

HOUSTON BALLET FOUNDATION
Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
MINUTES
Monday, May 16, 2022

Call to order: The Houston Ballet Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in-person alongside a Zoom web-conference on Monday, May 16, 2022 in Houston, Texas. The meeting convened at 4:37pm.

Quorum: Achieved (per by-law requirements)

Trustees Present:

Dr. Julia D. Andrieni, Mrs. F. T. Barr, Mrs. Diane Bazelides, Ms. Ann C. Bean, Mrs. Susan Binney, Mrs. Kristy J. Bradshaw, Mrs. Lenni Burke, Mrs. Anne S. Chao, Mr. James Cowan, Mrs. Lilly Cullen, Ms. Sasha Davis, Sharon F. Erskine, Mrs. Martha Finger, Mrs. Kate Fowler, Mrs. Jo Furr, Mr. Mitchell George, Mrs. Mignon Gill, Mrs. Donald M. Graubart, Mrs. Nancy Ferguson Haywood, Ms. Gillian Hobson, Ms. Michelle Iversen Jeffery, 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, Mr. Kris McGee, Mr. Shane A. Miller, Ms. Nancy Powell Moore, Ms. Beth Muecke, Tammy Tran Nguyen, Mr. James J. Parr, Mrs. Amy Pincu, Mrs. Carroll Robertson Ray, Mrs. Akemi Saitoh, Ms. Samira A. Salman, Mrs. James Shaffer, Dannika E. Simpson, Mrs. Alicia Smith, Mrs. Leigh M. Smith, Dr. Liliana Soltero, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, Mrs. Allison Thacker, Becca Cason Thrash, Mrs. Ileana Treviño, Stephanie Tsuru, Mrs. Phoebe Tudor, Mrs. Christine M. Underwood, Mr. Marcus A. Watts, Mrs. Margaret Alkek Williams, and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Zdeblick.

Guests Present:

Ms. Kim Cagle, Mr. Erich Canseco, Christina Carroll – Orchestra Representative, Mrs. Ann Graham, Fernando Martin-Gullans – Dancer Representative, Ms. Desrye Morgan, Mrs. Patti Murphy, Mrs. Amber Westman – FY23 Guild Treasurer, and Ms. Cheryl L. Zane.

Staff Present:

MJ Bavaret, Ermanno Florio, Rachel Koenig, Angela Lane, Angela Lee, James Nelson, Kristi Roberts, Laurel Rowe, Jennifer Sommers, and Stanton Welch AM.

Mrs. Leigh M. Smith welcomed everyone and called to order the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees. With a quorum present, Mrs. Smith then invited Board Chairman, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, to introduce the new Trustee candidates for the Class 2022-2025. The candidates presented included Ms. Kim Cagle, Mr. Erich Canseco, Mrs. Martha Finger, Mrs. Ann Graham, Ms. Melissa Juneau, Ms. Desrye Morgan, Mrs. Patti Murphy, Mrs. Tammy Tran Nguyen, Mrs. Sunday Shepherd, Ms. Erika Toussaint, and Mrs. Amber Westman – FY23 Guild Treasurer, all of which were unanimously approved.

Following this, Ms. Stephens called for approval of the 2022 – 2023 slate of Executive Committee Officers and Members-at-Large, all of which were unanimously approved. Ms. Stephens then recognized and thanked Ms. Jennifer Kushner – FY22 Guild President, Mrs. Allison Thacker, and Mrs. Margaret Alkek Williams for their service on the Executive Committee.

Mrs. Smith thanked Ms. Stephens and then called for a motion to approve the February 7, 2022 Full Board Meeting minutes. With a quorum present, the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Smith then invited Vice President of Finance, Mrs. Amy Pincu, to present the recommended FY23 budget to the Board of Trustees. With a quorum present, the financial budget for the fiscal year 2022 – 2023 was approved.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mrs. Pincu and then invited Ms. Jennifer Kushner, FY22 Guild President, to present the Guild Report and Nutcracker Market Updates.

Ms. Kushner gave an overview of the Guild's 2021 – 2022 season and provided statistics from the recent Nutcracker Market SPRING, highlighting that the recent market hosted under 10,000 shoppers, 167 merchants and made a net contribution of \$450,000. Following this, Ms. Kushner announced the pause of the Spring Market.

Mrs. Smith thanked Ms. Kushner for her reports and proceeded to give the Special Events recap and Development report.

Mrs. Smith began the Special Events recap with gratitude towards the 2021 – 2022 event chairs and honorees including Onstage Dinner Chairs Jamie & Mark Loveland, 2022 Ballet Ball Chairs Stephanie Tsuru and Kelli Weinzierl, and Raising the Barre co-chairs Lilly & Harrison Cullen and Amy & Jordan Pincu. Mrs. Smith noted the season's events raised nearly \$1.8 million in revenue.

Mrs. Smith concluded the special events report by announcing the 2022 – 2023 season Special Events including the Onstage Dinner (September 9, 2022), Ballet Ball (February 4, 2023), and Raising the Barre (April 23, 2023).

Mrs. Smith began the Development report by providing an update on the Lauren Anderson Young Dancer Scholarship Fund, noting the efforts of raising more \$350,000, thus reaching 70% of the targeted goal. Mrs. Smith also gave a special thank you to Deb and Ed Koehler for their generous dollar-for-dollar challenge grant for LAYDSF. Mrs. Smith then thanked production underwriters Hallie Vanderhider, Phoebe & Bobby Tudor, Allison & Troy Thacker, and Stephanie & Frank Tsuru.

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

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Nelson began his report thanking Ms. Shawn Stephens for her tenure as Chairman, and Mrs. Leigh M. Smith for her tenure as President. Mrs. Nelson then gave an update on the financial state of the ballet, providing an overview of earned and contributed income and expenses to-date.

Mr. Nelson concluded his report with the announcement that the Houston Ballet Center for Dance has been renamed the Margaret Alkek Williams Center for Dance in response to the tremendously generous gift from Mrs. Margaret Alkek Williams.

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

Artistic Director's Report:

Mr. Welch began his report by highlighting the successful weekend of Miller Outdoor Theatre performances. Mr. Welch also discussed the upcoming reps including *Pretty Things*, *Originals* and *La Sylphide*. Mr. Welch then discussed the recent Academy Spring Showcase and highlighted Lauren Anderson Young Dancer Scholarship recipient Eric Best, and his many recent successes.

Mr. Welch then invited Ms. Jen Sommers to give the Academy and Education & Engagement report.

Following this, Mr. Nelson announced that due to her unprecedented generosity and support, Houston Ballet would recognize Mrs. Margaret Alkek Williams as a Lifetime Trustee.

Adjournment:

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:43PM.