



Ballet Austin Announces New Board Members and President
Jon Ivester begins two-year term as president as Ballet Austin prepares for 2011/12 season

WHO: Ballet Austin
WHAT: Board President Jon Ivester of Silicon Laboratories and a New Class of Ballet Austin Board of Directors Take the Helm
WEB: www.balletaustin.org

AUSTIN, TX — August 8, 2011 — Ballet Austin ushers in its 2011/12 season with the addition of six community leaders to its board of directors.

Incoming members of the board of directors are:

- **Dr. Meria Joel Carstarphen**, Superintendent of the Austin Independent School District
- **Lawrence Collins**, independent consultant, Lawrence Collins & Associates
- **Carolyn Ferguson**, Vice President, Internal Audit, Temple-Inland
- **Elisabetta Horvath**, philanthropist and community volunteer, the Hispanic Alliance for the Performing Arts
- **Mark Rose**, General Manager and CEO, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
- **Will Steakley**, entrepreneur and Realtor®, Urbanspace Realty

The 69-member Ballet Austin Board supports the organization's goals of providing exceptional artistic programming, arts education, life-long health and fitness opportunities, and access for the entire Central Texas community. Each new member adds to the diverse backgrounds, professions, and expertise of the existing board.

Serving in three-year terms, the board provides continuity, executive/fiscal oversight, financial stability, public accountability, and sound policy for the organization, which currently has a \$6 million annual operating budget.

Jon Ivester, six-year board member and vice president of manufacturing for Silicon Laboratories, begins a two-year term as president of Ballet Austin's board of directors. Ivester replaces Dan Byrne (Fritz, Byrne, Head & Harrison, LLP) as president, who has served on the board for 18 years.

Fifteen-year Ballet Austin Board veteran and philanthropist Sarah Butler returns in 2011/12 with a renewed two-year term as Board Chair. Butler has served as chair over the past six years and as president of Ballet Austin Foundation over the past 10 years.

For more information about the Ballet Austin Board of Directors, including bios, visit <http://www.balletaustin.org/about/board.php>

About Ballet Austin

As distinctive and dynamic as the city it calls home, Ballet Austin welcomes audiences near and far to participate in its "classically innovative" vision for the democratization of dance. With a rich history spanning five decades, acclaimed productions, a commitment to creating access to programs and one of the nation's largest classical ballet academies, the organization is poised for an even greater future. From their home at the Butler Dance Education Center & Community School in downtown Austin, Ballet Austin and Artistic Director Stephen Mills actively engage the community, dancers, and audiences alike. The New York Times proclaims Ballet Austin "a company with big ambitions" originating work that is

"absorbing."

Ballet Austin's new season begins September 30, with the world premiere of *The Mozart Project*, a new collaboration between Mills, Austin pianist Dr. Michelle Schumann, Austin composer Graham Reynolds, and world-renowned multimedia artist Paul D. Miller (a.k.a., DJ Spooky). The 2011/12 season comes on the heels of the best-selling season in Ballet Austin's history, with 42,257 paid attendees and \$1,992,430 in ticket sales.

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