

Houston Ballet Foundation
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
MINUTES
Monday, September 20, 2021

Call to order: The Houston Ballet Board of Trustees Meeting was held virtually via Zoom web-conference on Monday, September 20, 2021 in Houston, Texas. The meeting convened at 4:30pm.

Quorum: achieved (per by-law requirements)

Trustees Present:

Mr. W. Cameron Alguire, Dr. Julia D. Andrieni, Mrs. Diane Bazelides, Ms. Ann Bean, Mrs. Leslie Blanton, Mrs. Kristy J. Bradshaw, Ms. Lindsey Brown, Mrs. Lenni Burke, Mr. James Cowan, Mrs. Lilly Cullen, Ms. Sasha Davis, Mr. Bastiaan de Zeeuw, Mrs. Pamela D. Earthman, Richard W. Flowers, Mrs. Kate Fowler, Mrs. Jo Furr, Mr. Mitchell George, Mr. Jeremy Griggs, Dr. Joshua D. Harris, Mrs. Nancy Ferguson Haywood, Ms. Michelle Iversen Jeffery, Mr. Jesse H. Jones II, Mr. James M. Jordan, Mrs. Russell C. Joseph, Natasha Khan, Elizabeth Mata Kroger, Ms. Jennifer Kushner, Mrs. Elizabeth Leykum, Mr. Mark Loveland, Mrs. Kelley S. Lubanko, Mr. Jerry Martin, Mr. Joseph A. Matula, Mrs. Jean E. May, Mr. Daniel M. McClure, Mrs. Kris McGee, Richard K. McGee, Mr. Shane A. Miller, Ms. Nancy Powell Moore, Mrs. Cabrina Owsley, Mr. James J. Parr, Mrs. Amy Pincu, Mr. Ron Rand, Mrs. Carroll Robertson Ray, Ms. Samira A. Salman, Mrs. Elizabeth Schwarze, Mrs. James Shaffer, Mrs. Alicia Smith, Mrs. Leigh M. Smith, Dr. Liliana Soltero, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, Mrs. Allison Thacker, Mrs. Ileana Treviño, Stephanie Tsuru, Mrs. Phoebe Tudor, Mrs. Christine M. Underwood, Ms. Hallie Vanderhider, Mrs. Margaret Alkek Williams, and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Zdeblick.

Staff Present:

Patsy Chapman, Ermanno Florio, Kelli Gilson, Lucy Graham, Lindsey Hurst, Rachel Koenig, Angela Lane, Angela Lee, James Nelson, Megan Raines, Kristi Roberts, Jennifer Sommers, Stanton Welch AM, and Alexandra Yates.

Guests Present:

Orchestra representative-Christina Carroll and David Connor.

Mrs. Leigh M. Smith welcomed everyone and called to order the Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Smith welcomed New Trustees- Mr. James Cowan, Ms. Jennifer Kushner, Ms. Samira A. Salman, Mrs. James Shaffer, and Mrs. Ileana Treviño.

With a quorum present, the Board approved the nomination of Ms. Dannika Simpson, Mr. Ron Rand, and Mrs. Winell Herron to join the Board of Trustees for the class 2023-2024. Following this, minutes from the Annual Meeting held on May 17, 2021 were approved.

Mrs. Smith then invited Mrs. Amy Pincu, Vice President of Finance, to present the 2021-2022 budget for approval. This budget had been previously recommended by the finance and executive committees. The motion was unanimously approved by the full board.

Mrs. Smith then invited Ms. S. Shawn Stephens to give an update on the *Share the Joy* Campaign. Ms. Stephens noted that nearly \$1.6 million was raised, and thanked her Co-Chair, Mr. Jesse H. Jones II, and the campaign committee for their continued support. Following Ms. Stephens' update, Mrs. Smith provided the special events report.

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

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Nelson began his report by welcoming new trustees and thanking the board for approving the FY22 budget. He then gave an update on the subscription campaign, as well as an update on *Nutcracker* sales. Mr. Nelson then gave an update on Houston Ballet's IDEA work, noting the company's engagement with an IDEA consultant, Toni Wilson. Mr. Nelson then showcased how Houston Ballet is recognizing Hispanic dancers and staff as part of national Hispanic heritage month.

Following this, Mr. Nelson recognized Lauren Anderson for being named a 2020-2021 Texas Women's Hall of Fame honoree. Mr. Nelson then reminded trustees of the 2022 Japan tour. Mr. Nelson concluded his report by showing a virtual walk-through of the historical timeline stairwell installation at the Center for Dance, made possible by trustee Carroll Ray.

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 the positive attention surrounding dancers Karina González's, Harper Watters', and Chandler Dalton's participation in the Jacob's Pillow Coast to Coast event. Mr. Welch then provided some updates on the Margaret Alkek Williams Jubilee of Dance program.

Mr. Welch then noted that principal dancers Karina González and Conor Walsh will be performing at New York City Center's Fall for Dance festival in October 2021.

Mr. Welch continued by commenting on Houston Ballet's dancer exchange with Ballet West this fall. Two Ballet West principal dancers, Chase O'Connell and Beckanne Sisk, will be joining Houston Ballet's *Nutcracker* performances in December 2021. Additionally, Mr. Welch announced plans to hire Skylar Campbell, principal dancer at the National Ballet of Canada.

Mr. Welch then announced some Houston Ballet company promotions and announced that Ms. Jennifer Sommers will be the new Houston Ballet Academy Director. He then invited Ms. Sommers to give an Academy update. Following her report, Mr. Welch showcased his latest digital work- *Play*.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Welch for his report.

Adjournment: With no further new or old business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.