meeting with the directors on May 31st.

Summer classes start Monday, June 2nd, and end on Saturday, July 26th. The fall session begins on Monday, August 11th.

Meeting times are as follows:

May 31ST 2:00PM: UGK Team Meeting (Lil' Grooves, UNITE, KONNECT) 3:30PM: UGKpro Team Meeting (UNITEpro, KONNECTpro, VELOCITYpro, and dancers approved for PROline) Meetings will be held at Balance Dance Studios. Email UGK@balancedancestudios.com with any

questions.



IMPORTANT DATES SUMMER 2025-SPRING 2026

5.19-5.21 INNOVATE INTENSIVE 5.22 AUDITIONS **5.31 MANDATORY CREW MEETINGS** 6.7 PHOTOSHOOT + RETREAT 7.21-7.24 CHOREOGRAPHY WEEK *If your dancer cannot attend choreo week, they may be refused placement on UGK* 7.25-7.27 AXIS INTENSIVE-HIP HOP **NOVEMBER** MONSTERS HOUSTON CONVENTION AND SHOWCASE (Mandatory for PROline) WINTER TBD COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE JANUARY MONSTERS AUSTIN CONVENTION AND COMPETITION FEBRUARY 8 NATIONAL DANCE COMPETITION MARCH HALL OF FAME DANCE COMPETITION **MARCH** MONSTERS DALLAS (optional) **APRIL** "MURGE" COMPANY SHOW MAY SPRING RECITAL **MAY** WORLD OF DANCE DALLAS (Mandatory for PROline)



TIME COMMITMENTS SUMMER EXPECTATIONS

SUMMER COMMITMENTS EVERYONE

Summer choreography week (7.21-24), team photoshoot and retreat (6.7), Axis Hip Hop Intensive (7.25-7.27) *If your dancer cannot attend choreo week, they may be refused placement on UGK*

Lil' GROOVES, UNITE, KONNECT.

8 hours of hip hop during the 8-week session (1 class/week)

UNITEpro, KONNECTpro, VELOCITYpro.

16 hours of hip hop during the 8-week session (2 classes/week)



SUMMER CLASSES

Lil' GROOVES - Tuesdays at 5pm UNITE- Tueadays at 4pm UNITEpro - Thursdays at 5pm, Thursdays at 6pm KONNECT - Tuesdays at 6pm KONNECTpro - Thursdays at 6pm, Thursdays at 7pm, and/or Tuesdays at 7pm VELOCITYpro - Thursdays at 6pm, Thursdays at 7pm, and/or Tuesdays at 7pm

TIME COMMITMENTS WEEKLY FALL EXPECTATIONS

Schedule *subject to change* Lil' GROOVES – Thursdays, Rehearsals 4–5pm, Class 5–6pm UNITE – Thursdays, Rehearsals 5–6pm, Class 4–5pm KONNECT – Thursdays, Rehearsals 7:30–8:30pm, Class 6:30–7:30pm UNITEpro – Tuesdays, Rehearsals 4–5:30pm, Class 5:30–6:30pm Thursdays, Class 5–6pm, Rehearsals 6–7:30pm KONNECTpro – Tuesdays, Rehearsals 5:30–7pm, Class 7–8pm Thursdays, Rehearsals 6–7:30pm, Conditioning 7:30–8pm, Class 8–9pm VELOCITYpro – Tuesdays, Class 7–8pm, Rehearsals 8–9:30pm

Attendance Policy: Students are not allowed to have more than 3 absences per class per semester. All absences must be approved by the director prior to classes missed. All conventions and competitions are mandatory. No exceptions. Reblocking fees of \$150/piece will apply.

