

THE WOODEN FLOOR APPOINTS TWO NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Santa Ana, Calif. (March 25, 2013) – **The Wooden Floor**, an arts-based youth development organization recognized for its progressive and pioneering dance-making and successful 100% high school graduation rates, has appointed two Orange County professionals to its Board of Directors, currently chaired by **Ernesto Vasquez**, founding partner of architecture firm **McLarand Vasquez Emsiek & Partners**. The two appointments come as the organization celebrates its **30th anniversary** of changing lives through dance.

About the Board Members



Epiphany Owen is a partner in **Rutan & Tucker's** Government & Regulatory Law Section, specializing in education law, labor and employment law, and civil litigation. She represents a variety of public agencies and private clients in both administrative proceedings and in litigation before state and federal courts. She also serves as a member of the firm's Personnel Committee and has also volunteered with various nonprofits. Epiphany graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles with a B.A. in Political Science and a Specialization in Business and Administration. She received her M.A. in Communications Management from the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and a J.D. from the University of Southern California Law School.

"I am honored to be a part of The Wooden Floor. I strongly believe in, and support, The Wooden Floor's mission and efforts to change and improve the lives of low-income youth through dance and academic programs," says Ms. Owen.



Mary E. Xavier is a Vice President and a Senior Strategic Program Manager at **American Funds/ Capital Group Companies, Inc.** in Irvine, California. Mary joined American Funds in 1989, and has worked in several areas, including Work Management, Shareholder Services, and Information Technology. Mary spent 10 years on the American Funds website team as a Senior Manager. She is now responsible for leading longer range strategic initiatives within the organization. Mary's nonprofit experience includes: volunteering for 5 years as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA); membership in a local guild supporting Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), including chairing their annual wine tasting event for two years; and, participating as a committee member for the 2009 and 2010 *Keep the Promise* Wine Tasting Benefit for The Wooden Floor.

"Having the opportunity to meet and talk to the children, seeing the outcomes, and getting to know the staff, continually reinforced my belief in what The Wooden Floor does. I look forward to serving on the Board of Directors and having the opportunity to support the mission and organization in a more meaningful capacity," says Ms. Xavier.

About The Wooden Floor

At The Wooden Floor, we use dance as a vehicle for transformation in the students we serve because there is so much learning involved. Creativity and expression are catalysts for positive change through the process of inventive art-making. When these young artists are applauded by an audience, they know that they are seen, that they matter. Our long-term artistic immersion is integrated with mentoring, comprehensive academic support, college readiness, and family support services to provide a solid platform for advancement and success. **Since 2005, 100 percent of The Wooden Floor's young artists have graduated from high school on-time and pursued higher education.** This is about three-times the national average for their socioeconomic peers.

Find out more online at www.TheWoodenFloor.org