



PRESS CONTACT: Stephanie Chadwick
Director of Marketing & Communications
PHONE: 503.227.0977 x0230
EMAIL: Stephanie.Chadwick@obt.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Oregon Ballet Theatre Announces New Slate of Officers and Trustees

Oregon Ballet Theatre announced today its officers and a new trustee appointment for the 2024-2025 season and extends its thanks to several members who moved to new positions or left the board after serving with distinction.

Melody Rose, Ph. D., has been elected Chair of the OBT Board of Trustees for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2024.



Melody Rose, Ph.D.

“I am honored to be elected by my colleagues as the OBT Board of Trustees chair,” said Rose. “I look forward to working with them, our artistic director, Dani Rowe, and executive director, Shane Jewell, and the artists and staff of OBT to continue our tradition of excellence in performance, training, and community service and the trajectory of operating success we have recently experienced.”

Melody Rose, Ph.D., is a Principal at WittKieffer, a global executive search firm, where she supports universities in identifying and developing their top executives. Rose is also a distinguished former university professor and president (Marylhurst University) and two-time system chancellor (Nevada and Oregon) with 30 years of experience in higher education. Rose also serves as the International Women’s Forum-Oregon board president and, among other skills, brings to OBT unparalleled experience in nonprofit governance, and both organizational and resource development.

Cate Sweeney, who served as the board chair for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 seasons, will transition to Secretary and chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee. Joining Rose and Sweeney in leadership



positions will be vice chair Jared Kendal, a retired professional ballet dancer, and treasurer Erin Mboup, principal of Portland Family Office.

Nolan Lienhart, Cary Jackson, and Allison Sneider, who completed terms as vice chair, treasurer, and co-secretary, respectively, are continuing on the board. OBT is grateful for their service and looks forward to their continued wise counsel.

Aaron Courtney, Stoel Rives, and professional and community leaders Nancy Frisch, Elizabeth Gewecke, and Kathleen Lewis, who served as co-secretary, leave the board after completing their terms in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Our appreciation for their service is boundless.

Kimberly Mack Ireland, Nike's Global Vice President of Men's Apparel, will join the OBT Board of Trustees this year. Her professional experience and experience as a budding dancer's mother will bring invaluable insights to the board.

"Words can't express how gratifying it is to see OBT so well positioned for success," said Sweeney. "Several years of hard work by the artists, staff, and board have paid off in a record-breaking season in 2023-2024, with early indicators promising a repeat in 2024-2025. At the heart of all we do is a shared commitment to our mission and community. We're excited for a new season and new opportunities to strengthen our foundation and grow the organization under the experienced leadership of incoming chair Melody Rose, our executive and board leadership team, and every person involved with OBT, from dancers and staff to our audience, donors, and students. There are more exciting times ahead."

OBT's Full Slate of 2024-2025 Board Members

Melody Rose, Chair; Jared Kendal, Vice Chair; Cate Sweeney, Secretary; Erin Mboup, Treasurer; Kristin Asai, Partner at Holland & Knight; Adriane Blackman, OBT School Alumni; Adria Cassidy, Finance Professional, Community Leader; Sandra Cost, Marketing Development Manager at PNW; Alan Garcia, Senior Director at NW Natural; Juliet Hillman, Community Leader; Kimberly Mack Ireland, Global Vice President of Men's Apparel at Nike; Cary Jackson, President at Haven Investments; Catherine Levi, Classical Ballet Professional, Community Leader; Nolan Lienhart, Principal, ZGF Architects; Erin Mboup, Principal at Portland Family Office; Sharon Mirarchi, MD Physician at Kaiser Permanente; Dr. Thalia-Rae Perryman, Owner, Principal Biemcare Oral Surgery; Dean Richardson, Professor of Law Emeritus, Willamette University; Allison Sneider, Historian; Sanda Stein, Community Leader; Lauren Thibodeaux, Vice President, Global Employment Counsel, Nike; Mike Weddle, Education & Community Leader

ABOUT OBT

OBT is the largest professional ballet company in Oregon, employing nearly 329 people and attracting artists from around the globe with our reputation for excellence. The company is rooted in the traditions of classical ballet, with a repertoire that ranges from the great classics to premieres from some of the most exciting choreographic voices in the field today, including our own Artistic Director, Dani Rowe. Our mission is dedicated to the vitality of, and access to, world-class ballet performance and training in our region.

Oregon Ballet Theatre seeks to inspire beauty and excellence in the hearts and minds of Oregonians through the creation and preservation of the highest quality classical and contemporary ballet performances. In addition to our 5-show main stage season, we introduce students to ballet and the importance of lifelong movement through our education and community engagement programs, and we train dancers from four years old to 80 years old through the professional and recreational classes at the [Oregon Ballet Theatre School](#). Many of our students go on to successful professional careers at companies including the Joffrey, the Dutch National Ballet, and within our own organization.
