

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Paul Ballet Receives \$100,000 Grant from the Bob and Kathie Goodale Legacy Foundation to Support New Performing Arts Collective Space and New School Director

Saint Paul, Minn. — 11/19/2025 — St. Paul Ballet (SPB) is thrilled to announce a generous \$100,000 grant from the Bob and Kathie Goodale Legacy Foundation to support the transformation of its new home at the Fairview Business Center into a vibrant performing arts collective; this grant kicks off SPB's Capital Campaign to raise \$425,000 to complete the space. This investment will be used to build out expanded studio spaces, a new flex performance area, and a welcoming public commons, positioning SPB as a cornerstone for community arts in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood.

Alongside its capital efforts, the Goodale grant also supports SPB as it welcomes Elayna Waxse as Interim School Director, marking a renewed commitment to leadership development and succession planning.

The award comes at a pivotal moment for St. Paul Ballet, following a new long-term lease that increases its space from 5,000 to 13,900 square feet. The newly expanded facility will feature four studios, a flex space for rehearsals and performances, acoustic improvements, storage, and a commons/lobby area designed to foster connection and collaboration among artists, students, and the community.

“Our vision for the St. Paul Ballet has always been about more than dance—it’s about building a shared, accessible space where creativity thrives,” said Lori Gleason, Executive Director. “The Goodale Legacy Fund support brings us one step closer to realizing a community arts hub that welcomes everyone—from the smallest children taking their first class to lifelong learners exploring movement and expression.”

The Fairview Business Center, a former warehouse reimaged for creative use, offers an ideal environment for dance and community engagement. With high ceilings, unobstructed floor space, and easy access to public transportation—including the Green Line light rail and major bus routes—the location removes transportation barriers that have historically limited access to arts education, particularly among low-income and marginalized communities.

SPB will share the space with key partners including CAAM Chinese Dance Theater, Ethnic Dance Theatre, Christopher Watson Dance, Hatch Dance, Young Dance, and Taiko Arts Midwest. Together, these organizations will collaborate to curate additional tenants, host performances, and shape the future of the collective.

“St. Paul Ballet’s new chapter is a story of resilience, collaboration, and renewal,” said of the Goodale Legacy Fund. “We’re proud to invest in a space that expands access to the arts while strengthening the cultural fabric of our community.”

Media Contact: Lori Gleason, Executive Director lgleason@spballet.org, 612-203-9055