

**Houston Ballet Foundation**  
**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**MINUTES**  
**Monday, February 8, 2021**

**Call to order:** The Houston Ballet Board of Trustees meeting was held virtually via Zoom web-conference on Monday, February 8, 2021 in Houston, Texas. The meeting convened at 4:30pm.

**Quorum:** Achieved (per by-laws requirements)

**Trustees Present:**

Dr. Julia A. Andrieni, Mrs. F.T. Barr, Ms. Ann Bean, Mrs. Susan Binney, Mrs. Leslie Blanton, Mrs. Kristy J. Bradshaw, Ms. Lindsey Brown, Mrs. Lenore K. Burke, Mrs. Wendy Wilkins Burks, Mrs. Molly Crownover, Mrs. Leslie Culhane, Ms. Gay Currie, Ms. Sasha Davis, Mr. Bastiaan de Zeeuw, Mrs. Pamela D. Earthman, Richard W. Flowers, Hon. Charles C. Foster, Mrs. Jo Furr, Mrs. Kate Fowler, Mr. Mitchell George, Mrs. Mignon Gill, Mr. Jeremy Griggs, Mrs. Donald M. Graubart, Mr. Herschel Hamner, Dr. Joshua D. Harris, Mrs. Nancy Haywood, Mr. Jesse H. Jones II, Mr. James M. Jordan, Mrs. Russell C. Joseph, Elizabeth Mata Kroger, Mrs. Elizabeth Leykum, Chad Libertus, Mr. Mark Loveland, Mrs. Kelley S. Lubanko, Mr. Jerry Martin, Mrs. Jean E. May, Mr. Daniel M. McClure, Mrs. Kris McGee, Mr. Shane A. Miller, Ms. Nancy Powell Moore, Mrs. Lisa Morgan, Mr. Joshua B. Nix, Mrs. Cabrina Owsley, Mrs. Amy Pincu, Mrs. Carroll Robertson Ray, Laura M. Robertson, Mrs. Akemi Saitoh, Ms. Elizabeth Schwarze, Mrs. Alicia Smith, Mrs. Leigh M. Smith, Dr. Liliana Soltero, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, Mr. Nicholas L. Swyka, Mrs. Allison Thacker, Stephanie Tsuru, Mrs. Phoebe Tudor, Mrs. Christine Underwood, Ms. Hallie Vanderhider, Mrs. Margaret Alkek Williams and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Zdeblick.

**Staff Present:**

MJ Bavaret, Melissa Bowman, Haley Calvert, Patsy Chapman, Ermanno Florio, Kelli Gilson, Lucy Graham, Lindsey Hurst, Angela Lane, Angela Lee, James Nelson, David Rivera, Kristi Roberts, Jennifer Sommers, Stanton Welch AM and Alexandra Yates.

**Guests Present:**

Joseph A. Matula, Natasha Khan, Company Dancer Caleb Durbin, and Orchestra representatives Spencer Park and Christina Carroll.

Mrs. Leigh M. Smith welcomed everyone and called to order the Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

With a quorum present, the Board approved the nomination of Mr. Joseph A. Matula and Ms. Natasha Khan to join the Board as Trustees for the class 2023. Following this, the minutes from the Board meeting held on September 21, 2020 were approved.

Mrs. Smith then invited Ms. S. Shawn Stephens to present an update on the Crisis Relief Campaign. Ms. Stephens announced that the Crisis Campaign goal of \$5M was met, and thanked the Board, the Campaign Committee and all involved for turning this goal into a reality.

Mrs. Smith thanked Ms. Stephens for her report and proceeded to give the Special Events report. Mrs. Smith showcased the success of the 2020 Virtual Onstage Dinner and promoted the 2021 Virtual Ballet Ball, taking place on Saturday, February 20, 2021.

After this, Mrs. Smith invited Mr. James Nelson to give the Executive Director's report.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Nelson began his report by thanking Trustees for their leadership and support which helped the organization get through its most challenging crisis to-date. Mr. Nelson then provided an overview of the organization's financial status, noting that a FY21 revised budget was finalized in January, and that the determination of Houston Ballet's PPP loan forgiveness is pending the SBA's response.

Mr. Nelson then provided more information on additional federal relief programs including the Shuttered Venue Operators Program and the Employee Retention Credit (ERC).

Following this, Mr. Nelson invited Ms. Patsy Chapman to give an update on the Virtual Nutcracker Market. Ms. Chapman noted that the Market netted \$440,000 to Houston Ballet, anticipating final sales numbers by the end of February. Ms. Chapman also showcased plans for the in-person Spring Nutcracker Market and how the NRG Center has implemented various safety and health protocols.

Following Ms. Chapman's report, Mr. Nelson showcased some viewership data on the digital program premieres this season and invited Trustees to save the-date for the Spring 2021 Drive-In, which will feature programs from the San Francisco Dance Festival.

Concluding his report, Mr. Nelson, along with Mr. Stanton Welch AM, provided various examples of Houston Ballet's continued commitment to being an anti-racist organization—looking inward for ways to be more Inclusive, Diverse, Equitable and Accessible (IDEA) to all members of the community and industry.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Nelson for his report and invited Mr. Stanton Welch AM to provide the Artistic Director's report.

### **Artistic Director's Report**

Mr. Welch began his report by noting that *In Good Company* filming is nearing an end, and then proceeded into a Q&A session with David Rivera, Houston Ballet's Associate Director of Audio and Visual Services. Following this, Mr. Welch noted the plans for the upcoming *Play* filming and the *Mostly Mozart* project at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

Following this, Mr. Welch showcased the 2021-2022 season programming, and welcomed four HBII students who will be joining the Company in FY22 as Apprentices. Mr. Welch also announced the nomination of Corps de Ballet dancer, Chandler Dalton, as the 2021 Princess Grace Awards Nominee.

Mr. Welch then invited Ms. Jennifer Sommers to give an update on some Academy students' choreographic projects.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Welch for his report.

**Adjournment:** With no further new or old business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49pm.