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Oregon Ballet Theatre Welcomes Six New Members to its Board of Trustees



Pictured from left OBT Board Members: Adria Monique Cassidy, Melody Rose, Dr. Thalia-Rae Perryman, Sandra Cost, and Mike Weddle. (Erin Mboup not pictured.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre (OBT) Board Chair Cate Sweeney and Executive Director Shane Jewell jointly announced six new members to OBT's growing Board of Trustees. "We are delighted to welcome these impressive community leaders," said Sweeney. "Together, they bring a wealth of professional and community expertise as well as a passion for OBT's mission and a personal connection to our work."

Adria Monique Cassidy is a seasoned investor relations, real estate finance, and paralegal professional currently engaged in full-time philanthropic work and volunteerism. In addition to OBT's Board, Cassidy is a board member and annual campaign chair of the Riverside School Foundation. Previously, she worked as an Investor Relations Specialist at Fairway America Capital Markets Group and as a paralegal and executive assistant to the CEO and CFO of Touchmark Communities.

Sandra Cost is a medical sales professional committed to the end users, the patients. She is also a community leader and philanthropist. She serves as Marketing Development Manager in the Portland office of international medical equipment provider Haemonetics. Cost grew up without means, dreaming of becoming a ballerina but unable to afford dance lessons. In college, she was finally able to explore different dance forms and currently enjoys taking adult tap classes at the Multnomah Athletic Club. "It is good exercise and lightens your heart!"



Erin Allen Mboup is an Oregon CPA who began her career in 1999 with the international public accounting firm Deloitte before launching a consulting tax firm – Custom Tax and Consulting – serving high-net-worth clients. Currently, she is focused on providing financial advisory support to families in the Portland-Vancouver area in a CFO capacity through the Portland Family Office. Mboup refers to herself as a very unlikely ballet enthusiast. “My daughter has attended OBT School for the last eight years. Over this time, I have developed a deep love and appreciation for the art form,” she says. “I am deeply touched by the level of commitment and the years of training involved in sharing this beautiful art with others.”

Dr. Thalia-Rae Perryman is an oral surgeon and owner of Biemcare Oral Surgery. Perryman is also an accomplished vocalist and concert pianist and is currently 300 pages into writing her first novel. Her connection to ballet is very personal. “I studied ballet at a young age. It changed my life. Ballet introduced me to the idea that movement is a way to express emotion, create art, and heal. I have been devoted to ballet ever since. I am now at a point in my life where I can give back, and I want nothing more than to support the art form that has given me so much joy.”

Melody Rose is an NACD Board Certified, three-time Chief Executive Officer and nationally recognized thought leader in corporate governance. Currently, Rose serves as Principal for Higher Education Search at Wittkieffer Executive Search. In addition to the OBT Board, she serves on the International Women’s Forum Oregon. Previously, Rose held leadership positions in government and education, most recently as Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education. Rose was attracted to serving on the OBT Board because she believes we “all need more beauty in our lives and our world.” She is grateful to OBT for providing that to our community and wants to enjoy more of it.

Mike Weddle was raised in Berkeley, California. He started studying dance at age 18, first at UCLA and then in San Francisco, New York, and London. He worked with many modern and classical choreographers, among them José Limón, Murray Lewis, and Kenneth MacMillan. After an injury ended his dance career he started teaching in Salem, Oregon. He taught special education, computer science, and conservation biology. In 2000 he helped establish the Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School, a public charter school focusing on environmental science. He retired in 2007 but continues to volunteer at his former school. He and his wife Karen have been supporters of OBT since its creation. He began serving on the OBT Board of Trustees in 2016.

ABOUT OBT

Founded in 1989, OBT is among the nation’s leading professional ballet companies, employing 250 people and attracting artists from around the globe with its reputation for excellence. OBT’s mission is to share our passion for the expressive power of ballet, inspire an enduring appreciation of dance, and connect to our community through excellence in performance, training, and education.

In addition to the quality of its artistic product, OBT continues to thrive organizationally and has emerged from COVID exceptionally well-positioned for the future. The nationally acclaimed OBT School is robust, with 300 students from across the country. Education and Community Engagement reaches thousands of students in classrooms across the state, 50% of whom are youth of color. OBT has a multi-year action plan to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Board is actively engaged in oversight, strategy, and fundraising. OBT remains debt-free, and 2022 was its eighth consecutive year operating in the black. Learn more at obt.org.