



For Immediate Release

**PRESIDIO DANCE THEATRE TO HOLD  
SPRING SEASON LUNCHEON, SUNDAY JUNE 6  
HONORING FORMER SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.  
FOR HIS ENDURING SUPPORT OF THE COMPANY'S *DANCEOUT!* PROGRAM;  
EVENT CO-CHAIRS FARAH MAKRAS & SONYA MOLODETSKAYA  
PRESENT BENEFIT LUNCHEON AT *SESSIONS-AT-THE-PRESIDIO***



For tickets, visit [presididance.org](https://presididance.org); For video, visit [https://youtu.be/1mFG7KK\\_cnl](https://youtu.be/1mFG7KK_cnl)

SAN FRANCISCO (April 27, 2021) — Presidio Dance Theatre today announced plans to hold a Spring Season Luncheon on Sunday, June 6 at *Sessions-at-the-Presidio*, the sleek modern-designed restaurant nestled in the verdant setting of the historic San Francisco Presidio park. **Farah Makras** and **Sonya Molodetskaya** are the benefit co-chairs leading an event that will honor former San Francisco Mayor, **Willie L. Brown, Jr.**, for his enduring support of Presidio Dance Theatre's acclaimed signature outreach program, *DanceOut!*

Presidio Dance Theatre Executive and Artistic Director **Sherene Melania** commented, "In the spirit of spring, a time of rebirth and renewal, I find myself especially hopeful. Perhaps Lady Bird Johnson said it best: 'where flowers bloom, so does hope.' With that in mind,

I'm delighted we are able to proceed with this year's spring benefit luncheon under the guidance of our lovely co-chairs Farah and Sonya. It is our great pleasure to honor Willie L. Brown, Jr., who's support over the past 23 years has been instrumental to the success of our outreach activities."

"This spring marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our popular Children's Day performances at the War Memorial Opera House," Melania said. "We're also very proud that over 120,000 Bay Area children have benefited from our *DanceOut!* program. On behalf of the Board of Directors and Chair, **Shauna Marshall**, we look forward to celebrating these milestones and a spring season of hope with you!

The company's innovative *DanceOut!* program uses dance as a form of youth development, providing opportunities for sustained engagement in the arts, and advancing racial equity while building social capital. This outreach program provides scholarships to underserved students, and free public performances, lectures and community classes for Bay Area residents.

Scholarship students are fully integrated in the company's community. They are most often recruited in elementary school and remain in the program through high school. Presidio Dance Theatre mentors these students outside of the studio, monitoring their academic trajectory and providing academic support by creating life paths through dance. Approximately 45% of all *DanceOut!* students are the first in their families to attend a university and 99% of all *DanceOut!* graduates pursue a college education.

In a related announcement, this spring marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Presidio Dance Theatre's annual Children's Day concerts at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House. This year's concert will once again be presented in cooperation with the San Francisco Unified School District and shared virtually on Monday, May 17 at 10 a.m. This year's program will feature over 15 high-energy dance works from around the world performed by Presidio Dance Theatre's multi-generational cast.

Presidio Dance Theatre's Springtime Season Luncheon is Sunday, June 6 at 12 noon, at *Sessions-at-the-Presidio* restaurant, One Letterman Drive, San Francisco. Benefit tickets begin at \$175 with various sponsorship tickets ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. A special Young Artists ticket (age 12+) is available at \$75. Proceeds from this event support the company's educational, performance and cultural diplomacy programs. To reserve tickets, visit [www.presidiodance.org](http://www.presidiodance.org).

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**Press Contact:** Jon Finck, [jonfincksf@gmail.com](mailto:jonfincksf@gmail.com) / (415) 577-1323