

Houston Ballet Foundation
Meeting of the Board of Trustees

MINUTES

Monday, February 26, 2024

Call to order: The Houston Ballet Full Board meeting was held in the Margaret Alkek Williams Dance Lab on Monday, February 26, 2024, in Houston, Texas. The meeting convened at 4:34 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Melza Barr, Mrs. Kristy J. Bradshaw, Mr. James Cowan, Mrs. Renee Humphrey, Mrs. Kelley S. Lubanko, Mr. Daniel M. McClure, Mrs. Amy Pincu, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, Ms. Hallie Vanderhider, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Zdeblick, Mr. Bill Baldwin, Mrs. Diane Bazelides, Ms. Ann C. Bean, Mrs. Lenni Burke, Ms. Kim Cagle, Ms. Keiko Chevray, Mrs. James W. Crownover, Ms. Sasha Davis, Ms. Jane DiPaolo, Mrs. Pamela D. Earthman, Mrs. Kate Fowler, Mrs. Jo Furr, Mrs. Marianne Geagea, Mrs. Ann Graham, Ms. Victoria Gutierrez, Mrs. Nancy Ferguson Haywood, Mrs. Jayne Johnston, Mr. James M. Jordan*, Mr. Ed Koehler, Ms. Amy LeBlanc, Mr. Mark Loveland, Mrs. Jean E. May, Ms. Nancy Powell Moore, Ms. Desrye Morgan, Ms. Beth Muecke, Mrs. Cabrina Owsley, Monica Radoff, Mrs. Akemi Saitoh, Mr. Kent Schaffer, Mrs. James Shaffer, Ms. Sunday Shepherd, Mrs. Erika Toussaint

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelli Gilson, Julie Kent, Paige Kutschall, Angie Lane, Angela Lee, Jim Nelson, Kristi Roberts, Jennifer Sommers, Stanton Welch AM

GUESTS PRESENT:

Erica Robinson, David Conner, Sam Rodriguez, Jacquelyn Long

Mrs. Kristy Bradshaw welcomed everyone, and with a quorum present, the meeting minutes from the September 18th meeting were approved. Mrs. Bradshaw then shared the nomination of Chad Libertus to the position of Vice President of the IDEA Committee. With a quorum present, Chad was approved as the Vice President of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Committee (IDEA).

SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT

Mrs. Bradshaw congratulated the chairmen, supporters, and ball committee for an incredibly successful 2024 Ballet Ball, noting \$1.6 million raised in support of Houston Ballet. She shared that auction items are still available if you still would like to support them. She then invited Mr. Jim Nelson to give the Executive Director's Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Jim Nelson echoed Mrs. Bradshaw's thanks and reviewed the internal financials for February.

Mr. Nelson then reviewed the Ballet's current strategic priorities, emphasizing the importance of building our endowment for financial stability. He shared the recent transformational and anonymous gift given to San Francisco Ballet as an example of this. Furthermore, he shared the stories of two individuals who have made recent gifts to the Houston Ballet endowment.

Mr. Nelson then shared about upcoming patron trips to Washington D.C. and Chautauqua.

Mrs. Bradshaw thanked Mr. Nelson for his report and then invited Mrs. Julie Kent and Mr. Stanton Welch AM to give the Artistic Directors' report.

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS' REPORT

Mr. Stanton Welch and Mrs. Julie Kent revealed the 2024-2025 Houston Ballet Season. Ms. Kelli Gilson then joined to give an insider's perspective of all that goes into planning a season.

Mr. Stanton Welch and Mrs. Julie Kent then invited Mrs. Jennifer Sommers up to the podium.

Mrs. Sommers discussed how the Academy and Education and Community Engagement programming currently supports the Ballet's strategic priority to inspire a lasting love and appreciation of dance. Furthermore, how impactful the committees have been in this effort. She shared about a board member who brought a friend to the beginning of an X3 program, then to the end, and the friend was inspired to become a supporter of Houston Ballet. Mrs. Sommers then invited Professional Program students up to perform.

Mrs. Bradshaw thanked the students for their performance and welcomed everyone to the reception.

Adjournment: With no further new or old business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.