

## Melanie Ríos Glaser Announces Departure from The Wooden Floor

**SANTA ANA, Calif. (July 27, 2016)** –Artistic Director and Co-CEO of The Wooden Floor, Melanie Ríos Glaser has announced her resignation to the organization’s Board of Directors, and her last day will be August 9th. Ríos Glaser stated that she is interested in returning to her work as a freelance choreographer, dance educator, dance artist, and spending time with her family. She began her association with The Wooden Floor in 1999 as the first outside guest choreographer. In 2005, Founder Beth Burns retired and Melanie succeeded her as the second Artistic Director. Ríos Glaser later also took on the roles of Executive and Artistic Director from 2008-2011 and Artistic Director and Co-CEO from 2012-2016.

“During her tenure, Melanie has helped our award-winning organization continue to rise in artistic prominence on a national scale,” said Chairman of the Board of Directors, James A. Driscoll. “Over the years she has assembled an exemplary creative team for our Annual Concert and outside performances with artists who are at the top of their fields in dance, lighting, costumes, and music,” he continued.

“It has been incredibly rewarding for over 17 years to play a role in seeing young people succeed due to their participation at The Wooden Floor,” said Ríos Glaser. “We prove that dance changes lives. I feel that the organization is in a terrific place, with ambitious plans for the future, and is ready for new artistic leadership. It has been an honor to work alongside a stellar Board of Directors, staff, faculty, and The Wooden Floor community.”

Following best practices, The Wooden Floor has succession plans in place for executive staff. In the near-term, Executive Director and CEO Dawn S. Reese will oversee dance education and artistic planning with continued support from a seasoned key leadership team.

“The Board of Directors and senior management will begin to explore and plan for the next stage for artistic leadership at The Wooden Floor, with the goal of building upon and upholding the last 33 years of artistic accomplishments and The Wooden Floor’s lauded dance approach,” said Reese. “The organization’s exploratory dance approach values collaboration, discovery, and innovation, which leads to the success of students both in school and in life,” she said.

The organization plans to transform the lives of more young people through the power of dance and access to higher education, growing its impact both locally and nationally: through an annex location within the Depot at Santiago complex in Santa Ana, which will serve 100 additional students and their families by 2017; and through its first national licensed partner in Washington, DC.

### About The Wooden Floor

Founded in 1983, The Wooden Floor is one of the most progressive arts-for-youth nonprofit organizations in the country. We transform the lives of young people in low-income communities through the power of dance and access to higher education. In Orange County and through our national licensed partners, we use a long-term approach grounded in exploratory dance education to foster the resources within each child to innovate, communicate, and collaborate – skills necessary for success in school and in life. 100 percent of students who graduate from The Wooden Floor immediately enroll in higher education. Our students become change agents and beacons of hope within their own families, their neighborhoods, our community, and our world.

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