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HOUSTON BALLET GIVES LOCAL CHOREOGRAPHERS SPACE TO GROW

WHO: Houston Ballet and Dance Source Houston

WHAT: The HIVE

WHERE: Houston Ballet Center for Dance, 601 Preston Street

WHEN: October 27, 2019

TICKETS: \$10 at bit.ly/2nXTsrz

Houston, Texas [October 24, 2019] — Houston Ballet welcomes local dancers and choreographers to the Center for Dance for The HIVE. Beginning in 2017, Houston Ballet and Dance Source Houston joined together to develop and launch this choreographic workshop. The program gives local dancers and choreographers a place to experiment and explore movement.

"We are proud to partner with Dance Source Houston on a program that is creating new work, especially during our 50th anniversary season, which is a celebration of Houston Ballet as hub for dance," says Houston Ballet Director of Education Jennifer Sommers.

Houston Ballet's Center for Dance is a fitting location to host a program such as The HIVE. The building opened in 2011 and is the largest professional dance facility in the country. Providing studio time and space for this program at no cost is one way the facility is a resource to the greater Houston dance community.

"Houston Ballet takes its responsibility seriously as the largest dance organization in town and as such we endeavor to share our resources whenever possible," says Sommers.

Local dancer, writer and arts administrator, Adam Castañeda is the selected choreographer for The HIVE's fall session that began on October 6. Castañeda is the Executive and Artistic Director of the Pilot Dance Project and has performed in several site-specific dance projects with his company and others. The four-week mini-residency began with a choreography lab for Castañeda's new work, *The Flower Garden of Ignatius Beltran*. Set to premiere in the spring of 2020, this piece is based on an original short story and will explore practices of gardening, flower arranging and decorating.

Audiences can join Houston Ballet and Dance Source Houston for the final installment of the fall session on Sunday, October 27 from 1-4 p.m. To learn more about The HIVE or purchase \$10 tickets, please visit bit.ly/2nXTsrz.

ABOUT HOUSTON BALLET

Celebrating 50 years of creativity, Houston Ballet has evolved from a Company of 16 dancers to one of 61 dancers with a budget of \$33.9 million and an endowment of \$79.2 million (as of June 2019), making it the country's fifth largest ballet company. Its Center for Dance is a \$46.6 million state-of-the-art performance space that opened in April 2011 and remains the largest professional dance facility in America. Houston Ballet's reach is global, touring in renowned theaters in Dubai, London, Paris, Moscow, Spain, Montréal, Ottawa, Melbourne, New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and more.

Houston Ballet attracts prestigious leaders in dance. Australian choreographer Stanton Welch AM has served as Artistic Director of Houston Ballet since 2003, raising the level of the Company's classical technique and commissioning works from dance legends such as Julia Adam, George Balanchine, Aszure Barton, Christopher Bruce, Alexander Ekman, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Edwaard Liang, Trey McIntyre and Justin Peck. Executive Director James Nelson serves as the administrative leader of the organization, a position he assumed in February 2012 after serving as the Company's General Manager for more than a decade.

Beyond its stage presence, Houston Ballet maintains a strong foothold in continuing to foster a love for dance in future generations. Its Education and Community Engagement program reaches more than 70,000 individuals in the Houston area annually. Houston Ballet Academy trains more than 1,000 students every year, producing more than 50 percent of the elite athletes that comprise Houston Ballet's current Company. For more information on Houston Ballet, visit houstonballet.org.

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