



## **Yulia Zhukoff**

*Co-Founder and Instructor  
PGH Tango Connection*

## **Russia**

After Yulia, a classically trained cellist, graduated from Duquesne University, she co-founded PGH Tango Connection. The now 10-year-old dance instruction business has been one of the city's most culturally diversifying influences by connecting people in Pittsburgh through the passion of tango.

Through group, individual and private lessons, and by organizing several tango-inspired events through the course of the year (including an annual weekend tango marathon), Yulia enriches the social, cultural, and entertainment substance of Pittsburgh. She regularly brings internationally renowned instructors and performers such as Nina Tatarowicz, Mariana Dragone, Miguel & Michelle Coppini, Julio Bassan and Ines Muzzoppa to town. And she has led trips of her dance students to Buenos Aires for in-person, authentic instruction and experiential learning. Yulia co-founded the business through her passion for the dance and without any institutional support. And through three regularly scheduled weekly events, teaches tango, manages the business, and organizes numerous monthly and annual tango events throughout the year. She does this while also working full-time as an executive assistant at Carnegie Mellon University, and as the mother of a two-year-old.

Through her passion for tango and for Pittsburgh, she also serves as a cultural ambassador for the city, travelling to participate and perform at tango events across the country and around the world. In addition to travelling to Argentina, she has also been a Pittsburgh standard bearer in New York City, Toronto, Buffalo, Cleveland, Detroit and Ithaca, NY.

Yulia is more than just a successful immigrant businesswoman. She is actively engaged in expanding the cultural and artistic knowledge and relevance of Pittsburgh. The city and region will not become what it needs to and aspires to without the contributions of conscientious and passionate advocates like her.