

Houston Ballet Foundation
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
MINUTES
Monday, September 21, 2020

Call to order: The Houston Ballet Board of Trustees Meeting was held virtually via Zoom web-conference on Monday, September 21, 2020 in Houston, Texas. The meeting convened at 4:32pm.

Quorum: achieved (per by-law requirements)

Trustees Present:

Dr. Julia D. Andrieni, Mrs. F.T. Barr, Mrs. Diane Bazelides, Ms. Ann Bean, Mrs. Kristy J. Bradshaw, Ms. Lindsey Brown, Mrs. Lenore K. Burke, Mrs. Wendy Wilkins Burks, Mrs. Leslie Culhane, Mrs. Lilly Cullen, Ms. Gay Currie, Ms. Sasha Davis, Mr. Bastiaan de Zeeuw, Mrs. Donald L. Erskine, Hon. Charles C. Foster, Mrs. Kate Fowler, Mrs. Jo Furr, Mr. Mitchell George, Mrs. Donald M. Graubart, Mrs. Mignon Gill, Sandra S. Godfrey, Mr. Jeremy Griggs, Mr. Herschel Hamner, Dr. Joshua D. Harris, Mrs. Theodore J. Haywood, Gillian Hobson, Mr. Jesse H. Jones II, Mrs. Russell C. Joseph, Elizabeth Mata Kroger, Ms. Melanie Lawson, Mrs. Elizabeth Leykum, Chad Libertus, Mr. Mark Loveland, Mrs. Kelley S. Lubanko, Mrs. Jean E. May, Mr. Daniel M. McClure, Mrs. Kris McGee, Mr. Richard K. McGee, Mr. Shane A. Miller, Ms. Nancy Powell Moore, Mrs. Lisa Morgan, Mr. Joshua B. Nix, Mr. Gene J. Oshman, Mrs. Cabrina Owsley, Mr. James J. Parr, Ms. Sheel J. Patel, Mrs. Amy Pincu, Mrs. Elisa S. Pye, Mrs. Carroll Robertson Ray, Laura M. Robertson, Mrs. Elizabeth Schwarze, Mrs. Heidi Smith, Mrs. Leigh M. Smith, Dr. Liliana Soltero, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, Mrs. Allison Thacker, Stephanie Tsuru, Mrs. Phoebe Tudor, Mrs. Christine Underwood, Mrs. Kelli Weinzierl, and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Zdeblick.

Staff Present:

Lauren Anderson, MJ Bavaret, Melissa Bowman, Patsy Chapman, Ermanno Florio, Kelli Gilson, Lucy Graham, Rachel Koenig, Angela Lane, Angela Lee, James Nelson, Kristi Roberts, Jennifer Sommers, Stanton Welch AM, and Alexandra Yates.

Guests Present:

Company dancers: Tyler Donatelli, Karina Gonzalez, Oliver Halkowich, Connor Walsh, and Harper Watters.

Mrs. Leigh M. Smith welcomed everyone and called to order the Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Smith then welcomed New Trustees- Susan Binney, Gay Currie, Kate Fowler, Jeremy Griggs, Shane Miller, and Rini Ziegler.

With a quorum present, the minutes from the Annual Meeting held on May 18, 2020 were approved.

Mrs. Smith then 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 continued support, guidance and leadership during these uncertain and challenging times. Mr. Nelson continued by highlighting additional revenue challenges

since the Annual Meeting in May and the corresponding expected impact on the FY21 budget. He then invited Mrs. Patsy Chapman to give an update on the 2020 Nutcracker Holiday Market.

Mrs. Chapman shared news of the cancelation of the in-person 2020 Nutcracker Holiday Market and the transition to a virtual-only platform.

Following Mrs. Chapman's update, Mr. Nelson announced the official decision to move forward with digital-only productions for the rest of calendar year 2020 and noted that an optimistic plan to return to the Wortham in the Spring of 2021 is underway.

Mr. Nelson continued by stating that CFO, Kristi Roberts, and VP of Finance, Amy Pincu, are working to develop a new budget forecast which will be reported back to the Board at or prior to the February 2021 meeting.

Mr. Nelson concluded his report by inviting Trustees to join the weekly COVID/Crisis Update relief Zoom calls as an effective platform for asking questions and receiving timely updates on the state of the Ballet. To register for a call please sign up [here](#).

Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Nelson for his report and invited Mr. Jay Jones to give an update on the Crisis Relief Campaign. Mr. Jones noted the current success of the Campaign which raised \$3.27million to-date, and invited Principal Dancer, Mr. Connor Walsh, to share his experiences with fundraising.

Following Mr. Jones' and Mr. Walsh's reports, Mrs. Smith proceed to give the Special Events report.

Mrs. Smith highlighted the success of the 2020 Raising the Barre event which was completed on September 20, 2020. She then announced that the 2020-2021 special events have been reimagined, noting that the 2020 Onstage Dinner will take place on December 4 as a modified, virtual experience. Moreover, Mrs. Smith invited Trustees to save-the-date for the 2021 Houston Ballet Ball.

Following her report, Mrs. Smith invited Mr. Stanton Welch AM to provide the Artistic Director's Report.

Artistic Director's Report

Mr. Welch began his report by noting that small cohorts of company dancers have returned to the Center for Dance. He then invited company dancers- Ms. Tyler Donatelli, Ms. Karina Gonzalez and Mr. Oliver Halkowich, to showcase how they have been spending their free time.

Following this, Mr. Welch announced upcoming plans for "Restoration", a walking ballet to be filmed across various locations in Houston and provided details on the reimagined Jubilee and Holiday Special digital programs. Additionally, Mr. Welch showcased Rep 2 plans for the Spring 2021, featuring music from The Dead South.

Mr. Welch then invited Ms. Lauren Anderson and Company dancer, Mr. Harper Watters, to provide some updates on the *Breaking Boundaries* series.

Following this, Mr. Welch invited Ms. Jennifer Sommers to provide Academy and ECE updates.

Following Ms. Sommers' Academy and ECE report, Mrs. Smith recognized and thanked Trustee, Melanie Lawson, for her work on the *Breaking Boundaries* series.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51pm.