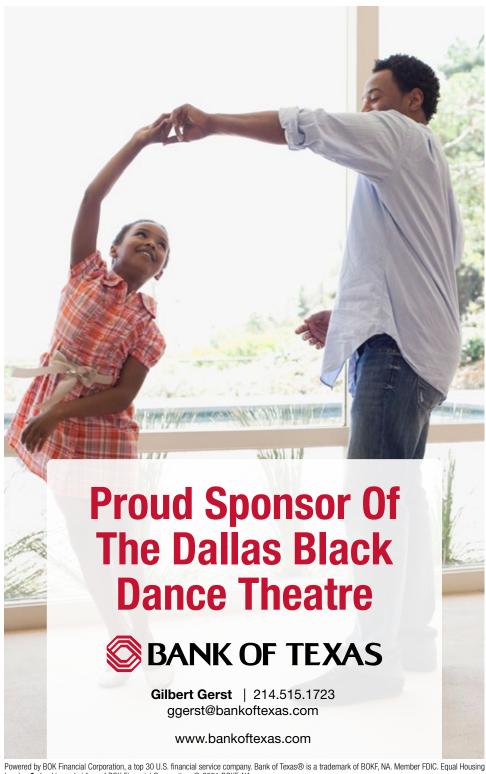


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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MELISSA M. YOUNG

Melissa M. Young is a Honduran-American raised in Santa Ana, California. She attended Orange Coast College with a focus in Business Administration. She is a graduate of The Ailey School—The Official School of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City, During her Fellowship studies, she was one of five students selected to



train as an exchange student at Amsterdam University of the Arts in the Netherlands.

Melissa is celebrating her twenty-eighth season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT). Young started her career at DBDT as a dancer for eleven years, then moved up the ranks as Rehearsal Director, Academy Director, Associate Artistic Director, Interim Artistic Director, and was appointed as Artistic Director in September 2018. Her most notable performances include The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors, and for the U.S. Ambassadors to Ireland and Zimbabwe. She has restaged and rehearsed the diverse repertoire of DBDT, which spans over 100 ballets. She was an Assistant to the Choreographers, Hope Clarke for The Dallas Opera's Porgy and Bess and Christopher L. Huggins for Dallas Theater Center's production of The Wiz. Melissa is most proud of thoughtfully leading DBDT through the pandemic by using the many restrictions as a guide to push the boundaries of her imagination into a creative reality.

Teaching master classes both nationally and internationally, Melissa specializes in the Dance Technique of Lester Horton. She was the primary Horton Technique Instructor for the Dallas Black Dance Theatre company dancers from 1998–2017. As an Adjunct Instructor, she has taught at Southern Methodist University, Texas Woman's University, and Abilene Christian University. Over the years, she has led several movement workshops for Leadership North Texas and Leadership Dallas.

Melissa is a participant of the Leadership Arts Institute, Class of 2022, a program of Business Council for the Arts in Dallas County. She is a member of the International Association of Blacks in Dance, Inc. Melissa has served as an advisory panelist for arts organizations that include the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, Texas Commission on the Arts and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, and is a former board member for the Dance Council of North Texas.

Melissa was presented with The Dancer's Award in 2000 for her artistic excellence and dedication to Dallas Black Dance Theatre. She was chosen as one of "The Talented Tenth" by The Dallas Weekly in 2010, for being a Young and Emerging Leader. In 2014, she received an Award of Recognition from the South Dallas Dance Festival for her service to dance and in 2016, the Natalie Skelton Award for Artistic Excellence. In 2017, Melissa received the Shining Star Award from the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance for her significant contributions to dance in Texas and beyond. During the 57th Annual South Central District Conference of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. in 2019, Melissa was honored with the "We Speak Your Name" Career Achievement Award.

DBDT: ENCORE! ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

NYCOLE RAY

A Detroit native, Nycole Ray graduated from The California Institute of the Arts with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in dance. She received additional training at the California State Summer School of the Arts, Wayne State University, and as an exchange student at the London Contemporary Dance School in England. Mrs. Ray has performed with the Bruce Wood Dance Project, Walt Disney World Entertainment,



Christopher and Friends directed by Christopher L. Huggins, the Lula Washington Dance Theater, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company II and the Zadonu African Dance Company. She has worked with noted choreographers such as Donald McKayle, Dianne McIntyre, Christopher L. Huggins, Alonzo King, Donald Byrd, Bruce Wood®, Rennie Harris and Camille A. Brown. In addition to her concert dance performances, and has appeared in music videos, industrials in the U.S. and Europe.

Nycole created Nineteenth in commemoration of the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, giving women equality and the right to vote through a grant provided by the 19th Amendment Centennial Fund in 2020, as well as works for the University of Dallas, Wayne State University, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, DBDT: Encore!, Milwaukee Dance Connection and Detroit Renaissance High School. Mrs. Ray was commissioned by The Dallas Opera to choreograph Samson and Delilah, and has had collaborations with the Dallas Museum of Art, creating Frida, Frida and Frida based off the Mexico exhibit in 2017, Art on 5th Avenue, based on the contemporary jewelry designs of Author Smith, The Subtle, The Sum...Give More Than You Take, based off of the Jim Hodges: Give More Than You Take exhibit in 2013, The Line of Beauty that Runs Through, based off of the works from The Body Beautiful in Ancient Greece exhibit along with works from their permanent collection in 2013, Le Afrique Masquerade for The Art of Disquise exhibit of African Masks in the fall of 2010 as well as a commissioned work for the Dallas Holocaust Museum in 2009. Nycole is the 2013 recipient of the Natalie Skelton Award for Artistic Excellence from the Dance Council of North Texas.

Mrs. Ray was a featured choreographer for the Ninth FINTDAZ Festival in Iquique, Chile in 2016 as well as the Tenth Annual Choreographers Choice Series in Dallas; and premiered work in Vienna's 2003 International Black Dance Festival, and has shown work at Lincoln Center's Out of Doors Festival. She accompanied Dr. Chuck Davis, as an invited guest, during his annual pilgrimage to Africa, and has been a teaching Assistant and adjunct at Texas Woman's University, Mrs. Ray received the 2011 Artful Dancewear Teachers Scholarship through The Dance Council of North Texas to continue her studies, and is a certified Dunham Technique Instructor.

Nycole Is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and is the Director of Dallas Black Dance Theatre's Summer Intensive program and has served in the past as Rehearsal Director for the Bruce Wood Dance, Assistant Rehearsal Director for Dallas Black Dance Theatre and the Director of Bloom, Dallas Black Dance Academy's Performing Ensemble. This is her 11th year as the Artistic Director of DBDT: Encore! and is a quest artist with DBDT. In 2021, Nycole has been named one of the "Women Who Make Dallas Great" by D Magazine. This, marks her 24th season with Dallas Black Dance Theatre.

DBDT: ENCORE!

ARTISTIC ASSISTANT / BOOKING

ASSISTANT

RICHARD A. FREEMAN, JR.

A native of Washington, D.C., Richard began his training with District of Columbia Youth Ensemble and the Washington Ballet. He received additional training from



Duke Ellington School of the Arts, as well as Virginia Commonwealth University. He danced professionally with Elisa Monte Dance, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Arts Unlimited, and Houston Grand Opera. Mr. Freeman has had the pleasure to perform in Operas/Musicals such as Casa Blanca, Brothers of the Knight, Dreams, Porgy and Bess, The WIZ and Rusalka. Some of his commercial credits include Mary Kay, Holiday Inn. and Chuck E. Cheese. Richard has choreographed works for the Atlanta Dance Connection, Texas Ballet Theater School, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, DBDT: Encore!, Urban Souls Dance Company, Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and I. M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA. Richard has been the resident choreographer for Dallas Black Dance Theatre as well as the ballet master for Spring Cypress Dance Center. He has performed works by world renowned choreographers such as Alvin Ailey, Talley Beatty, Ben Stevenson, Debbie Allen, Christopher L. Huggins, Nejla Y. Yatkin, Alonzo King and many others. Along side performing he also teaches master classes and workshops across the nation. Mr. Freeman is currently the Artistic Assistant for DBDT: Encore! and the Booking Assistant for both DBDT, and DBDT: Encore! This is his 14th season with the company.

CHOREOGRAPHERS

NYCOLE RAY

See DBDT: Encore! Artistic Director bio.

DARRYL B. SNEED

Darryl B. Sneed was a Dallas native, a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School of the Performing and Visual Arts and began performing with DBDT while in high school. Darryl studied at the Harkness School, Dallas Ballet and Dance Theatre of Harlem. He performed with the Workshop Ensemble at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, Jubilation! Dance Company, Hinton Battle, Newark Dance Theatre and Cleo Parker Robinson School Youth in Denver, Colorado. Darryl was the director of the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance School Youth Training Group. Prior to his death in November 1997, he was DBDT's Associate Artistic Director, resident choreographer and principal dancer.

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DBDT: ENCORE! DANCERS



KETREON BUTLER

A native of Plaquemine, Louisiana, Ketreon Butler began his dance training under the direction of Sharon Mathews at Baton Rouge Magnet High School. He was then awarded a full scholarship to train at the Dancer's Workshop and Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre under the artistic direction of Sharon Mathews and Molly Buchmann. He is a graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor's degree in Dance and Business Administration. He has trained on full scholarships at The Oklahoma City Ballet, The Debbie Allen Dance Academy, The National Choreography Intensive, and The American Ballet Theatre. In 2015, he was awarded the Regional Dance America: Choreography Award for his piece *Yearn*. Ketreon has worked with choreographers such as Karen McDonald, Terry Beeman, Joshua L. Peugh, Jessica Hendricks, Nycole Ray, Derion Loman, and Madison Olandt. Ketreon joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2019.



GILLIAN CLIFFORD

Gillian began her dance journey at Center Stage Dance Studio. She recently graduated from Howard University Suma Cum Laude with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Dance and a minor in Stategic, Law, and Management Communications. During her summers, she furthered her training with many prestigious organizations including Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Anthony Burrell's Breaking Barriers, Contemporary West Dance Theatre, Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, and the Radio City Rockettes. At Howard, Gillian had the opportunity to perform in works by Tommie Waheed-Evans, Brian Flynn, Edward Franklin, Darrell Grand Moultrie and many more. Gillian joined DBDT: Encore! in 2021.



MOLLY DAVISON

Originally from Ringwood, New Jersey, Molly Davison began her pre-professional training at the King Centre for the Performing Arts under the artistic direction of Nancy King. Molly furthered her training at the University of Oklahoma, with professors Austin Hartel, Roxanne Lyst, Leslie Kraus and many others. During her time at OU, she had the opportunity to study abroad in Barcelona, Spain, as well as train and perform with Centre de Dansa de Catalunya under the artistic direction of Roser Munoz and Joan Boix. During summer and winter breaks, she also participated in Parsons Summer Dance Intensive and Parsons Choreography Intensive, as well as Broadway Dance Center classes in New York City. Molly has had the opportunity to perform renowned works by David Parsons, David Hochoy and Jean Guillaume Weis. Alongside dance, Molly also choreographed works for the King Centre for the Performing Arts and the Lakeland Dance Team. Molly joined DBDT: Encore! in 2021.



RAYSHARD DEMARCO KEYS

A native of Lafayette, LA. Rayshard began his dance journey at the Lafayette High School Performing Arts Academy and the Hamilton Academy of Dance under the direction of Grace Mayfield. He furthered his training at the Performing Arts Program at the University of Louisiana, Fire Expressions Performing Arts Conservatory, the Jill Listi Dance Studio, and The Ballet Académie. Rayshard was a scholarship recipient to the Ballet Studio, the Clare Cook Dance Theater in Lafayette, LA., the Dance Theatre of Harlem for a 3-week summer intensive and a merit scholarship to the Joffrey Ballet School in Frisco, Texas. Rayshard has performed in *Pepitio's Story* under the Direction of Debbie Allen and staff, with the Legacy Dance Crew at Louisiana State University, Segovia Dance Company, the Zion Dance Project and as an apprentice with Ballet North Texas. Rayshard joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



ALEIGHA MAYO

Aleigha Mayo, A Chicago Native who began her dance journey at the age of 13 at Mayfair Academy of Fine Arts. She is a 2019 graduate from Howard University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in dance, studying Graham technique and Ballet. After college Aleigha went on to continue her dance training in Alonzo King Lines Ballet Training Program. It was there where she deepened her understanding and love of contemporary movement, improv, as well as ballet. Throughout her two years she has had the privilege of performing works by Carmen Rozenstraten, Roderick George, Maurya Kerr, and Sidra Bell.



OLIVIA McCALL

Olivia Wynter McCall, a native of Baltimore, Maryland, began her early training at Baltimore Dance Tech under the direction of Stephanie Powell which sparked her passion for dance. Olivia later attended Baltimore School for the Arts where she graduated in 2017. She furthered her training on scholarship at George Mason University School of Dance where she earned her Bachelors of Fine Arts. She has performed in works by George Balanchine, Rafeal Bonachela, Hope Boykin, Martha Graham, Susan Shields, and many others. She has also attended distinguished intensives including Alonzo King LINES Ballet and Dance Theater of Harlem. She is excited to embark on her new journey as a professional dancer. Olivia joined DBDT: Encore! in 2021.



JERON SANDERS

Jeron Sanders, born and raised in Miami, FL, studied theater at Southwood Middle School Center for the Arts and continued on to New World School of the Arts studying theater and dance. He received additional training at Stars Dance Studio in Contemporary, Jazz Funk, Hip Hop, Ballroom and Ballet education at Armour Dance Theatre. Jeron earned a BFA in dance from Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA, with a concentration in Modern dance and a minor in business management. He has performed works by Martha Graham, Crystal Frazier, Martha Nichols, Edward Liang, Kiki Lucas, and many more. Mr. Sanders future goal is to open or take leadership in an artistic institution to share his knowledge and mentor talented youth in his community. Jeron takes pride in educating others to create their own success from his success. Jeron joined DBDT: Encore! in 2021.



JAVARES SELBY

A native to Augusta, GA, Javares Selby started his career at the John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School with Sharon Mayfield, a New York Dance and Performance Award "Bessie" recipient at the Garth Fagan Dance Company. There he was molded into the inquisitive shape-shifter that explores the ins and outs of the body as canvas. Javares is a 2021 Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) Cum Laude alumnus of The University of the Arts and Presidential Scholar full scholarship recipient to help pursue his four years at Uarts. Mr. Selby has had the grand opportunity of attending the Garth Fagan Dance Summer Movement Institute, where he performed as a soloist in the world renowned choreographer Garth Fagans', From Before in Rochester, NY. He has been in many other works of acclaimed choreographers performing as a soloist for Tommie-Waheed Evans & Katie Swords Thurman, Sidra Bell, Bobbi Jene Smith & Annie Rigney, Da'Von Doane and ensemble for Wendell Gray II, Niall Jones, Stephen Petronio, Jesse Zaritt, and Boris Charmatz. Javares joined DBDT: Encore! in 2021.



BRIANNE SELLARS

Brianne Sellars is a native of Atlanta, GA and started her training under the direction of Lynise Heard and Denise Latimer. Their studio Dancemakers of Atlanta would pave the way of her professional career. She is a 2019 graduate of Point Park University where she performed works by Peter Chu, Kyle Abraham, and José Limón. She has also performed with Komansé Dance Theater under the direction of Raianna Brown. Brianne joined DBDT: *Encore!* in 2021.



MICAH SHERARD

Micah Sherard began his early training in his hometown of Goldsboro, North Carolina and has attended the American Dance Festival as a scholarship recipient. His training has taken him from North Carolina to his new home of Dallas, Texas where he was a company member of Ingredients Dance Company and is a member of The Rev Crew. Throughout Micah's career, he's had the opportunity to perform works by T. Lang, Vincent Hardy, Baba Chuck Davis, and has performed with Grammy – winning gospel artist, Jonathan McReynolds, as well as in industrials and commercials throughout the states. He's also had the opportunity to create works within Texas, North Carolina, and Florida and enjoys teaching. Micah is excited to expand his knowledge and training at Dallas Black Dance Theatre. Micah joined DBDT: Encore! in 2021.

DBDT: *ENCORE!*DANCING BEYOND BORDERS NORTH 2022



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19 seconds... Convene
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Resolution

Choreographer: Nycole Ray (2021)

Special collaboration with Gillian Clifford,

Molly Davison, Aleigha Mayo, Olivia McCall & Brianne Sellars

Music: AGF and Craig Armstrong, Dave Lambert,

Hildur Gudnadóttir, Skuli Sverrisson,

Jóhann Jóhannsson

Lighting Design: Velyncia Caldwell

Costume Design: Nycole Ray

Performers: Ketreon Butler, Gillian Clifford,

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PROGRAMME

Some Moan For Love

Choreographer: Darryl B. Sneed (1995)

Music: Nina Simone

Costume: Nycole Ray

Lighting: Velyncia Caldwell

Performer: Ketreon Butler

—Pause—

Opaque

Not Transparent or translucent; not allowing light to pass through

Choreographer: Nycole Ray (2015)

Music: Max Richter

Lighting: Velyncia Caldwell

Costume Design: Nycole Ray

Dancers: Ketreon Butler, Gillian Clifford,

Molly Davison, Rayshard Keys, Aleigha Mayo, Olivia McCall, Jeron Sanders, Javares Selby, Brianne Sellars, Micah Sherard



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The mission of Dallas Black Dance Theatre is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at its highest level of artistic excellence through performances and educational programs that bridge cultures and reach diverse communities.

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Ann M. Williams +● Mitzi & Charles Willis •

Dancer \$250 - \$499

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Mark Cooks + Amy Crawford Bob Dais & Ardie Jamika Doakes Robbie Douglas +

Nicholas & Ferrell Fellows •

BENEFACTORS CIRCLE & COMPANY MEMBERS March 15, 2021 – March 15, 2022

DANCER, cont. Shelly Garcia & Owen Foster Jeremy Gregg Melisha Head Janice & Smith W. Howard, Jr. • Alan Johnson Sabrina & Cleon McKnight Betty Boyd-Meis Marianne Miller & Stephen Shipp Joyce & Harvey Mitchell • Lori K. Orta • Dr. W.P. Radman Curtis E. Ransom Andrew Recinos Susan Sanders Keira Scanks Luanne Schultz Jeannette Siegel Judy & Phil Smith Bob & Julie Stephenson Diane Stephenson +• Melissa & Paul Stewart Kyle Talkington Chalmers Ward Barbara & Myron Watkins

Apprentice \$100 - \$249

Anonymous (5)
Jeanette Allen
Blanche Anderson
Fonda Arbetter
Joseph Austin &
Veronica
Spencer-Austin •
Jazlyn Avant
Barbara & R. Bardwell •
Dolores & Lawrence
Barzune •
Samuel Bates
Kiara Berry

Calvin Bluiett •

Kila Lynn Bobier Oliver Bowe • Sonya Edmond Braddy Andrea & T.C. Broadnax Joyce F. Brooks Laura Jo & Dr. Jeremy Brown Vickie Bumpass • Louisa Buatti Annika & Dennis Cail Marilyn Calhoun Mildred Carrethers Yevette & Grover Carter Richard Carver Kathy Chamberlain Audrey Clark Monica Coffey • Carol Patrice Dabner Don Dapkus Sarina Davila • Louise & James Davis • Vincent Davis Camille & Jerry Dawson Leah & Dennis Domstead Barbara Dunn-Harrington TaKendra Elbert Blake Evans Karana Fairley Renee Fancher Jesse Fontenette • Sandra & Don Gant Kayla Garcia Damon Gazaway Ann Gibson Ulivia Gilbert Sharon S. Gilmore Marcie Guidry Ann & James Hambleton Eboni Harris Ginger Head Clayton P. Henry Rue Henry Glendora & Calvin Hilton

Anne Holcomb Tanaya Horn Mark Howard • Ashley & Matt Innes Cami Jackson Jennifer L. Jackson Kylonnie Jackson Kaylah Johnson L. Johnson Oliver J. Johnson III Holiday & Merv Jones Anita Kelley Lisa Taylor-Kennedy & Keith Kennedy Kim King Kolle Family Margaret Kulkarni Ding Kuo Mandy Lackey Craig Lewis William Little Oscar Loera Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Logan, Sr. Lisa Marshall Shelia Cheatham-Martin Brittany Mason Conchetta Mason Ma Fe Massengale ** Matthew Mather Thalia Matherson • Charlotte McKenzie Anthony Duane **McPherson** Max McWilliams Chris Moreland • Onyeka Nchege • Arthur Nesty Keith Ogboenyiya Yvette Payseur Jan Pierce Christopher Plumlee • Sandra & A.J. Prampin • Scott Raskin Liza & Brett Raynor Tikila Reeves Paul E. Ridley Mildred Robinson • John Rosenberg Kevin Sample •

BENEFACTORS CIRCLE & COMPANY MEMBERS March 15, 2021 – March 15, 2022

APPRENTICE, cont. Benjamin Sarpong Sheila Scullock Oliver Sims • Carol Sloan-Acosta Andy Smith Aundria Smith Klvne Smith • Sandra T. Smith Allen Spence • Debbie Storey Sharon & Craig Sutila • Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Thibodeaux Cheryl Thompson Ceazari D. Threadgill Alphonce Tumuna Linda S. Vorhies Rosalyn Walker • Maureen & John Wangermann Becky Watson Samuel P. Wenning Petre White + Julie & Fredie Williams Rickey Williams LaTricia & Keith Willis Michael L. Wilson Christy Yip • Melissa M. Young**

Associate \$40 – \$99

Anonymous (8) Michael Akai Thomas Balcom Dr. Sharon L. Blackman Christine Blair Helen Boening Kitty & John Case Audra & Terrence Chavis Hon. William Churchill Gary Conliffe Carli Conner & Kevin Coomer Delisa Cook Tivona Curtis Kimberly Dade Vincent Davis Louise Delano

Tamara Dumas Jean & Nate Eudaly Meriwether & Will Evans Mark & Victoria Faust Paige Fielding Carol & Steve Harlos Amna Hasnain Cherry & David Haymes Pamela Hill David Houghton Harry Ingram Melinda & Jim Johnson Ruth Hernandez Johnson Jill & Charles Johnson Dr. Peggy & Hon. Ronald Jones Felicia Z. Lee Jennifer Lensing Val & Mishic Liberatore Tamesha & Damon Logan Lopez Family Fun at Communities Foundation of Texas Melanie & Terry Magee Rev. Henry Masters, PhD Gwen McAfee Antoine, Kira & Charlee McCov Connie McDonald Matthew McDougal Otto O. Meyers Jo Mondo Erica Moore Elly Nina Mor Philanda Morgan Kristine Nagy Kristin Nill Donald Okoye Kelly D. O'Neal Kimberlie Page **

Rebecca Popoff Steven, Nycole ** &

Essex Ray

Grace Rovner

Bertha Scott

Bettie Scott

Nina Skinner

Kathryn L. Smith

Lynne Richardson

Stacey Souther
Estelle Strong
Mary K. Suhm
Leah Templeton
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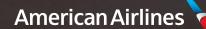
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Photo: TACA board members Ryne Young, PwC (left) and Cameron Kirkpatrick, Baylor Scott & White (right) flank TACA staff member Leah Hammett at the Nasher Sculpture Center. **Photo Credit:** Gittings



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