

Ale Mier



My name is Ale Mier and I want to be on the board! I've been dancing for a year and a half and have been volunteering for 6 months now. The Fed is my home and I deeply cherish it. Being able to better serve my dance family and be more involved in the Syndicate's internal workings of the are some of the reasons why I am running. I would love to see more live bands and more integration of new dancers into the community. Additionally, I have some ideas for restructuring/revamping some of the FOTF classes which I feel will help new dancers get even more excited about dancing and bring more of themselves to the dance floor. It is also exciting to know that I'll potentially be gaining knowledge and experience while I learn new skills alongside my friends!

Nick Williams



Hi, I'm Nick. I've been with the Austin Swing Syndicate for about five years, serving on the board of directors the last two. In my time here, I've worked to increase member involvement, maintain and streamline our sound equipment system and keep the Syndicate a successful and active organization where anyone interested can find a home in swing dancing.

Being part of the dance and its community has made an instrumental impact on my life, and I want to keep sharing the positive experience I've had with others. My primary goals for this next term are to increase external outreach to the Austin community, continue to streamline weekly operations and boost member input and involvement opportunities.

I look forward to continuing my work with the Austin Swing Syndicate and spreading the vivacity of swing dancing to as many people as possible. Come say hi if you see me on the dance floor, and remember to keep that rhythm swingin'!

Simon Cruanes



Howdy! I'm Simon Cruanes, 31, french, computer scientist, and now Lindy and Collegiate Shag dancer.

I moved to Austin in January 2018 to work in a startup. I have been dancing for exactly a year, and the Fed is the place where I met all my friends on this side of the pond. The syndicate is very open and welcoming to beginners. I see it as a friendly place for casual dancers, a Petri dish of more advanced dancers, and an inclusive social club.

I'm applying for the board to give back on this vibrant community and help the amazing volunteers who run it. I started volunteering in September, mostly on the front desk, but also occasionally on openings and special events such as New Year's Eve.

To the board, I would bring several things of various relevance:

- a will to make the Syndicate an even more welcoming, inclusive, and transparent organization;
- an affinity with most things technical, and a pair of glasses to read large
- columns of numbers that would pertain to, say, Treasury;
- a taste for bad puns, tempered by cheerfulness;
- a stable work schedule;
- some experience as vice-president of the networking association of my university, circa 2010.

Ian Clauser



I've lived in Austin since 2010, and am just looking for more ways to give back to a community that has given me so much. I'm 27 years old, and I've spent most of my life working in the IT field. While I don't have anything in the way of relevant experience, I'm more than willing to step up and do my part for the Syndicate.

Alex Barr



A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... I began dancing ballroom in a death-defying attempt to find a significant other. Alas, this endeavor ended in epic failure.... And some things that should not have been forgotten were lost. History became legend. Legend became myth. And for two and a half thousand years, my dancing passed out of all knowledge.

Then in late 2015, I broke free from the bleak and dance-less prison where I had been fettered. Once again I was free to run wild with willful abandonment across the dance floor to the terror of follows and instructors alike. :)

For the last three years I have experimented with Charleston, Shag, Lindy-hop, and now Balboa, thoroughly confusing my feet in the process. However, with the patient tutelage of many excellent instructors and follows in steel toed boots, I am making progress and having lots of fun. This, however, is a journey which does not happen without cost, some of which we don't pay ourselves. So its time to repay some of what I have received back into the community; hence, I am running for the board.

There I plan to be a voice to keep event costs down as much as possible for our student population and to maximize the use of our local jazz musicians who are a vital source of inspiration and sustenance to the community. Additionally, I believe we need to continue the Syndicate's outreach efforts to the university community: UT as well as the smaller colleges. Finally, as a proponent of continuing education to progress ones dancing, I will poll for interest in having a series of mini talks covering a range of topics such as Jazz dance and history, musicality, and inspiring performances, dancers, etc.