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Artistic Director

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Toby Lerner Ansin
Founder

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**Miami City Ballet announces completion of its
Transforming Lives Campaign
Largest fundraising campaign in the organization's history
Exceeding its \$55 million goal**



(Miami Beach, FL) – [Miami City Ballet \(MCB\)](#), one of the country's leading ballet companies, is pleased to announce the successful completion of its *Transforming Lives Campaign*. The largest in the company's history, the four-year organizational fundraising campaign had an initial goal of raising \$55 million. MCB exceeded this goal, raising \$57 million during the campaign period and securing pledges of \$8 million for future fiscal periods, bringing the total impact of the campaign to \$65M.

Led by Campaign Chair and former Board of Trustees Chair Kristi Jernigan, the campaign provided the funds for MCB to aggressively pursue its strategic initiatives. These initiatives fall within MCB's four pillars for delivering the company's mission: artistic expansion; community building; dance education; and organizational capacity. The campaign also increased MCB's donor base with 2,000 new donors.

The campaign's success has enabled MCB to grow artistically as a national leader in dance. The repertoire expanded with six company premieres and major productions such as George Balanchine's *Firebird* and, most recently, Alexei Ratmansky's *Swan Lake* and four world premieres by emerging choreographers. MCB created extensive sets and costumes for these productions, and they were performed to critical acclaim and sold-out audiences. Increased touring also resulted in rave reviews with stops at New York City Center's 75th anniversary George Balanchine celebration, Music Center in Los Angeles, Chicago's Harris Theater, two visits to The Kennedy Center, Les Etés de la Danse in Paris, and more. In addition, in 2022 MCB will visit the prestigious dance festival Jacob's Pillow and Cal Performances in Berkeley, California.

Miami City Ballet School awarded nearly \$2 million in tuition and housing scholarships based on merit and need. Pre-professional students performed in major productions, including George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*®, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Swan Lake*. During the campaign, eight students joined MCB's professional company and six more joined prestigious international companies.

MCB's community engagement programs have also expanded. Its signature outreach program, Ballet Bus, now in its seventh year, has seen significant growth during the campaign period. By providing children with a long-term commitment to eliminating barriers and providing access to a robust, expert ballet curriculum, ten students are training on pointe, two were accepted into the New World School of the Arts, and several have appeared in professional stage productions of *The Nutcracker*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Firebird*, and *Swan Lake*.

Other programs expanded beyond MCB's studios. STEAM+, a program that explores the science and math subjects through dance, now serves 1,800 students from Miami-Dade Title 1 Schools. Palm Beach Summer Dance Camp is entering its third year. And nearly 13,000 students and families have attended a free performance through Ballet for Young People and Ballet for Families, interactive performances committed to eliminating barriers to access to the arts.

Additionally, the organization has sustained a \$20-25 million annual operating budget, raised a \$4 million Dancer Support Fund to assist dancers and artistic staff during the pandemic, and improved facilities with over \$2 million in capital improvements such as new windows, HVAC, floors, studio lighting, and a new roof.

These outcomes of the campaign allow MCB to build a more equitable and inclusive pipeline for students while expanding opportunities for more diverse audiences to experience ballet.

Ms. Jernigan adds, "When the campaign was initiated in 2018, \$55 million was an unprecedented goal. Add to it the unforeseeable impact of the pandemic; the thought of reaching our goal, at times, felt like a distant dream. But through hard work and perseverance,

we not only achieved our goal, we exceeded it. We found a community of supporters, a bonded and expanded Board, and an army of talented employees who rose to the occasion. I could not be prouder of everyone's efforts and the campaign's overwhelming success."

Current Board Chair Jeffrey Davis states, "The *Transforming Lives Campaign* was appropriately named. By successfully raising this amount of money, we have been able to provide a true difference in the lives of our students, artists, and communities. We look forward to building upon the momentum we have."

"MCB is stronger and our future brighter than ever," says Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez. "We could not have done this without the support of so many, including Kristi, Jeff, and the countless others who gave so generously and advocated for this art form that I know firsthand has the power to transform lives. I also want to acknowledge the outstanding work of our remarkable development team and the entire MCB family."

ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet has a diverse roster of 53 dancers and a repertoire of more than 130 works. 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, serving more than 12,000 people annually in schools and communities; our free programs use the power of dance to uplift, teach and bring joy.

Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez leads 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.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has been a generous supporter of Miami City Ballet with over \$11 million in cumulative giving since the company's founding. Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit KF.org.

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 Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

Performances and programming in Miami Beach provided by the City of Miami Beach Department of Tourism and Culture, Cultural Arts Council, and the Miami Beach Mayor and City Commissioners.

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 of Broward County, Florida, as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

The company is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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