

# SAINT LOUIS **BALLET**

2019-2020

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**REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**

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# SAINT LOUIS **BALLET** Our Mission

The mission of Saint Louis Ballet is to provide the metropolitan St. Louis region with a resident professional ballet company that performs classical and contemporary works and offers education programs of the highest quality for the cultural enrichment and enjoyment of the entire community.



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*The 2019-2020 Season was made possible by these corporations, foundations, and public agencies:*



# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Saint Louis Ballet had quite a memorable year. Before the global pandemic forced us to shift gears, the company hit several high notes with ballet performances by renowned choreographers George Balanchine, Christopher Wheeldon and Twyla Tharp. For the first time, we performed to the music of the critically acclaimed Arianna String Quartet in a collaboration we hope will generate more of these artistic endeavors.

We welcomed choreographers, educators and répétiteurs who spoke to our dancers and our audiences in the studios, in the theatre and on radio. We are devoted to providing this community with the most prominent voices in the ballet world.

Covid-19 challenged us in ways that seemed endless and unbearable. We were forced to cancel audience favorite “Swan Lake” in April and the annual fundraiser in May. But beginning in March, 600 people stepped up and demonstrated their commitment to SLB and to ballet in this community with a special donation. That generosity of spirit kept us afloat during a precarious time, enabling us to continue employing our dancers and staff and to plan for the new season. In fact, since 2017, our family of donors has increased five-fold.

We are eternally grateful and take our wonderful supporters’ intentions to heart. We honor them in this annual report to the community, and thank Saint Louis Ballet’s Board of Directors for their trust in my leadership during these difficult times.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gen Horiuchi".

Gen Horiuchi

*Director Gen Horiuchi, masked for safety, directs dancers Roxy Shackelford (far left and center photo) and Julia Heiss (far right photo) while Rehearsal Director CiCi Houston also directs dancer Olivia Cornelius in preparation for “This Is Who We Are” October 1, 2020.*





# THE SEASON IN REVIEW

## 2019-2020 COMPANY

Mark David Bloodgood • Michael Burke  
Lauren Christensen • Ashley Conroy  
Rebecca Cornett • Colin Ellis • Emily Fugett  
Elliott Geolat • Rachel Harrison • Amy Herchenroether  
Lauren Kot • Lauren Lane • Elizabeth Lloyd  
Alexis Matthesen • Michael McGonegal  
Tiffany Mori • Jordan Nelson • Matthew Rusk  
Sean Session • Roxy Shackelford • Lori Wilson

## TRAINEES

Ruth Connelly • Sophia Copley • Victoria Cunnane  
Sydney Groff • Miguel Guevara • Michael Harp  
Abby Hernandez • Olivia Kalamboukas • Emma Kovacs  
Julia Monsey • Leena Wheeler



Lauren Lane and Matthew Rusk in Tharp's "Nine Sinatra Songs"

## THREE ST. LOUIS PREMIERES

### *Nine Sinatra Songs*

Choreography by Twyla Tharp  
Music by Various Composers  
Performed by Frank Sinatra

### *Concerto Barocco*

Choreography by George Balanchine  
Music by Johann Sebastian Bach

### *The American*

Choreography by Christopher Wheeldon  
Music by Antonin Dvorak  
Performed by Arianna String Quartet



Tiffany Mori and Michael McGonegal in Wheeldon's "The American"

## ONE WORLD PREMIERE

### *Agile Episodes*

Choreography by Emery LeCrone  
Music by Max Richter and Bryce Dessner



Dancers of Saint Louis Ballet in LeCrone's "Agile Episodes"



# 2019-2020 PERFORMANCE SEASON

## Nine Sinatra Songs

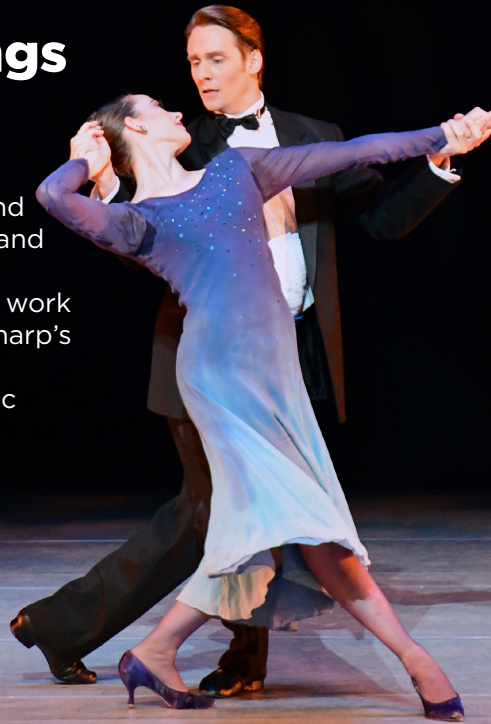
October 4-6, 2019

Touhill Performing Arts Center

The season opener was a joyful and eclectic celebration of classicism and modernity. The program featured George Balanchine's foundational work *Concerto Barocco* (1941), Twyla Tharp's *Nine Sinatra Songs* (1982) and Gen Horiuchi's fierce and energetic *More Morra* (2007).

Attendance:  
1,514

Media Sponsor:



"Nine Sinatra Songs"



"Concerto Barocco"



"More Morra"

## The Nutcracker

November 29-December 23, 2019

Touhill Performing Arts Center

For the 19th year, this holiday family favorite wowed enthusiastic crowds with its interactive choreography, opulent sets and costumes and beautiful, dynamic dancing.

Attendance: 9,931

Sponsored by

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# 2019-2020 PERFORMANCE SEASON

## Could This Be Love?

February 14-16, 2020

Touhill Performing Arts Center

In this very special concert, the virtuoso Arianna String Quartet performed Dvorak's String Quartet #12 in F Major as Saint Louis Ballet dancers performed Christopher Wheeldon's brilliant work, *The American* (2017).

Also on the bill was *Agile Episodes*, a new work by nationally recognized choreographer Emery LeCrone.

The evening was rounded out with a reprise of Gen Horiuchi's *Jazz à la Française*, dedicated to ardent ballet supporters Francois and Francoise Fraudeau.

Attendance: 1,303

NOVUS  
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

"The American"



Arianna String Quartet performing the music of "The American"

"Jazz à la Française"



SLB Artistic Director Gen Horiuchi restaged *Jazz à la Française* (see above), a delightful and artistic homage to the French spirit. Horiuchi honored long-time Saint Louis Ballet supporter Francois Fraudeau (seen to the left) on his retirement from Novus International.



"Agile Episodes"





# SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

## PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

By offering free or inexpensive master classes, pre- and post-show conversations and topical lectures, Saint Louis Ballet provides the regional community with access to some of the most respected artists working in ballet today.



### Masterclass with Matthew Dibble

September 22, 2019

Saint Louis Ballet Studios

Matthew Dibble, dancer and répétiteur of the works of Twyla Tharp, brought his in-depth understanding of ballet technique and extensive experience working with the great Twyla Tharp to this master class, which invigorated and challenged 30 young students to push beyond their classical training.



### Protecting the Legacy of George Balanchine:

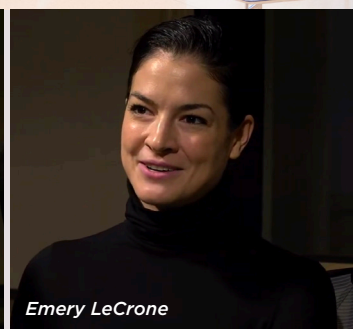
A Conversation with Nilas Martins and Christine O'Neal  
October 4, 2019

Touhill Performing Arts Center

Christine O'Neal, Director of Graduate Studies in Dance at Washington University, interviewed Nilas Martins, choreographer, Balanchine répétiteur and former New York City Ballet principal dancer, about the intricacies and challenges of staging the works of the great George Balanchine.



Michelle Gifford



Emery LeCrone



Shelley Washington



Ms. Washington in rehearsals  
with SLB Dancers

### Visiting Artists

For two weeks in January, 2020, répétiteur **Michelle Gifford** set Christopher Wheeldon's *The American* on the dancers of Saint Louis Ballet. Choreographer **Emery LeCrone** created a new work on SLB dancers over the course of three weeks in February. While in St. Louis both artists shared information about their creative processes with on-air host Tom Sudholt of Classic 107.3.



**Shelley Washington** has had an illustrious dance career. She was a long-time member of Twyla Tharp's company and continues to work as a répétiteur of Tharp's work. Ms. Washington spent two weeks in September 2019 at SLB studios, teaching *Nine Sinatra Songs* preparing SLB dancers for our opening performance. She was ably assisted by SLB Rehearsal Director Matthew Dibble.



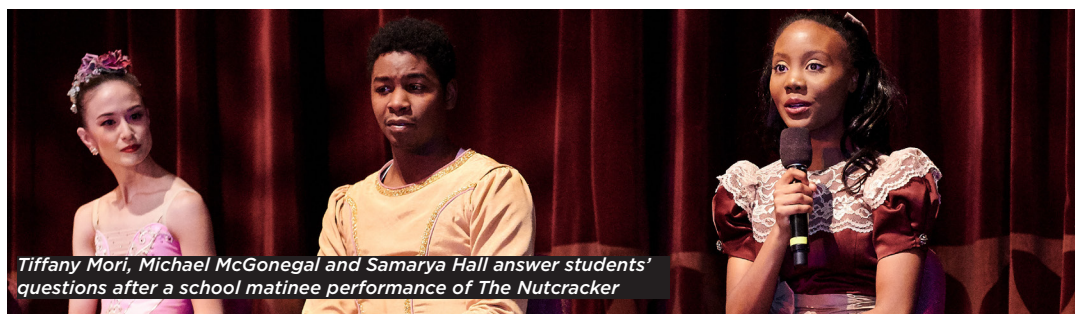
# BALLET ARTS EDUCATION & OUTREACH



**Pointe to Succeed** embodies Saint Louis Ballet's commitment to educate children at under-resourced schools in many aspects of the art of classical ballet. In 2019-20 we held programs at Mason Elementary, St. Louis Catholic Academy and Mathews-Dickey Boys and Girls Club. SLB Education Director CiCi Houston oversees the multi-phase program, which consists of storytelling, interactive seminars, ballet appreciation and talent development. The program served over 200 students through in-school programs, providing a holistic, engaging and thorough introduction to ballet for these young people.



Grants from Heartland Coca-Cola and Ameren allowed us to bring over 600 children to a school-day matinee of *The Nutcracker* on December 18, 2020. Participating schools included Mason and Woerner from Saint Louis Public Schools; Barack Obama Elementary from the Normandy district; St. Louis Catholic Academy; and Meramec Heights from the Fox C-6 school district. Finally, we were thrilled to welcome four volunteers from Heartland Coca-Cola, who helped usher and manage the post-show conversation between children in the audience and the performers.

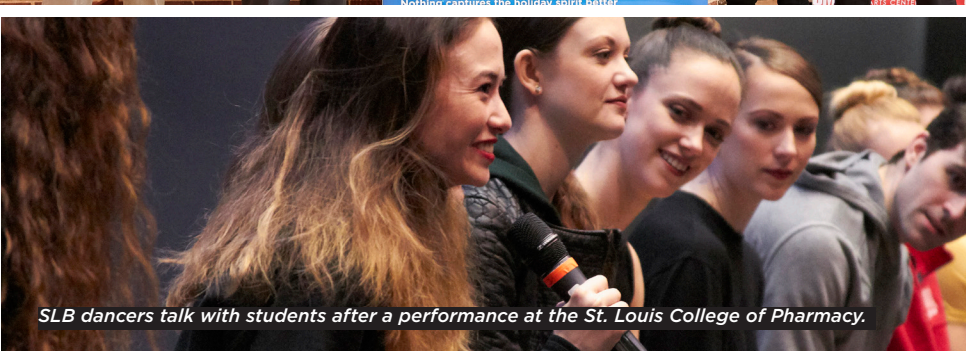


*Tiffany Mori, Michael McGonegal and Samarya Hall answer students' questions after a school matinee performance of *The Nutcracker**

*Volunteers from Heartland Coca-Cola assisted as ushers at the *Nutcracker* school matinee on December 18, 2019.*



*Dancer Rebecca Cornett delighted a young patient at Saint Louis Children's Hospital, December, 2019.*



*SLB dancers talk with students after a performance at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy.*





# OUR FAMILY OF CONTRIBUTORS

The 2019-2020 season was on track to be one of the best attended and most successful seasons in our history. We anticipated full attendance at our final production of the year, the classic *Swan Lake*, which was to include four public performances and a school day matinee for over 700 children. Our Spring Gala had unprecedented advance support, and we were thrilled to be honoring the great Mary Strauss, arts booster, philanthropist, champion of St. Louis' architectural heritage and ballet lover. Covid-19 brought all of this to a devastating halt. The support that Saint Louis Ballet received in the wake of the crisis was nothing short of overwhelming, and we express our unending gratitude to those supporters who have been so incredibly generous in our time of need.

## *An Enchanted Evening in the Garden*

### 2020 Spring Gala

In the wake of cancellation the following individuals, corporations and foundations generously converted their gala donations to operating support:

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Saint Louis Ballet was looking forward to honoring the brilliant Mary Strauss at the 2020 Spring Gala. When the emergence of Covid-19 forced cancellation, Mary graciously accepted our request to honor her at our 2021 Gala. We are so grateful to Mary, who inspires us daily with her philanthropic spirit, her love of ballet and her devotion to the St Louis community.

# ANNUAL DONORS

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

We are grateful to the following individuals, corporations, foundations, and public agencies that provide annual support for Saint Louis Ballet Company operations.

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Saint Louis Ballet Board member Laurie Lock (third from left) and Gala chair Brooke Meek (5th from right) gather with supporters at Neiman Marcus for the 2020 Gala Kickoff held on February 26.





May 7, 2020

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Members of barreSLB at the Neiman Marcus kickoff on February 26, 2020



Members of barreSLB attend The Nutcracker in December, 2019.

# SWAN LAKE

## Subscriber Ticket Donors

When performances were cancelled in April of 2020, these generous subscribers donated the value of their tickets back to the ballet.

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# SWAN LAKE

## Swan Lake Single Ticket Donors

When performances were cancelled in April of 2020, these generous ticket holders donated the value of their individual tickets to the ballet.

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# DANCERS FIRST

## Critical Relief Fund

June 17 - November 1, 2020



Recognizing the potential impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the financial viability of Saint Louis Ballet, the Board of Directors announced a special emergency campaign, *Dancers First*. Since its launch on June 17, 2020, the campaign has generated over \$123,000 from 190 generous donors. This funding, along with a PPP loan received through the CARES Act, has allowed SLB to continue to provide safe employment for our dancers, and to continue programming through the current season.

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 Sarah Crawford  
 Jennifer and James Cunnane  
 Marco Custodio  
 Jennifer and Steve Davis  
 DE Design Works  
 Lena and Brett DeGonia  
 Debra Knox Deiermann  
 JiaMin and Michael Dierberg  
 Julie Tang and Mark Eggert  
 Jennifer Ehlen  
 Marc Ellis  
 Sondra and Dorsey Ellis  
 Karen Elshout  
 Donna and Gayle Engel  
 Cindy and Ted Fahs  
 Terry Fairchild  
 Jill and Joseph Falk  
 Ferguson Family Foundation  
 Gloria and Patrick Fearon  
 Margaret and Donald Franz  
 Rick Frazier  
 Carlene and Roy Fullerton  
 Dr. Arthur Gale  
 Trey Garland  
 Bonnie Gibbs  
 Margaret Gilleo and Charles Guenther  
*- in honor of Alice Carter Seddon*

Sarah and David Glasser  
 Nancy and Alan Goldstein  
*- in honor of Gen and Tanya Horiuchi*  
 Julie Goldstein  
 Susan and Marc Gordon  
*- in honor of Thomas and Carol Voss*  
 Sandy Grassi  
 Leigh Ellen and Ray Griffiths  
 Esley Hamilton  
 Judie Hansen and Roy Parks  
 Melanie and Rod Harkey  
 Angelica Herbert  
 Cathie and Scott Hernandez  
*- in honor of Elizabeth Lloyd*  
 Nancy Herzog  
 Lindsey Hinderer  
 Kim Hollis  
*- in honor of Elizabeth Lloyd*  
 Kara Hoover  
 Janet and David Houston  
 Bill Howard  
 Morgan Howard  
 Edward Ibur  
 Damon Ijames  
 Jennifer and Ken Ikeda  
 Michael Isaacson and Joseph Ortmeyer  
*- in honor of Thomas and Carol Voss*  
 Dr. Andrea Itzkowitz  
 Lauren Jenkins  
 Susan Rutherford Joenk  
 Julie and Chad Johnson  
*- in memory of Betty Abernathy*  
 Lisa and Chris Johnson  
 Michael Johnson  
 Samantha Johnson  
 Tyler Johnson  
 Suzanne and Tim Jones  
 Deborah Kaufman  
 Patricia Keating and James Hettenhaus  
 Victoria and Michael Kiefer  
 Kelly and Ian Kreidich  
 Robert and Deanna Leavitt  
 Lisa LeMasters  
 Lony Less  
 Sharon and Cliff Leve  
 Ted LeVine  
 Philana Liang  
 Christopher Limber  
 Celeste and Jim Litton  
 Kimberly and David Lloyd  
 Barbara and Michael Lock  
 Laurie and Sean Lock  
 Margaret MacRae  
 Moraith MacRae  
 Dr. Elaine Majerus  
 Kaitlyn Mann  
 Annette and Randall Markarian  
 Grace Markarian  
 Catherine Marquis-Homeyer  
 Jennifer and Greg Martin  
 Judy Maul  
 Lynn Maupin  
 Ashley McCormack  
 McGriff Insurance Services  
 Lisa McLellan  
 Jo Ann McNaughton-Kade  
 Richard L. Meives  
 Pauline Michels  
 Dolores Miller  
*- in memory of Doris Pree*

Lucia Miller and David Hanlon  
 Valerie Miller  
 Judith Miniace  
 Renee and Michael Monsey  
 Russell Moon  
 Joseph Morra  
 David Morris and Joey Neal  
 Tiffany Morris  
 Avery Murray  
 Joan Nesbitt  
 Marjorie Newell  
 Sarah and Jeff Oberman  
 Karole and Fred Oelschlaeger  
 Sheila Oliveri  
 Nicole Paczkowski  
 Christina and Richard Pettibone  
 Polly and Brent Phillips  
 Dorothy Powell  
*- in honor of Elizabeth Lloyd*  
 Sarah Procter  
 Lyn Ragsdale  
 Joan Revak  
 Andrea Richert  
 Cyd Riede  
 Cindy and Derek Rudman  
 Laura and Mike Ruest  
 Andree Sanders  
 Shannon and Daniel Schlafly  
 Anjanette and Jay Schmelter  
 Terri Schnettgoecke  
 Raymonde and Steven Schopp  
 Brian Schultz  
*- in honor of Kirsten Schultz*  
 Amy and Jim Schwetz  
 Charmaine Scott  
*- in honor of Thomas and Carol Voss*  
 Marissa and Russ Scott  
 Brooke and Jon Sehy  
 Paul J. Shaver  
 Lynn Shirley  
 Susanne Sonke  
*- in honor of Kirsten Schultz*  
 Wynn and Mark Stolzner  
 Mary Strauss  
 Tanya Strautmann  
 Matthew Switzer  
 Karibeth Tamme  
 Mariko Tazoe  
 Odile and Fred Tompkins  
 Vivienne Topping  
 Martin Toyen  
 Tricia Uetrecht  
 Leslie Uljee  
 Stephen Vetzner  
 Heather Verble  
 Donna Vining  
 Christina Vogel  
 Carol and Thomas R. Voss  
 Dale Watkins  
 Ann and Woody Weigandt  
 Robert Wetzel  
 Patricia and Leo Whiteside  
 Ann Wilkerson  
 Ann and Gregory Willard  
 Kathie and Richard Winter  
 Pamela Wollenberg  
*- in honor of the staff of Saint Louis Ballet*  
 Jennifer Wood

# SAINT LOUIS BALLET BY THE NUMBERS

<b>35</b> ARTISTS EMPLOYED	<b>150</b> VOLUNTEERS	<b>280</b> SUBSCRIBERS
<b>540</b> GENEROUS DONORS	<b>700</b> SCHOOL CHILDREN SERVED	<b>13,450</b> ATTENDEES
<b>21</b> PERFORMANCES	<b>20</b> PRODUCTION PERSONNEL	

## SAINT LOUIS **BALLET** Statement of Activities July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

### REVENUES AND SUPPORT

Ticket Sales	606,417
Contributions and Grants	546,285
Events	145,245
Merchandise	31,979
Other	24,972
<b>Total Revenues and Support</b>	<b>1,354,898</b>

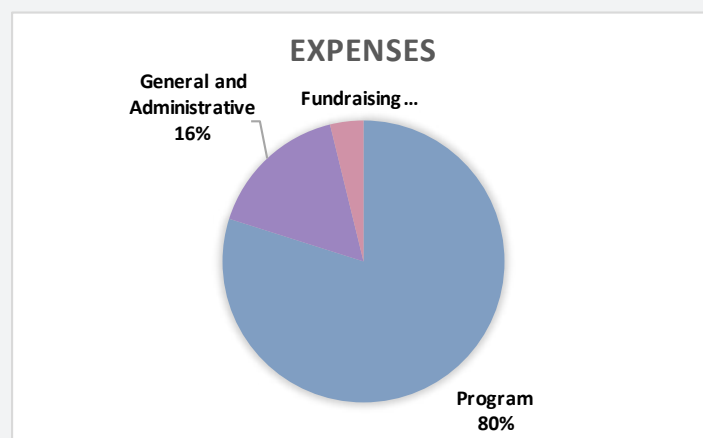
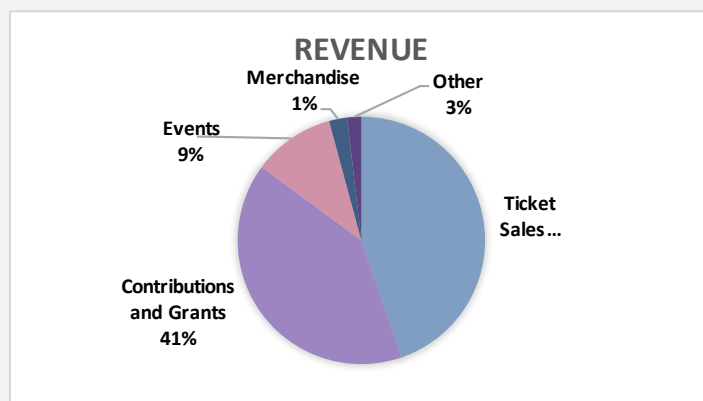
### EXPENSES

Program	965,216
General and Administrative	196,731
Fundraising	46,196
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,208,143</b>

**Change in Net Assets** 146,755

**Net Assets, Beginning of Year** (67,068)

**Net Assets, End of Year** 79,687



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 2019-2020

Thomas R. Voss  
*President*

Patricia Whiteside  
*Vice President*

Christina Altholz  
*Treasurer*

Sharon Leve  
*Secretary*

Cathie Hernandez  
*Immediate Past President*

Bhavani Amirthalingam  
Allison Benney  
Susan Bindler  
Jennifer Cunnane  
Mark Eggert  
Catherine Ellwood  
Sarah Glasser  
Laurie Lock  
Lawrence Miller  
Jeff Oberman  
Amy Schwetz  
Carol Voss  
Thomas Weaver

Saint Louis Ballet welcomed five new members who bring a diversity of experience and a wealth of insight to our leadership team. We are very grateful for their willingness to serve.



Bhavani Amirthalingam  
SVP, Chief Digital  
Information Officer,  
Ameren



Allison Benney  
Producer,  
Gallagher Insurance



Catherine Ellwood  
Community  
Volunteer



Sarah Glasser  
Attorney



Amy Schwetz  
CFO, Flowserve



A special thank you to outgoing President, **Cathie Hernandez**. Cathie served as Board President for four years and managed the Ballet Boutique for seven seasons. During her tenure, the Boutique generated over \$140,000 in support of Saint Louis Ballet Company operations.



Co-chairs of the 2019 Jewels Gala

## Friends of Saint Louis Ballet

Comprised of parents, alumni and community members who are ballet enthusiasts, the Friends of Saint Louis Ballet is a group of 150 volunteers who support the operations of the ballet company with countless hours of support – backstage, at the Ballet Boutique, in the office and in marketing support. Saint Louis Ballet is indebted to this generous group of helpers.



Thank you to Friends Co-Presidents Beth Painter and Kate Wiley who provided leadership during the 2019-2020 season.



Saint Louis Ballet honored SLB Board Member Mark Eggert and his wife Julie Tang for their long-time service to the organization.