

**HOUSTON BALLET FOUNDATION**  
**Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**MINUTES**

**Monday, May 17, 2021 at 4:30pm**

**Call to order:**

The Houston Ballet Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held via Zoom web-conference in Houston, Texas on Monday, May 17, 2020. The meeting convened at 4:33pm.

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

**Trustees Present:**

Dr. Julia D. Andrieni, Mrs. F. T. Barr, Mrs. Diane Bazelides, Ms. Ann Bean, Mrs. Susan Binney, Mrs. Kristy J. Bradshaw, Ms. Lindsey Brown, Mrs. Lenore K. Burke, Mrs. Anne S. Chao, Mrs. Leslie Culhane, Mrs. Lilly Cullen, Ms. Gay Currie, Ms. Sasha Davis, Mrs. Sharon F. Erskine, Hon. Charles C. Foster, Mrs. Kate Fowler, Mrs. Jo Furr, Mr. Mitchell George, Sandra S. Godfrey, Mrs. Donald M. Graubart, Mr. Jeremy Griggs, Mrs. Nancy Haywood, Ms. Gillian Hobson, Mr. Jesse H. Jones II, Mr. James M. Jordan, Natasha Khan, Elizabeth Mata Kroger, Mrs. Elizabeth Leykum, Chad Libertus, Mr. Mark Loveland, Mrs. Kelley S. Lubanko, Mr. Joseph A. Matula, Mr. Jerry Martin, Mrs. Jean E. May, Mr. Daniel M. McClure, Mrs. Martha Rocks McMurrey, Ms. Nancy Powell Moore, Mr. James J. Parr, Mrs. Amy Pincu, Mrs. Elisa S. Pye, Mrs. Akemi Saitoh, Ms. Elizabeth Schwarze, Mrs. Alicia Smith, Mrs. Heidi Smith, Mrs. Leigh M. Smith, Dr. Liliana Soltero, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, Stephanie Tsuru, Mrs. Phoebe Tudor, Ms. Hallie Vanderhider, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Zdeblick

**Members Present:**

Mr. Cecil C. Conner, Jr., Ms. Katherine Culbert, Ms. Ann Koster, Ms. Sharon Roark, Mrs. Christine Sofka, Ms. Judy Spinella

**Staff Present:**

MJ Bavaret, Melissa Bowman, Haley Calvert, Patsy Chapman, Kelli Gilson, Lindsey Hurst, Rachel Koenig, Angela Lane, Angela Lee, James Nelson, Kristi Roberts, Jennifer Sommers, Stanton Welch, Alexandra Yates, and Cheryl L. Zane

Mrs. Leigh M. Smith welcomed everyone and called to order the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees. With a quorum present, Mrs. Smith invited Board Chairman, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, to present the New Trustees candidates for the Class 2021-2024 including Susan Binney, James Cowan, Michael Heckman, Michelle Jeffery, Jennifer Kushner, Joseph A. Matula, Samira Salman, Helen Shaffer, and Ileana Treviño all of which were unanimously approved.

Following this, Ms. Stephens called for approval of the 2021-22 slate of Executive Committee Officers and Members-at-Large, all of which were unanimously approved. Ms. Stephens then recognized and thanked Mrs. Kristy J. Bradshaw and Mrs. Phoebe Tudor for their 8 years of service on the Executive

Committee, Mrs. Susan Binney for her leadership as Guild President and service on the Executive Committee, and Ms. Gay Currie for her leadership as Guild Treasurer.

Mrs. Smith thanked Ms. Stephens and then called for the approval the February 8th, 2021 Full Board Meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Smith then invited FY21 Guild President and HBF Trustee, Mrs. Susan Binney to provide an overview of the Guild's 2020-2021 season.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mrs. Binney and then invited Mrs. Patsy Chapman, CEO of the Nutcracker Market, to give an update on the 2021 Spring Market. Mrs. Chapman showcased the success of the Spring Market, held from April 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, which had more than 12,000 shoppers and 150 participating merchants.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mrs. Chapman for her report and proceeded to give the Special Events report. Mrs. Smith highlighted Houston Ballet's special events turned virtual over the season and were a success. Mrs. Smith continued by thanking Raising the Barre Co-Chairs Mignon and Steve Gill and Samira Salman with honorees Truist Bank and Bill & Courtney Toomey for raising nearly \$90,000 in September. Mrs. Smith noted that in December The Onstage Dinner honored Gary and Marian Beauchamp and raised over \$75,000. Mrs. Smith recognized the success The Ballet Ball Home Edition: Having a Ball! which took place in February and exceeded its fundraising goal, raising nearly \$850,000. Mrs. Smith concluded the special events report by announcing the 2021-2022 season Special Events including Onstage Dinner (September 30, 2021), Ballet Ball (February 19, 2022), and Raising the Barre (April 24, 2022).

Following the special events report, 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 support over the past 14 months. Mr. Nelson then gave a detailed account of the financial state of the organization for fiscal year 2021, noting earned revenue, contributed revenue, and expenses. He then noted that the FY22 budget process approval has been deferred for approval at the September board meeting.

Mr. Nelson then continued by giving an update on the subscriber recovery strategy that is linked to next seasons \$2 million Share the Joy campaign.

Mr. Nelson then invited Mr. Jesse H. Jones II and Ms. S. Shawn Stephens to provide more detail on the Share the Joy Campaign.

Mr. Jones began his report by thanking the campaign committee and trustees for their support. Mr. Jones then reported the campaign goal is \$2 million of which more than \$1 million in proposals are

already pending. Mr. Jones then invited Ms. Stephens to further comment on the Share the Joy campaign.

Ms. Stephens shared ways trustees could help support the campaign and solicited volunteers to assist with those efforts.

Mr. Nelson then continued his report by reviewing the past season in terms of accomplishments and impact.

Mr. Nelson recognized former trustees who had passed away over the past year, Peter Richard Coneway, Mark Allen Grierson, Meredith J. Long, and Sue Schwartz.

Mr. Nelson concluded his report by announcing a company tour to Japan in October of 2022.

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 thanking Letty Loya for generously underwriting In Good Company. He then discussed the success of In Good Company and then showed a video of *Ballad for Janoski*. Mr. Welch reported on the return to live performances at Miller Outdoor Theater and thanked the many trustees and members who had joined us for these two performances.

Mr. Welch highlighted the 2021-2022 season by way of a promotional video and ended his report by showing clips from the Academy Spring Showcase virtual performance.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Welch for his report.

**Adjournment:** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm