



INAUGURATION OF LES GRANDS BALLETS' WILDER BUILDING: A NEW GLOBAL CENTRE DEDICATED TO DANCE AND INNOVATION

Montreal, September 12, 2017 – Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal has officially inaugurated its new headquarters in Montreal, in the Édifice Wilder Espace danse, which brings together, under one roof, four major dance institutions: **Les Grands Ballets**, the **Agora de la danse**, **Tangente** and the **École de danse contemporaine de Montréal**, as well as the offices of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. It's at the beginning of the 2017/2018 season that Les Grands Ballets unveiled its new premises, in the presence of Alain Dancyger, Executive Director, and Ivan Cavallari, Artistic Director.

AN INVALUABLE HUB FOR DANCE IN MONTREAL

Located in the heart of the **Quartier des spectacles**, this new environment will highlight several facets of the 6th art; creation, broadcasting, promotion, training, education and research – as well as its actors – dancers, choreographers, producers and broadcasters. The building also meets the **artistic needs** of Les Grands Ballets, which was confined since 1980, to the second floor of an old garage on Rivard street. The new studios, integrated by the company this summer, considerably improve the conditions of the dancers' practice, **encourage innovation and audacity** of the institution and its creators. The company will now have the necessary means to be **more accessible to the community** and to implement projects aiming at its well-being, whether through **the National Centre for Dance Therapy, the leisure services of Les Studios, the development of events in the Atrium - which will also be made available to the business community - and so on.**

«As we want to maintain our national and international influence and guarantee the best possible conditions for our dancers, Les Grands Ballets' new home will stimulate the creative work of our artists and inspire choreographers who will work here,» explains **Ivan Cavallari**, Artistic Director of Les Grands Ballets.



By moving into the Wilder Building, the company is becoming more accessible than ever before, through its state-of-the-art facilities and the establishment of new activities.

A UNIQUE PLACE TO CARRY OUT THE COMPANY'S AMBITIONS

This unique hub of creation would not have been possible without the will of the Government of Quebec and the Government of Canada, as well as the many partners and donors of the company.

«The support of the government is essential to turn actors of the cultural industry into worldwide ambassadors of the vitality of Montreal. Les Grands Ballets will finally be able to continue its evolution in a space that matches their artistic ambitions and their international reputation.»- Mrs. **Constance V. Pathy**, President of the Board of Directors of Les Grands Ballets.

SPECIAL THANKS

The creation of this project is the result of a long process of reflection and consultation, involving several institutions and individuals. The company is grateful to its major partners, who supported the project: **BMO Financial Group, Power Corporation of Canada, Anonymous, Group Bank TD, Scotiabank, CN, National Bank and Artopex.**

Les Grands Ballets would also like to thank the Government of Quebec, including the Department of Culture and Communications of Canada, the Government of Canada, including Heritage Canada and Chantier Canada, the City of Montreal, the Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI), which oversaw the project, Investissement Québec with the Immigrant Investor Program, TD Bank Group - through whom the project was made possible with its generous donation of land worth \$450,000 -, the Lapointe Magne + Ædifica consortium, all members of the Board of Directors and Les Grands Ballets' moving committee, all members of the permanent staff and all the donors and sponsors for their support, their trust and their generosity.

Finally, we would like to highlight the work of the fundraising committee, chaired by Ms. Danièle Henkel. We would also like to thank all the members of the Board of Directors and members of the committee who contributed to the success of this great project.

ABOUT THE ÉDIFICE WILDER ESPACE DANSE

- Construction Project Manager : Société québécoise des infrastructures (SQI)
- Architect: Michel Lapointe of the Lapointe, Magne + Ædifica consortium
- Location Address: 1435, Bleury street, Suite 500, Montreal (Quebec), H3A 2H7
- Area occupied by Les Grands Ballets: 5,000 square meters
- Number of studios: 7 (3 rehearsal studios and 4 studios dedicated to the National Dance Therapy Center and the leisure department (Les Studios))
- Larger spaces for production work such as costume making
- A production theater dedicated to creative work, accessible to other actors in the dance and arts sectors, as well as to the private sector
- An atrium for holding events and reception
- A café and a restaurant
- Total project cost: \$99.2M evaluation (including facilities and equipment)
- Share of Les Grands Ballets: \$40.4M (including facilities and equipment)
- The Government of Canada has a financial contribution of \$ 9.1M and the Government of Québec's contribution is \$14.4M.
- Website [here](#)



ABOUT LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS DE MONTRÉAL

Yesterday, a young ballerina by the name of Ludmilla Chiriaeff, the daughter of Russian immigrants, left Berlin and settled in Montreal to fulfill her dream: teach and share her love for dance. In 1957, she who we called Madame Chiriaeff, created Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the very first professional ballet company in Quebec.

Today, the heart of Montreal beats to the rhythm of dance.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal has become a world-renowned creation, production and performance company, dedicated to the development of ballet in all its forms, while remaining faithful to the spirit of classical technique. It connects with audiences at home and abroad, spurring discovery, stirring emotion, stimulating the imagination and conveying the passion for dance.

Les Grands Ballets strives for excellence and embodies openness, creativity and audacity in an inspired vision of society. All these initiatives are dictated by one conviction: Make the world move. Differently.

Canada

Montréal

Québec

- 30 -

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ÉDIFICE WILDER

**ESPACE
DANSE**



THANK YOU TO THE COMMITTEE

of the major Espace danse funding campaign.

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ÉDIFICE WILDER

**ESPACE
DANSE**



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GREAT PARTNERS**

who supported the project of creating the
Wilder Building Espace danse

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THANKS TO THE DONORS

who chose to have their name or that of a loved one on the wall of Espace danse

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