

HOUSTON BALLET FOUNDATION
Board of Trustees Meeting
MINUTES
Margaret Alkek Williams Dance Lab
Monday, February 10, 2020 at 4:30 pm

Call to order:

The Houston Ballet Board of Trustees meeting was held in the Margaret Alkek Williams Dance Lab of the Center for Dance in Houston, Texas on Monday, February 10, 2020. The meeting convened at 4:33pm.

Quorum: achieved (per by-law requirements)

Trustees Present:

Mrs. F. T. Barr, Mrs. Diane Bazelides, Ms. Ann Bean, Mr. Gary V. Beauchamp, Mrs. Lenore K. Burke, Mr. Richard L. Burlison, Mrs. Amy LeBlanc Cloud, Mrs. Lilly Cullen, Ms. Sasha Davis, Mrs. Pamela D. Earthman, Mrs. Donald L. Erskine, Mrs. Jo Furr, Mrs. Donald M. Graubart, Mr. Joseph A. Hafner, Jr. Dr. Joshua Harris, Mrs. Theodore J. Haywood, Ms. Michelle Iversen Jeffery, Mr. Jesse H. Jones II, Mr. James M. Jordan, Mrs. Elizabeth Leykum, Chad Libertus, Mr. Mark Loveland, Mrs. Kelley S. Lubanko, Mrs. Jean E. May, Mr. Daniel M. McClure, Mrs. Kris McGee, Ms. Nancy Powell Moore, Dr. Duyen Huynh Nguyen, Mr. James M. Nicklos, Mr. Joshua B. Nix, Mr. Gene J. Oshman, Mrs. Cabrina Owsley, Mr. James J. Parr, Mrs. Amy Pincu, Laura M. Robertson, Ms. Elizabeth Schwarze, Dr. Liliana Soltero, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, Mrs. Allison Thacker, Ms. Ann Trammell, Mrs. Phoebe Tudor, Mrs. Kelli Weinzierl and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Zdeblick.

Guests Present:

Christina Carroll and Spencer Park, Orchestra Representatives; Bridget Kuhns, Houston Ballet Dancer; Mrs. Leslie Culhane, Mrs. Sheel Patel and Mrs. Sara Parr, 2019 Nutcracker Market Chairman.

Staff Present:

MJ Bavaret, Patsy Chapman, Lucy Graham, Angela Lane, Angela Lee, James Nelson, Jennifer Sommers, Stanton Welch and Cheryl Zane.

Ms. S. Shawn Stephens called to order the Board of Trustees Meeting. Ms. Stephens called for a vote to fill two vacant seats on the Board. Ms. Stephens presented Mrs. Leslie Culhane and Mrs. Sheel Patel as new Trustees to replace two Trustees who left the Board since the Annual Meeting in May 2019. With a quorum established, Mrs. Leslie Culhane and Mrs. Sheel Patel were approved to join the Trustee class of 2022. Following this, the minutes from the September 23rd, 2019 Full Board Meeting were approved. Ms. Stephens then called upon Mrs. Sara Parr to give an update on the 2019 Nutcracker Market.

Mrs. Parr provided details on the success of the 39th Annual Nutcracker Market, which was held at the NRG Center, November 14 – 17, 2019 and invited Trustees to save the date for the 2020 Spring Spectacular taking place April 17-19, 2020.

Ms. Stephens thanked Mrs. Parr for her report then gave a Special Events report. Ms. Stephens provided details on the 50th Anniversary Ballet Ball taking place on February 22nd and congratulated Chairmen, Beth and Nick Zdeblick, and Honorary Chairmen, Phoebe and Bobby Tudor, for raising \$1.4 million - the largest amount of underwriting support achieved in the Ball's history to-date. Ms. Stephens continued by reminding Trustees that Raising the Barre is taking place on April 26th which will feature a world-class group of chefs who will be paired with Houston Ballet dancers. Ms. Stephens concluded her report by inviting Trustees to save the date for the 2020 Opening Night Onstage Dinner slated to take place on Friday, September 11th, 2020.

Ms. Stephens then invited Mr. James Nelson and Mr. Stanton Welch to give the Directors' report.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Nelson began by congratulating and thanking Sara Parr, Patsy Chapman and all members of the Nutcracker Market team and Houston Ballet Guild for another successful Nutcracker Market. Mr. Nelson then reported on the 2019/2020 status of earned and contributed income and expenses. Following this, Mr. Nelson provided a postmortem report on *Nutcracker* ticket sales and offered an in-depth analysis of Houston Ballet's *Nutcracker* sales history across a ten-year period. Mr. Nelson then provided a historical analysis of subscription trends and concluded by noting the necessary steps Houston Ballet will implement to adjust and recover for the remainder of the FY20 season and into FY21.

Mr. Nelson continued his report by sharing some updates on the mitigation construction currently underway at the Houston Ballet Center for Dance and noted that this work is slated to be complete by July 2020.

Mr. Nelson then invited the Trustees to save the date for the Spain tour taking place June 21-25, 2020 and invited Mr. Jay Jones, Member-at-Large, to the podium. Mr. Jones encouraged Trustees to register for this tour and provided positive, personal testimonials about the benefits of touring with Houston Ballet. Mr. Nelson thanked Mr. Jones and invited Mr. Stanton Welch AM to give the Artistic Director's report.

Artistic Director's Report

Mr. Welch began his report by showcasing the repertoire slated for the Spain tour. He then provided some highlights from the October 2019 New York tour, the 50th Anniversary Alumni weekend and Jubilee of Dance which took place in December 2019. Mr. Welch continued by showcasing details on the remaining repertoire for the 2019-2020 season and announced the 2020-2021 season repertoire. He also shared some previews of William Forsythe's *Blake Works I* and Justin Peck's *Heatscape*, both of which are Houston Ballet premieres which will be debuted in September 2020 and March 2021 respectively. Mr. Welch then invited Jennifer Sommers, Director of Education, to the podium to introduce the Academy's performance of an excerpt from Stanton Welch's *Play*.

Following the Academy performance, Ms. Stephens thanked Mr. Nelson and Mr. Welch for their reports.

To Ms. Stephens' surprise, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Welch then presented her with a gift in celebration of her milestone birthday.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.