



CONTACT:
Payal Kumar Avellan
714.541.8314 ext. 119
Payal@TheWoodenFloor.org

\$328,000 RAISED FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AT THE WOODEN FLOOR'S 32nd ANNUAL CONCERT

SANTA ANA and IRVINE, Calif. (June 5, 2015) – **The Wooden Floor**, an arts-based youth development non-profit, was joined by 200 supporters at an exclusive backstage event at the **Irvine Barclay Theatre**. The evening celebrated the opening night of the organization's 32nd Annual Concert: *As light comes through*, a staple of Orange County's dance calendar that features a unique and invaluable collaboration between over 140 under-served youth and three of the nation's top contemporary dance choreographers: Bessie Award-winner **Faye Driscoll**, 2016 US State Department Cultural Ambassador **John Heginbotham**, and Artistic Director of The Wooden Floor **Melanie Ríos Glaser**. The concert raised \$328,000 for the organization and its successful year-round dance, academic, and family service programs for 375 low-income youth.

Concert underwriters included:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Concert Chairs | Ginnie & Rich Hunsaker, Linda & Tod White Charitable Fund |
| Honorary Underwriters | Joan & Don Beall, Jane & James Driscoll, Yvonne & Damien Jordan, Socorro & Ernesto Vasquez |
| Associate Underwriter | Helen Sperry Lea Foundation, Willette Charitable Foundation |
| Concert Underwriters | Gochnauer Family Foundation, Sharon & Terry Hartshorn, Marilyn McIntyre, The National Endowment for the Arts, Nordstrom, Judith F. Posnikoff, Catherine & Edward Romer and Katy & Jack Schoellerman |
| Concert Partners | Beth Burns & Mark Gorman, Sue & Peter Cooper, Bobbi Cox, Davis/Dauray Family Fund, Jennifer & Jesse Rodriquez, The Thompson Family Foundation, Mary & Gary Tolar, TROY Group, Inc./The Dirk Family, Yellow House Fund |
| Concert Supporters | The Glaser Family, Hydraflow/The Ayloush Family, Cath MacIver & Jim Slaughter, Ginger & Arthur Ong, Judy & Dennis Sweeney, Ruth D. Wetherbee Foundation Fund |
| Media Sponsor | 89.3 KPCC |

Opening Night Reception guests were welcomed by **Chairman of the Board of Directors James A. Driscoll**, who thanked attendees for their steadfast support of the organization. **Executive Director and Co-CEO Dawn S. Reese** and **Artistic Director and Co-CEO Melanie Ríos Glaser** outlined the ambitions to see the organization's model help more low-income youth over the next 30 years through artistic excellence, a hallmark of The Wooden Floor's success. Additionally, stories of student success were shared by 11-year-old **Arly Calzada** (Class of 2021) and high school senior **Dario Montalvo** (Class of 2015), who completely won over the audience with their personal accounts of how support from attendees directly resulted in their lives being forever changed for the better.

The reception was followed by a performance unlike any collaboration of its kind. Three world premieres were unveiled, showcasing progressive contemporary dance work performed by nearly 150 low-income youth. The beautiful and thought-provoking performances were lit by prolific lighting designer **James F. Ingalls**, of Metropolitan Opera and Lincoln Center acclaim, and complimented with costumes by **Jennifer Vaughan**, known for her work in past Olympic games. Over 2,600 tickets were sold for the Annual Concert's four performances.

About The Wooden Floor

The Wooden Floor, founded in 1983, is a Santa Ana arts-based organization that delivers hope and opportunity to 375 low-income youth annually. Dance education and performance are the core transformational elements through which youth change the way they think about themselves and aspire beyond the grip of the poverty cycle. In the dance studio, rigorous training, creativity, and self-knowledge lead to confidence, leadership, teamwork, well-being, and joy. Academic programs, pre-collegiate mentoring, and college scholarships ensure that students succeed in school and are college-ready. **Since 2005, 100 percent of graduates from The Wooden Floor have enrolled in college**, exceeding the national average for their peers threefold. Family Services at The Wooden Floor, including counseling, crisis intervention, and social service referrals help families overcome hardships and navigate challenges. Community support enables these year-round programs to be offered free of charge. Bringing about generational change to break the cycle of poverty in our community is the long-term goal of The Wooden Floor.