

BOSTON BALLET

MIKKO NISSINEN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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BOSTON BALLET SCHOOL ANNOUNCES THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW NEWTON STUDIO STUDENTS HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL IN EXPANDED STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY

August 3, 2017 (BOSTON, MA) – Boston Ballet School is starting the school year with the grand opening and all-day open house of its new studio on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, located at 153 Needham Street in Newton, Massachusetts.

“Boston Ballet School is vital to the development and training of the next generation of dancers for national and international audiences. More than 20 percent of Boston Ballet’s professional dancers trained in our school,” said Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen. “I am proud that our new studio is a vibrant learning space for the surrounding communities and reflects the exceptional dance education we provide.”

Designed by global architecture firm Gensler, the 26,550-square-foot facility features seven studios (two more than the previous location), expanded common areas for families, increased locker room space for students, a physical therapy room, family restrooms, and dedicated areas for studying and stretching. Boston Ballet School leadership partnered with Gensler and solicited input from more than 400 constituents to inform the design.

“The design team expertly addressed the growing needs of the community served by the studio while reflecting the high-quality dance education offered by Boston Ballet School,” said Jeanne M. Nutt, Managing Director and Principal of Gensler and member of Boston Ballet’s Board of Overseers. “Students of all ages, faculty, and families alike will enjoy the warm design of the new Newton Studio for years to come.”

The new studio focuses on Boston Ballet School’s commitment to inclusiveness by implementing universal design principles—a philosophy that promotes accessibility and goes well beyond ADA compliance to be welcoming to all. The School serves a diverse population of students ages 2 to adult with a variety of programming: the Children’s Program, Classical Ballet Program, Adult Dance Program, Summer Dance Program, and Adaptive Dance (a program that serves individuals with disabilities).

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"We are pleased to open a forward-thinking studio that reflects the high-quality dance education offered by Boston Ballet School," said Margaret Tracey, Director of Boston Ballet School. "A warm, welcoming space is fundamental to the development of a young dancer's talent, creativity, and focus. I am proud that this new facility reflects these values and fully supports our students."

Boston Ballet achieved its fundraising goal of \$3 million, ensuring that the new studio's vision would be fully realized. The "Campaign for Newton" was led by Campaign Chair and lead donors Pixley and Kenneth Schiciano.

"Boston Ballet School has been serving the Newton community for more than 30 years," said Meredith (Max) Hodges, Executive Director of Boston Ballet. "With this relocation and expansion we will be able to further invest in the arts education of our surrounding communities by offering more programming and improved facilities for new and existing students of all ages and abilities."

The grand opening is an all-day (9 am–9 pm) open house that is free to the public featuring a ribbon cutting ceremony, performances by Boston Ballet II, free classes for adults and children, tours, raffles, ballet bun tutorials, and faculty meet and greets.

Boston Ballet School's Newton Studio is one of three locations that also include Boston's South End and North Shore's Marblehead.

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For more information about Boston Ballet School's new Newton Studio or to register for classes, visit bostonballet.org/school or call 617.456.6333.

Please use the hashtag #bbsNEWtonstudio for social media.

About Boston Ballet

Since 1963, Boston Ballet's internationally acclaimed performances of classical, neo-classical, and contemporary ballets, combined with a dedication to world-class dance education and community initiative programs, have made the institution a leader in its field, with a 54-year history of promoting excellence and access to dance.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Executive Director Meredith Max Hodges, the Company maintains a diverse repertoire, ranging from full-length ballets to new works by some of today's finest choreographers. Boston Ballet's second company, Boston Ballet II, is comprised of dancers who gain experience by performing with the Company and independently, presenting special programs to audiences throughout the Northeast.

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Boston Ballet School, the official school of Boston Ballet, has a long-standing dedication to providing exceptional dance education and ballet training to students across three studios in Boston, Newton, and the North Shore. Led by Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen and Director Margaret Tracey, the School reaches more than 5,000 students (toddler to adult) each year through its four core programs: Children's Program, Classical Ballet Program, Adult Dance Program, and Pre-Professional Program.

Boston Ballet's Department of Education and Community Initiatives (ECI) provides programming, events, and activities that connect the community to dance. ECI reaches more than 4,000 individuals in Boston, North Shore, and the surrounding communities each year through Citydance, ECI on Location, Adaptive Dance, and other community programs.

For more information, please visit bostonballet.org.

Boston Ballet gratefully acknowledges the following institutional partners:

Boston Cultural Council
The Boston Foundation
Klarman Family Foundation
Massachusetts Cultural Council
National Endowment for the Arts

A special thank you to the following institutional partners for their support of the new Newton Studio:

Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund
Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund

About Gensler

Gensler is a global architecture, design and planning firm with 44 locations and more than 5,000 professionals networked across Asia, Europe, Australia, the Middle East and the Americas. Founded in 1965, the firm serves more than 3,500 active clients in virtually every industry. Gensler designers strive to make the places people live, work and play more inspiring, more resilient and more impactful.