



For immediate release

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Dayton Contemporary Dance Company elects new Board Chair: Jacqueline Gamblin

DAYTON, OH

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company announced that Jacqueline Gamblin has become the new chair of the company's board of directors, effective July 1, 2021.

Jacqueline Gamblin is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of JYG Innovations, LLC, a professional solutions and services company focused on providing innovative and exceptional service in the defense, state, local, and commercial sectors. As a transformative thought leader, community activist, and mentor, Ms. Gamblin is motivated by the belief that each of us has the ability and responsibility to positively impact the lives of others. Her motivation serves as the inspiration behind her service on numerous boards and community organizations.

Ms. Gamblin will add her astute business sense and love of the arts to oversee Dayton Contemporary Dance Company's board and to assist the executive leadership to achieve the company's priorities for a five-year strategic plan beginning in 2021.

As she states, *I believe that Dayton Contemporary Dance Company is truly a national treasure, and it is an honor to serve as the DCDC board chairperson. These are challenging times for many non-profits, especially for performing arts organizations. Despite these challenges, we are excited to embrace the opportunity to re-imagine how we showcase the incredible talent and creativity of our dancers, choreographers, and the entire staff.*

DCDC is an African-American arts organization entering its 52nd season and my goal as chairperson is to build upon its legacy as a "...culturally diverse contemporary dance company committed to reaching the broadest audience through exceptional performance and arts-integrated education." As the struggle for racial equality moves forward, I hope that our artistic contributions will continue to raise awareness, spark positive changes and inspire future generations.

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) was founded in 1968 to create performance opportunities for dancers of color. Fifty-three years later, it remains rooted in the African-American experience, committed to the development of diverse movement artists on the global stage. DCDC is known for its extraordinary artistic execution, dance precision, and storytelling through dance art of international standard. Having the world's largest repertoire of classic works by African-American choreographers, this Dayton, Ohio company continues to celebrate dance art around the world. Prior to COVID-19, DCDC performed in Shanghai China, Kazakhstan, the Bolshoi in Moscow Russia and the Bahamas. They were the 2016 NYC Bessie Award co-winner for Outstanding Revival for their work performed at Lincoln Center presented by Paul Taylor American Modern Dance. In 2018, they received the Irma Lazarus Award at the Ohio Governor's Awards for the Arts. Chief Artistic and Producing Director Debbie Blunden-Diggs continues the company's long legacy with groundbreaking dance works by top choreographers, including Donald Byrd, Ronen Koresch, and Kiesha Lalama. DCDC is under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Ro Nita Hawes-Saunders.

DCDC's Chief Executive Officer Ro Nita Hawes-Saunders, states, *I believe it is the right time for Ms. Gamblin to assume leadership of the board. She has the necessary skills and motivation to help the company move to the next level as an internationally acclaimed dance company.*

Today with the challenges of the COVID-19 health crisis and the aspirational plans for our future, DCDC is fortunate to have Ms. Gamblin as our new board chair. She is a knowledgeable businesswoman with the technology skills and leadership savvy to assist us as we transform ourselves and continue to bring our beautiful dance art into the future.

Ms. Hawes-Saunders also pays tribute to former DCDC Board Chair Richard Lapedes: *Ms. Gamblin replaces longtime DCDC board chair Richard Lapedes, retired CEO of LION in Dayton, Ohio. Although retiring as board chair, Mr. Lapedes will remain active with DCDC. We at DCDC are grateful for his distinguished service. Many accomplishments of our organization were made possible by his support, wise counsel, dedication, and decades of dedication as the former board chair.*

Other officers of DCDC's board were also elected along with Jacqueline Gamblin. They are Paul Benson, Ph.D., Provost, University of Dayton, re-elected as the board's vice chair; David Goltz, Chief Financial Officer, CareSource, as board treasurer; and Deidre Logan, J.D., Administrative Judge, Dayton Municipal Court, as board secretary.

DCDC is honored to have these outstanding community leaders as representatives of the company's board of directors.

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DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY