

ARTISTIC INNOVATION

Despite a global pandemic, and sector-wide struggles to maintain financial security, during our *Season of Illumination* Louisville Ballet has achieved incredible artistic success and is operating on a greatly improved financial footing. In the past twelve months:

- We have honored a promise to our dancers to keep them employed and creating art.
- We continued our commitment to being a classical ballet company that celebrates the tradition of the art form.
- We have grown our reputation for bold and brave innovation in dance with a totally virtual season.
- Funded by the Board of Directors, and led by Artistic Director Robert Curran, we have filmed a stunning and poignant *Kentucky! Vol. 1*. It was seen by almost 900 households and in January will be released on the Overture platform. What is Overture? Here's an [article](#) about it.
- We are featuring a ground-breaking collection of original versions of the three great Stravinsky ballets, created by our Resident Choreographers.

This momentum builds toward our 70th Anniversary Season next season when we celebrate the fact that we are one of the oldest ballet companies in the United States. Along with the art we present on our stages, we will also be implementing exciting initiatives that will demonstrate our Artistic Innovation and build a local, national and international reputation for Louisville Ballet. These include:

CHOREOGRAPHY AWARD - a nationally, and internationally, recognized annual award that supports choreographers on the cusp of their careers with a cash prize, a charitable gift to a dance education institution of their choice, and a commission on the season of Louisville Ballet. This award will bring together an international panel of adjudicators, it will broaden the network of contacts/collaborators for Louisville Ballet and it will affirm Louisville Ballet's focus on artistic innovation, the bright future of the art-form, and the ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

NEW DANCE CONFERENCE - a nationally, and internationally, recognized annual conference that brings guests from around the world to discuss dance, dance making, and the future of the art-form. Further demonstrating Louisville Ballet's commitment to artistic innovation this annual conference will turn the nation's eyes on Louisville once a year to learn more about what's new in dance and dance making. It will allow Louisville Ballet to attract diverse talent to participate, and diverse audiences to engage with, both in person and virtually.

VIRTUAL REALITY (VR), AUGMENTED REALITY (AR), AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) EXPERIENCES - a focus on the use of technology in dance art that will add exciting diversity to the collaborators, the programming, and the reputation of Louisville Ballet. Louisville Ballet will be positioned as a leader in the dance community, by delivering performances that incorporate VR, AR and AI. A new generation of dance lovers will be created by incorporating these technologies, and any emerging technologies to come, and featuring them in a digital landscape. These technologies are perfect for the digital stage that has been created in the 20/21 Season of Illumination.