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OPPORTUNITY PROFILE

Board Directors



About Alberta Ballet

Sixty years ago, a company of dancers set out to prove that world-class ballet belonged in Alberta. In 2026–27, Alberta Ballet celebrates its Diamond Anniversary and is looking for a small number of exceptional Albertans to help carry the next sixty years.

Alberta Ballet is Alberta's dance company. Founded in Edmonton in 1966 and now headquartered in Calgary, it is one of only a handful of major performing arts organizations in Canada to hold a genuine provincial mandate. It is a company that belongs to two great cities at once, and to the whole province besides.

Today Alberta Ballet is a \$19-million enterprise with three arms working together. The professional Company performs a full season in both Calgary and Edmonton, drawing dancers from around the world. The Alberta Ballet School is an internationally recognized private training institution with academic programs and student residences with students coming from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Mexico, the US, across Canada and throughout Alberta. It is one of the country's most credible pipelines from a child's first class to a professional contract. Alberta Ballet Community delivers recreational classes in both cities for children, youth and adults, alongside outreach programming such as Powwow & Ballet, Access Dance and newcomer partnerships that reach Albertans who might never otherwise walk into a theatre.

Under Artistic Director Francesco Ventriglia, President & CEO Chris George, and School Director, Ashley McNeil, the organization's 2025–2030 strategic plan sets an ambitious course: artistic excellence at home, a return to the international stage in Europe, the Middle East and Asia, and a deeper community reach across the province.

The 60th Anniversary Season opens with a new staging of *Giselle* and includes *Peer Gynt*, *Beethoven 200* and *Snow White*, three world premieres by Ventriglia, alongside *The Nutcracker* and a 60th Anniversary Gala performance in both cities.



The Opportunity: Board Directors

Every city that is taken seriously in the world is taken seriously for its culture. Executives compare job offers based on where their families will live, not only on salary. Physicians, engineers and researchers weigh a city's cultural vibrancy alongside its schools, neighbourhoods and quality of life. Investors read a city's cultural confidence as a proxy for its long-term confidence in itself. A skyline may get a city noticed, but it is the life inside it, the music and theatre and dance, that persuades people to stay.

Calgary and Edmonton have spent a generation building the physical infrastructure of world-class cities. The cultural infrastructure is what converts that investment into a place people choose. Alberta Ballet is one of the few institutions in the province that can stand on a stage in Rome or Dubai and say, credibly, this is what Alberta makes.

The province-building case runs deeper still. Alberta Ballet not only trains students from around the world, but also young Albertans who desire to train to a professional international standard without their having to leave home to do it. It brings free dance programming to communities in Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Fort McMurray, Fort McKay, and Grande Prairie, prioritizing those Indigenous students, socio-economically marginalized kids, and those families new to Canada. Alberta Ballet employs artists, technicians, educators and administrators, and it anchors a broader dance ecology of independent choreographers, studios, and the artists who teach in them, which does not exist at scale without a flagship company at its centre.

Alberta Ballet is recruiting several new Directors to join a volunteer Board of 17, with a formal Southern Alberta and Northern Alberta balance maintained at the Vice Chair level. The Board meets four times per year, with committee work in between; meetings alternate between the cities and are accessible from both.



This is a governance board with a development mandate. The current Board is strong in law, communications, public affairs, arts and philanthropy. What it is seeking now is a group of Directors who bring complementary kinds of reach: relationships and standing in corporate Alberta, particularly energy, real estate and professional services; financial depth to strengthen the Finance and Audit Committee; and audience and brand-building experience to broaden who fills the Jubilee Auditoriums.

An Invitation to Corporate Alberta

Alberta Ballet is in the strongest artistic position of its sixty years, with dancers drawn from nine countries, graduates of its School dancing professionally around the world, audiences filling the Jubilee Auditoriums in both cities, and a Diamond Anniversary season carrying three world premieres.

What the company does not yet have is a corporate community around it equal to the institution itself. Alberta's boardrooms have built hospitals, universities, arenas and galleries. The company that carries Alberta's name onto international stages has simply never had the case made for it, consistently and credibly, in the rooms where those decisions get made.

What We are Asking of You

- **Open doors.** Introduce Alberta Ballet to the people and companies in your network who would be moved by what it does and stay close as those relationships grow.
- **Become a member.** Every Director makes an annual, tax-receipted purchase of the organization's Dance Circle Membership, per its bylaws.
- **Be in the audience.** Directors hold a full-season subscription and use it. It is difficult to speak with real conviction about work you have not seen, and easy once you have.
- **Govern seriously.** Prepare, attend, chair or serve on a committee, and exercise real judgment on strategy, risk and the stewardship of the organization.

This is an unpaid volunteer role. The return is a seat at the table of one of Alberta's defining cultural institutions in the most significant season of its history.



Role of the Board of Directors

Governance

The Alberta Ballet Society is a non-profit organization established under the Alberta Societies Act. The Board governs the business and affairs of the organization, fulfills the purposes of the Act, and exercises all powers of the organization.

What the Board Does

- **Sets direction.** Approves the major strategies, the annual season of dance, the business plan and the budget.
- **Guards the institution.** Oversees internal controls, risk management, financial reporting and compliance.
- **Secures the means.** Ensures Alberta Ballet is positioned to attain the financial support its mandate requires.
- **Chooses and supports the leadership.** Selects, evaluates and hires the Artistic Director and President & CEO; determines senior compensation; plans succession; provides counsel to management.

The Person

Alberta Ballet's Board has assessed its own composition against the demands of the next five years. We are looking for leaders in Calgary or Edmonton whose network is wide, whose word carries weight with corporate decision-makers, and who would take real pleasure in opening doors on Alberta Ballet's behalf. And those who bring the financial acumen, discipline and committee experience needed to reinforce oversight of financial strategy, risk, investment, reporting and long-term stewardship.



What You Bring

- **Reach.** A senior executive, owner, managing partner or civic leader in Calgary or Edmonton, with a network you would be glad to open on Alberta Ballet's behalf.
- **The right relationships.** Corporate sponsorship and community-investment decision-makers, private foundations, family offices and major donors, and the standing to make an introduction that gets returned.
- **Comfort with the ask.** You find it natural, and even enjoyable, to invite people you know to support something you believe in.
- **Governance judgment and financial oversight.** Board or committee experience in a complex organization; able to read a financial statement, test a strategy, and support management without managing. For the Finance and Audit Committee priority, senior experience in banking, broader finance, audit, investment management or corporate finance is especially valuable.
- **Conviction.** You do not need a dance background. You do need to believe that great arts institutions are part of what makes a place worth living in, and to care enough about that to say so publicly and often.

There is one kind of pride that comes from watching a team win, and another that comes from watching your own city make something beautiful. Alberta Ballet is asking a small group of leaders to care for the second as generously as this province has always cared for the first.

Express Your Interest

Email a cover letter and tailored resume, with the job title in the subject line, to John Dugdale at apply@leadersinternational.com.

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