

This is a story
about a **dream...**



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about a **dream...**



...now a reality with the power to
ENGAGE, INSPIRE, and
TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES...



...an unstoppable
creative impulse

that is now the engine inspiring
**INNOVATION AND
ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE...**



THIS IS
THE STORY OF

MIAMI
CITY
BALLET



One of the hallmarks of a truly great community is its **VIBRANT CULTURAL LIFE.**

In 1985, a small group of visionaries were driven to invest in the cultural landscape of South Florida. With passion and a grand vision, Toby Lerner Ansin and Edward Villella inspired others to dream of creating a world-class ballet company that we could call our own.

And so the inspired philanthropist and the legendary artist began their humble venture, putting 11 dancers on the stage.

Today, with more than 50 dancers, Miami City Ballet has become an iconic cultural institution, in South Florida and beyond. Under the artistic leadership of Lourdes Lopez over the past seven

years, Miami City Ballet has far surpassed the founders' wildest dreams. With the addition of an internationally-acclaimed school and a ground-breaking community engagement division, we have deepened our mission and expanded the reach of our transformational art form to become one of the leading performing arts companies in the nation.



“Artistic excellence is in our **DNA**”

With clarity, vitality and a warmth that is rare, our intensely musical dancers are steeped in the classical tradition yet reflect the present and future of dance beyond the walls of our beautiful venues in South Florida. Dancers and students alike, mirror our community and they have catapulted Miami City Ballet to a leadership position in the performing arts in America. We are more than a dance troupe of talented dancers and artists; we have become one of the country’s most diverse and international cultural institutions impacting lives through this powerful art form we serve.”

Lourdes Lopez, Artistic Director

Miami City Ballet Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez with Miami City Ballet dancers.
Photo © Alexander Iziliaev.




Miami City Ballet is at the cusp,
poised for **ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT LEAP**
in its evolution.

**We are at an
inflection point**

...to elevate Miami City Ballet into one of the top ballet companies in the world, while securing its success with a sustainable future. As we approach our 35th anniversary, exciting opportunities for Miami City Ballet and our community spring from this foundation and will be made a reality through our campaign,

MIAMI CITY BALLET'S
TRANSFORMING LIVES
CAMPAIGN.



Miami City Ballet
CHANGES LIVES and
BUILDS COMMUNITIES
through the transformative
power of ballet.

Our **Transforming Lives Campaign** will harness the momentum that has carried Miami City Ballet to this point, building upon that energy to elevate it to new artistic heights. The campaign will strengthen Miami City Ballet School's well-deserved reputation for diversity and excellence. It will engage every facet of our wide-ranging South Florida community. And, it will ensure the robust infrastructure the Company needs to thrive.

Through the efforts
of many, **WE WILL**

- ❑ **Create new works** for audiences in South Florida, the Palm Beaches, and beyond.
- ❑ **Invest in Miami City Ballet's School** to produce tomorrow's star dancers who will continue to present their talents at Miami City Ballet and other major companies around the world.
- ❑ Enable Miami City Ballet to **attract the best and the most creative artists**, and train company dancers to dance with the fiery bravado for which they are known.
- ❑ **Foster the healthy development of youth** in our community.
- ❑ **Make ballet accessible to more children, youth, and families** in our diverse communities.
- ❑ **Ensure that the organization is sustainable**, growing stronger for years to come.
- ❑ **Magnify the local, national, and international reputation** of Miami City Ballet and the cultural vibrancy of South Florida.

At its core, the **Transforming Lives Campaign** is comprised of four key elements that will usher the Company to the next era of its national and international success.



ARTISTIC INVESTMENT


A focal point of the 2020-2021 season will be the North American premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's critically acclaimed *Swan Lake*.

Miami City Ballet's **Transforming Lives Campaign** will spotlight the Company's constant pursuit of artistic excellence by investing in new choreographic work, with an expanded roster of dancers in the company. In order to have the depth of artists needed to stage powerful new ballets and tour more often, Miami City Ballet must expand its number of dancers to at least 57 and ensure the continuity of a live orchestra to greatly enhance the artistic experience. A focal point of the 2020-2021 season will be the North American premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's critically acclaimed *Swan*

Lake, which made its world premiere in Zurich and Milan in 2016 to rave reviews. Ratmansky has chosen Miami City Ballet for this impressive honor.

Every new plateau that Miami City Ballet has reached in its 35-year history was achieved thanks to the support of unsung heroes behind the scenes. Our artistic investment will include all support areas and personnel such as ballet masters, physical therapists, sound and lighting managers, Miami City Ballet's prolific costume shop, and of course the maintenance and upkeep of

sprung and Marley floors at the company's headquarters. There is a whole world behind the curtain and the limelight, and it needs the same level of support that we offer our dancers when we shower them with well-deserved standing ovations at every performance.



2

EXPANSION OF THE MIAMI CITY BALLET SCHOOL

“When Lourdes first arrived in 2012, less than one third of the dancers in Miami City Ballet had trained in our School, and fewer still were being hired outside of Miami. Working together, we have raised the level of training to a whole new dimension. Now a significant number of the Company’s 51 dancers have risen through the rigorous training of our School, and many have been hired by top companies around the nation.”

Arantxa Ochoa

School Director of Faculty and Curriculum

In the brief period that Miami City Ballet has been under the leadership of MCB Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez and School Director of Faculty and Curriculum Arantxa Ochoa, the academy’s reputation has soared. The professional Company, which once had to search far and wide for talent, now a significant number of its dancers hailing from the School. By investing in Miami City Ballet School, our **Transforming Lives Campaign** will set the course for the academy’s future success. More scholarships will be available for promising young local and international dancers. Better and increased student housing will allow more students to study with us. And, a success fund will enable

these aspiring artists to meet personal needs, along with access to auditions as they get ready for their professional careers. The investment in the school will also focus on hiring and attracting exceptional faculty to meet the School’s growing demands. Both additional ballet masters and pianists are needed to train the next generation of great dancers who will graduate to represent Miami City Ballet School in our Company and in top companies around the world.

Miami City Ballet’s mission is to transform lives through the power of dance.

Engagement is a verb at Miami City Ballet. It is how we do, why we do, and for whom we do it. Our engagement programs drive a mission focused on access, partnership, respect and equity. As an organization reflective of its community, our responsibility is steadfast: to ensure access and excellence. At the heart of everything, Miami City Ballet is centered in the belief in classical ballet’s power to uplift, unite, enchant and transform. Community Engagement programs seek to eliminate barriers to access to the arts. The work of Miami City Ballet’s programs holds a legacy of 19,000 youth, seniors, and historically underserved populations through a mission that offers programs in the following ways:

Ballet for Young People brings free performances to more than 7,100 school children in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. Fleets of school buses bring students to theaters in their school districts where they participate in an interactive educational experience. **Touch Tours** give patrons with visual impairments an insider’s perspective of ballet by offering a tactile tour of the wardrobe room and prop shop before performances. **Open Barre** events in Miami City Ballet’s intimate studios offer sneak peaks of upcoming performances, with lively lectures by choreographers, designers, and dancers. **Open Studios** are designed to bring in local residents to watch dance rehearsals before a major

performance takes place. **Behind the Ballet** talks before each show give depth to the performance experience with historical and artistic insights to the ballets being performed that day. **Summer Dance Camp** in West Palm Beach (Belle Glade 2019) offers a rigorous and rich dance training program for youth ages 9-13 in historically underserved communities in the Palm Beaches. All of the Community Engagement programs are free of charge to participants and the Company relies on public support for the maintenance and growth of each program.

3 BUILDING AND MAINTAINING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of our signature programs within the Community Engagement Division is our **Ballet Bus Scholarship Program**.

This program eliminates two critical barriers to arts access: the cost of premier dance training and the challenges of securing reliable transportation in a city limited by its public transit infrastructure. The Ballet Bus program serves communities throughout Miami-Dade County and it is a commitment that ensures transportation, tuition, dance attire, healthy snacks, and mentoring for the full academic year.



4 ENHANCED ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY



“Transforming lives through the power of dance not only requires a talented and creative artistic team, but also requires a talented and professional administrative team who can strengthen the company’s financial foundation and secure the resources needed in order to fulfill our mission.”

Tania Castroverde Moskalko
Executive Director

Great performing arts companies need top-tier administrators behind the scenes. Great ballet companies, in particular, also need the training facilities that keep their dancers at the peak of their performance abilities. The **Transforming Lives Campaign** will invest in infrastructure by hiring seasoned professionals with proven abilities to manage a performing arts company. It will address capital improvements, long-overdue structural necessities, to its iconic home space in Miami Beach. In addition, the Company will

deepen administrative staffing required to support the strong new leaders hired in 2018. Finally, to ensure our future fiscal stability, we will substantially increase our endowment fund and cash reserves.

The story of
**A DREAM THAT IS
TRANSFORMING LIVES.**

This is the time to propel the Company,
an iconic cultural brand in South Florida,
to a sustainable future on the national stage.

THE TIME IS NOW.

This is your moment to play an important role
in our future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Detailed financial information about the campaign is available
as inserts in the pocket folder.

Miami City Ballet dancers in Heatscape. Choreography by Justin Peck. Photo © Alexander Iziliaev.