

Lourdes Lopez
Artistic Director

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Jeff Davis
Chair of the Board of Trustees

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Toby Lerner Ansin
Founder

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Edward Villella
Founding Artistic Director

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Publicity Contacts:

Billy Zavelson/Richard Kornberg & Associates, Billy@KornbergPR.com
Masha Enriquez/Miami City Ballet, Masha.Enriquez@MiamiCityBallet.org

Juan José Escalante joins Miami City Ballet as Executive Director



[Photo courtesy of Christopher Jones]

January 12, 2023 (Miami Beach, Florida) — **Miami City Ballet** (MCB) is pleased to announce that **Juan José Escalante** will be joining Miami City Ballet as its new **Executive Director**, reporting to the Board. He will start in his new role with MCB on **February 6, 2023**. Escalante brings to MCB more than 30 years of experience in arts management, mainly centered on financial and executive leadership positions. Currently he serves as the Executive Director of National Dance Institute (NDI), a non-profit arts education organization that has impacted more than 2 million children through inclusive dance and music programs. Prior to joining NDI, Escalante served as the Executive Director of the José Limón Dance Foundation for nine years, where he led the administrative staff in support of the Artistic Director's vision, the Board's institutional goals, and enhanced revenue and sustainable strategies. Miami City Ballet partnered with **Arts Consulting Group** on the national search.

In the Executive Director role at MCB, Escalante will be working with the Artistic Director **Lourdes Lopez**, the Board, and staff to advance the ambitious goals of the organization in a financially sustainable manner. These goals include: the continued expansion of MCB and the MCB School as premiere national ballet institutions; a digital transformation of the organization, both internally and on our stages; and increased growth in community engagement and touring opportunities.

Tel. 305.929.7000

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Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center
2200 Liberty Avenue
Miami Beach, FL 33139

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miamicityballet.org

Each of these goals support MCB's vision to be an institution which is reflective of, and inseparable from, the diverse communities we serve.

In speaking of his new role, Escalante commented, "I am honored to be joining a team of talented professionals who are committed to deliver the mission of MCB every day. Having the opportunity to support the exceptional artistic vision of Lourdes Lopez at an organization that is very dear to me is extraordinary."

"I'm delighted to have Juan José as MCB's new Executive Director, helping and working alongside me, the Board, and staff to take the company to new heights," said Artistic Director, Lourdes Lopez. "As a former resident of South Florida, he clearly understands the excitement and huge opportunity ahead to accelerate the growth for MCB and the School one of the most recognized ballet companies and schools in the Americas. Juan José has first-hand experience of the vibrancy, diversity, and characteristics of our communities and will help us to further deepen our relationship with them. This will shape MCB as an important cultural ambassador and economic engine to the State of Florida, as well as one of its greatest jewels."

"The Board is thrilled to have such an experienced leader and exceptional community builder join our executive team," said MCB's Board Chair, **Jeff Davis**. "We feel so fortunate that Juan José is returning to Miami to support Lourdes's artistic vision and to advance our community involvement. It is an exciting time in MCB's history!"

ABOUT JUAN JOSÉ ESCALANTE

Juan José worked with MCB early in his career when the organization was operating at store front on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach. For the past twenty years, he has served as Executive Director for Ballet Florida, Orlando Ballet, and the José Limón Dance Foundation. In each of these roles, Juan José partnered with artistic and community leaders in management of daily operations including fundraising, financial, and marketing oversight.

Juan José holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management from the Herbert H. Lehman College City University of New York and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. In addition, he completed the Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management Program at Harvard University Business School.

ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet has a diverse roster of 52 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.

For more information on Miami City Ballet and its programs, visit www.MiamiCityBallet.org. Connect with Miami City Ballet on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#)

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 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 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 provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

ABOUT ARTS CONSULTING GROUP

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Arts Consulting Group (ACG) is the leading provider of hands-on leadership transitions, revenue enhancement, and planning and capacity building services for the arts and culture industry. Founded in 1997, ACG is a full-service firm that effectively works with a wide range of nonprofit organizations, universities, government agencies, and for-profit entities that operate in the creative industries. The firm takes a contemporary approach to client challenges and opportunities focused on growing institutions, advancing arts and culture, and enhancing communities. ACG senior team members have leadership experience in every type of artistic and cultural discipline, and they seamlessly adapt to clients’ rapidly changing strategies, business models, and operating environments.