

# News Release



## **Visionary Philanthropist Gloria Kaufman Is USC Trustee**

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December 7, 2012 — Internationally celebrated arts patron Gloria Kaufman was elected a life member of the University of Southern California Board of Trustees Dec. 5, 2012.

Known throughout the arts world as “the dancing philanthropist,” Kaufman is well known for her deep love of dance and generous support of dance programs, including The Music Center in Los Angeles, The Juilliard School in New York and the new USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance.

“I am delighted to welcome Gloria Kaufman to our Board of Trustees,” said USC President C. L. Max Nikias. “Around the world, the Kaufman name is synonymous with excellence in the performing arts. With her far-reaching vision of enabling all members of society to benefit from the transformative powers of art, and her strategic focus on arts education, I know that she will contribute significantly to the continued vitality of the university and its mission of enriching the human mind and spirit.”



In November, Kaufman made a transformational gift — her largest to date — to create and endow the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance. The first school be established through an endowment at USC in nearly 40 years, the USC Kaufman School joins the university’s five other arts schools — in architecture, cinematic arts, dramatic arts, fine arts and music — and will offer instruction in contemporary as well as classical dance. It is expected to admit its first class of dance majors in fall 2015.

Kaufman’s gift also will fund construction of the new school’s instructional building. The Gloria Kaufman International Dance Center is slated for groundbreaking on the University Park Campus in spring 2014.

Kaufman grew up in Detroit, the daughter of a printer and a seamstress who from the beginning modeled for her the Jewish tradition of performing acts of generosity and charity. It was also during her early years that Kaufman developed her passion for dance. Even before she could walk, as she recalls, she would stand on her father's feet as he moved to the music. By the time she was a teenager, Kaufman was entering dance contests, experimenting with rhythms ranging from mambo, rumba and cha-cha-cha to tango

In 1954, Kaufman married homebuilder Donald Bruce Kaufman, co-founder of what would become the Fortune 500 building company Kaufman & Broad, now KB Homes. For a span of time, her love of dance took a back seat while she dedicated herself to raising four children and managing the couple's charitable giving. Following her husband's untimely death 1983, Gloria Kaufman rededicated herself to dance and began focusing even more intensely on philanthropic ventures.

Beyond the art world, she extended her support to the restoration of St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica after the 1994 earthquake, to launching a mobile eye clinic benefitting children throughout Los Angeles, and to helping rebuild the Los Angeles Public Library's Donald Bruce Kaufman – Brentwood Branch Library, named in memory of her late husband.

In 2008, she established the Gloria Kaufman Dance Foundation, which provides funding for nonprofit arts, education, research and healthcare programs throughout the United States.

Besides her recent gift to create the USC Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, Kaufman's largest gifts to date include \$20 million to support Dance at The Music Center – now known as Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center – to help bring major dance companies to perform in Southern California. Made in 2009, the gift was believed at the time to have been the largest ever made to support dance in the United States.

In 1999, Kaufman gave \$18 million to the UCLA School of Arts and Architecture to help renovate the university's dance building, which was renamed Gloria Kaufman Hall in her honor. She also gave \$6 million to the New York-based Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and in spring 2009 oversaw dedication of Juilliard's glass-enclosed Gloria Kaufman Dance Studio in Manhattan, made possible by her \$3.5 million gift to the school.

Among the many Southern California-based organizations supported by Gloria Kaufman Dance Foundation are the Geffen Playhouse, American Jewish University, City of Hope, Mar Vista Family Center, Covenant House California, Venice Family Clinic, Dizzy Feet Foundation and Inner-City Arts.

Kaufman is a founding member of The Music Center Board of Ambassadors. In addition, she is a member of the Geffen Playhouse Board of Directors and the Venice Family Clinic's Philanthropy Board, and an honorary member of the Jules Stein Eye Institute Affiliates.

In recognition of her extraordinary dedication to dance education, she was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Juilliard in 2010, and another from Fordham University in 2011.

Kaufman is a resident of Brentwood, Calif.

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*Photo courtesy of the Gloria Kaufman Dance Foundation*