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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MIAMI CITY BALLET DESIGNATES JEFFREY W. DAVIS AS CHAIRMAN-ELECT**

**Welcomes New Trustees:**

**Michelle Bulnes, Robert Chaskes, Neil Devlin, Ann Fromer,  
John Vogelstein, Holly Wright, Suzy Wahba**

MIAMI – [Miami City Ballet](#) (MCB) is pleased to announce the designation of **Jeffrey W. Davis** as **Chairman to the Board of Trustees** beginning May 1, 2020. He succeeds **Kristi Jernigan** who has served as Chairman since 2017. Additionally, several new members have joined its **Board of Trustees: Michelle Bulnes, Robert Chaskes, Neil Devlin, Ann Fromer, John Vogelstein, and Suzy Wahba.**

**Tania Castroverde Moskalenko**, Miami City Ballet executive director states, “Kristi’s tenure as Chair was nothing short of remarkable. Under her stewardship, she significantly strengthened our administrative and organizational capacity while continuing to elevate the school and the company artistically. Under her leadership we expanded our repertoire with new and reimaged works including our newly designed *Nutcracker*, Brian Brooks’ *One Line Drawn*, the company premiere of Jerome Robbins’ and Twyla Tharp’s *Brahms/Handel*, and George Balanchine’s and Jerome Robbins’ *Firebird*. She also furthered the work of the board by establishing a robust committee structure and was instrumental in the successful launch of our largest ever, **\$55 million [Transforming Lives](#) capital campaign**, for which Kristi will continue to lead the public phase upon her term’s end. We are forever grateful to Kristi for her contributions to the entire MCB family and we all look forward to our continued partnership.”

**Kristi Jernigan** states, “It has been an honor to serve as Chair of this cherished Miami arts institution and as my term draws to a close, I am confident that Jeff will further lead MCB to even greater heights. He has the leadership, strategic thinking, and communication skills that are critical to supporting the staff at Miami City Ballet navigate these challenging times. Jeff is an eternal optimist who truly loves this company and our art form. He was a critical team member when we navigated our administrative transition, and my confidence comes from already having witnessed his talent and passion. I look forward to supporting him as a dedicated Trustee as I transition into my new role as Chair of the *Transforming Lives* Campaign. The board is deeply committed to helping MCB during this time, and I am bursting with pride for the entire MCB family.”

**Jeffrey Davis** adds, “As we navigate a global pandemic, it is clear the arts are needed now more than ever. MCB has always stood as a shining example of what a great performing arts organization can be for the community. Equally so, MCB would not be where it is today if not for the unwavering support from the community -- a community that has championed this unique company since its inception. MCB’s upcoming 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary season is truly a love letter to the community, and I am thrilled to be a part of this extraordinary moment in the company’s history and proud of MCB’s part in uplifting the community and staying connected during these unprecedented times.”

**Jeffrey Davis** is currently the chief risk officer and chief actuary of White Mountains Insurance Group and Sirius International Insurance Group in Hamilton, Bermuda. His past professional experience also includes head of central reserving at Munich Re-Insurance Group in Germany, and senior vice president and chief actuary at American Re-Insurance Company in Princeton, N.J. He currently supports various charitable organizations, including Miami City Ballet, NuDeco Ensemble, YoungArts Foundation, Equality Florida and Gary Geis Dance Company.

## **ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET**

Miami City Ballet, celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, has a diverse roster of 53 dancers and a repertoire of more than 130. As one of the most renowned ballet companies in the country, Miami City Ballet performs for nearly 125,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and tours to major cities domestically and internationally, including recent visits to New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles and Paris.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School trains students, ages 3-18 year-round and grants more than \$650,000 in scholarships annually.

Miami City Ballet’s Community Engagement programs and initiatives touch the lives of more than 14,000 young people, seniors and community members, annually.

Executive Director Tania Castroverde Moskalenko and Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez lead the company. Lopez was recently awarded the prestigious Dance Magazine Award in 2018 and was named one of “The Most Influential People in Dance Today.” She is on the Ford Foundation Board of Trustees, the first artist to ever serve on its Board.

Miami City Ballet was founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. It is headquartered in Miami Beach, FL, at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm, Arquitectonica.

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Major funding for Miami City Ballet is provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, a national foundation with strong local roots, investing in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities

where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. The Foundation's goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which they believe are essential for a healthy democracy.

Major funding is also provided by the Ford Foundation, working with visionaries on the frontlines of social change worldwide.

Miami-Dade County support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor, and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

Performances and programming in Miami Beach is provided with the generous support of the City of Miami Beach and the Cultural Arts Council.

Support for Miami City Ballet in the Palm Beaches is generously sponsored in part by the Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council and the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County.

Broward County funding is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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