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USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance first school to be established through an endowment in nearly 40 years



Los Angeles philanthropist and USC donor Glorya Kaufman
(Photo Courtesy of the Glorya Kaufman Dance Foundation)

In November, President C. L. Max Nikias announced the formation of the university's newest academic unit, the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance. Glorya Kaufman, a Los Angeles philanthropist and renowned name in the world of dance, has given the university one of the largest gifts in the history of American dance. Kaufman's major gift provides significant support to The Campaign for the University of Southern California and will allow the university to continue its commitment to arts education.

This will be the first USC school to be established through an endowment in nearly 40 years, joining USC's five arts schools — architecture, cinematic arts, dramatic arts, fine arts and music — which comprise one of the strongest arts offerings in the United States.

Because the university previously offered only a dance minor, the new school will allow students to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance. "The university's ambition is to make the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance the most elite on the West Coast and in the Pacific Rim" said Nikias.

Additionally, Kaufman's gift will fund the construction of a new academic building, the Glorya Kaufman International Dance Center. The dance center will offer a central location for all dance classes, which are currently housed in various buildings on campus. The gift also will help support the development of the school which includes creating the curriculum of contemporary and classical dance, recruiting distinguished faculty and providing scholarship opportunities for future students.

"I want the school to prepare dancers to be extraordinary performers, to take care of themselves physically and also to have the knowledge to advocate for themselves from a business perspective," Kaufman explained. "USC provides an exceptional education across the board and will make sure this happens."

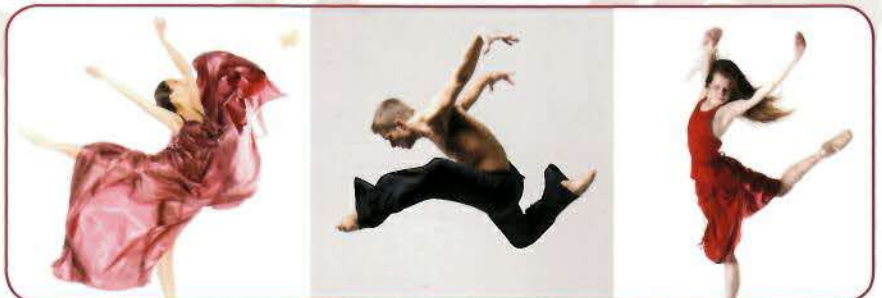
Dean Robert Cutietta of the USC Thornton School of Music has been appointed the inaugural dean of the USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance. The vision of a USC dance school came from a casual conversation between Kaufman and Cutietta when they met in November 2011. One year later, that vision has turned into a reality.

The Glorya Kaufman International Dance Center will be constructed near the USC Thornton School of Music on the site of the former student health center located on West 34th Street. Construction of the dance center is scheduled to start in early 2014.

The USC Glorya Kaufman School of Dance hopes to admit its first class in fall 2015. Students will be accepted based on academic achievements and on their performance during an extensive audition process.

Kaufman's generous choice to invest in USC will transform the future of dance and change the lives of future USC students for many years to come.

For more information please contact the USC Associates Office at 213-740-8722 or uscassociates@usc.edu.



"Glorya Kaufman's generosity will have a profound impact on the art of dance - not only at USC, but throughout the world."

-- President C. L. Max Nikias