HOUSTON BALLET FOUNDATION
Board of Trustees Meeting
MINUTES
Margaret Alkek Williams Dance Lab
Monday, February 11, 2019 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 11, 2019. The meeting convened at
4:32pm.

Quorum: achieved (per by-law requirements)

Trustees Present:
Mrs. Holly Alvis, Mr. Cecil H. Arnim III, Mrs. Melza Barr, Mrs. Diane Bazelides, Mrs. Kristy J. Bradshaw,
Ms. Lindsey Brown, Mrs. Wendy Wilkins Burks, Mr. Richard L. Burleson, Mrs. Keiko Chevray, Ms. Sasha
Davis, Mrs. Pamela D. Earthman, Mrs. Sharon Erskine, Mrs. Jo Furr, Mignon Gill, Mrs. Anne Graubart, Mr.
Joseph A. Hafner, Jr., Mrs. Nancy F. Haywood, Mr. Jesse H. Jones II, Mr. James M. Jordan, Mrs. Elise
Joseph, Ms. Emily Kernan, Dr. Dale G. Konicek, Mrs. Elizabeth Leykum, Chad Libertus, Mr. Mark
Loveland, Ms. Leticia Loya, Mrs. Kelley S. Lubanko, Mr. Jerry Martin, Jean E. May, Mrs. Kris McGee, Mrs.
Martha Rocks McMurray, Ms. Nancy Powell Moore, Ms. Beth Muecke, Mr. James M. Nicklos, Joshua B.
Nix, Mrs. Cabrina Owsley, Mrs. Elisa S. Pye, Mrs. Carroll Robertson Ray, Laura M. Robertson, Mrs. Akemi
Saitoh, Mrs. Leigh M. Smith, Dr. Liliana Soltero, Ms. S. Shawn Stephens, Mrs. Allison Thacker, Mrs.
Phoebe Tudor, and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Zdeblick

Guests Present:
Dancer Representatives: Bridget Kuhns and Kathryn McDonald
Orchestra Representatives: Nancy Nelson and Karen Wilkson

Staff Present:
Jim Nelson, Stanton Welch, MJ Bavaret, Patsy Chapman, Ermanno Florio, Kelli Gilson, Lindsey Hurst,
Angela Lane, Angela Lee, Chenay Newton, Andrew Nielsen, Jennifer Sommers, Christine Stone-Martin,
Ashley Tagle, Alexandra Yates, and Cheryl Zane

Ms. S. Shawn Stephens called to order the Board of Trustees Meeting and welcomed all the new
Trustees. Ms. Stephens then called for approval of the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting
held on September 24, 2018. With a quorum established, the minutes were approved.

Ms. Stephens then called upon Mrs. Wendy Wilkins Burks to give a recap of the 2018 Nutcracker Market.
Mrs. Burks provided details on the record-breaking 2018 Nutcracker Market, which was held November
7 – 11, 2018 at NRG Center.
Ms. Stephens thanked Mrs. Burks for her report, then gave an update on Special Events. Ms. Stephens reported the 2019 Houston Ballet Ball held on Saturday, February 9, 2019 was the most successful ball in its history. She congratulated Co-Chairs, Kelley and Stephen Lubanko and Leigh and Reggie Smith, the Ball Committee, Honoree, Letty Loya and Corporate Honoree, ConocoPhillips, represented by Laura Robertson, on the record-breaking event. Ms. Stephens also provided details on Raising the Barre, which will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019 and the inaugural Nutcracker Market Spring Spectacular which will be held April 12 – 14, 2019 at NRG Center.

Ms. Stephens then invited Mr. James Nelson to give the Executive Director’s report.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Nelson began the report by offering congratulations to the 2019 Ballet Ball Co-Chairs and Honorees. He then introduced Angela Lee, who has been promoted to Director of Marketing and Public Relations.

Mr. Nelson continued the report by giving an update on the year to date status of earned and contributed income and expenses. He provided a detailed comparison of ticket sales for The Nutcracker over the past ten years. Mr. Nelson gave an update on the mitigation plans for the Houston Ballet Center for Dance. He also discussed the Company’s milestone tour to Dubai in October 2018, where Houston Ballet became the first American ballet company to perform at the Dubai Opera House.

Mr. Nelson then called on Jennifer Sommers, Director of Education and Community Engagement, to provide a report on ECE programming. Mrs. Sommers provided details on the school, community, and adapted programs, as well as the growth in the numbers of individuals reached on a yearly basis. Mrs. Sommers ended the report by speaking about new and existing community partnerships and opportunities to become more involved with ECE programming.

Ms. Stephens thanked Mr. Nelson and Mrs. Sommers for their reports, then called on Mr. Stanton Welch to give the Artistic Director’s report.

Artistic Director’s Report

Mr. Welch began the report by announcing recent Company promotions and the hiring of two HBI students as apprentices. He spoke about the Works and Process engagement at the Guggenheim, which took place in January, as well as Justin Peck’s upcoming world premiere for the Company.

Mr. Welch provided details on the Sylvia world premiere, which opens on February 21, 2019 and was generously underwritten by Phoebe and Bobby Tudor. He also shared Sylvia rehearsal footage and promotional videos with the group. Mr. Welch provided details on repertory for the 2019/2020 50th Anniversary season. He also noted Houston Ballet Academy has been invited to perform at the Youth American Grand Prix (YAGP) gala in New York City and that Trustees are invited to support this special funding opportunity. The report ended with a performance by students in the Houston Ballet Academy.

Ms. Stephens thanked Mr. Welch for his report.

Adjournment: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:29 pm.