

For Immediate Release

Contact: Gilda Squire  
Squire Media & Management, Inc.  
212-928-8090 / gildasquire@verizon.net

## **Ballerina/Author/Entrepreneur Misty Copeland Launches The Misty Copeland Foundation**

**BE BOLD, the signature free afterschool dance program of The Misty Copeland Foundation, will focus on helping children engage their bodies, hearts, and minds in learning through ballet**

**New York, NY (September 15, 2022)** – Groundbreaking ballerina Misty Copeland announced today the launch of The Misty Copeland Foundation (MCF), a new non-profit organization that aims to bring greater diversity, equity, and inclusion to dance, especially ballet. The MCF's signature program, **BE BOLD**, is a free afterschool dance program, that is designed to serve girls and boys, ages 8-10, in community-based, child-focused settings. **BE BOLD** is an acronym, which translates into **B**allet **E**xplorations, **B**allet **O**ffers **L**eadership **D**evelopment, and aims to make ballet accessible, affordable, and fun for children.

In designing the **BE BOLD** teaching and learning framework, Copeland brought together a group of diverse leaders from ballet, dance education, DEI, and child development as an advisory council to make sure that the program would holistically serve children – mind, body, and spirit.

The **BE BOLD** model has five linked program components: Introductory Ballet, Music for Ballet, Health & Wellness, Tutoring, and Mentoring. The twelve-week program, beginning this month, will initially launch at six sites of the Kips Bay and Madison Square Boys & Girls Clubs in New York City. The selected Clubs have the staff and facilities in place to provide a dance-based program and mentorship to its young Club members.

“I’ve shared my story about how I discovered ballet at 13 years old on the basketball court of my local Boys & Girls Club in San Pedro, CA, and four years later, I moved to New York City to join American Ballet Theatre. It was because someone at that Club saw something in me that I had not seen in myself,” says Copeland. “In thinking about establishing The Misty Copeland Foundation and its **BE BOLD** program, it was important to me to provide to children the same type of opportunity and environment that helped build a path for me to succeed not just in this artform, but in my life overall.”

At the heart of **BE BOLD** are the program’s teaching artists, who were personally vetted and selected by Copeland and her MCF team. The teaching artists are completing a week of training in partnership this week with the NDI Collaborative for Teaching and Learning in Harlem before beginning to work at the **BE BOLD** sites.

“I’m thrilled that The Misty Copeland Foundation partnered with the NDI Collaborative for Teaching and Learning, the professional development center of the National Dance Institute ([www.nationaldance.org](http://www.nationaldance.org)), to train our **BE BOLD** teaching artists,” says Copeland. “NDI, founded by the late Jacques d’Amboise, has a long and impressive history of engaging tens of thousands of children of diverse backgrounds and abilities through arts education. I couldn’t think of a better organization to help provide our teaching artists with the necessary tools to work with MCF’s young participants.”

The Misty Copeland Foundation has also engaged Dr. Gess LeBlanc, a Hunter College professor whose research focuses on culturally responsive teaching, to guide development of **BE BOLD**’s evaluation system to measure program impact.

The Ford Foundation and The Goldman Sachs Foundation’s *One Million Black Women* initiative are lead founding funders of the **BE BOLD** program. Other founding funders include the Arison Arts Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, John and Jody Arnhold, and the Wendy E. Scripps Foundation. The Misty Copeland Foundation is also grateful for the generous support provided by other individuals and families.

For more information about The Misty Copeland Foundation, please visit [www.mistycopelandfoundation.org](http://www.mistycopelandfoundation.org) or follow us at (social media channels).

#### **The Misty Copeland Foundation:**

MCF, founded by ballerina Misty Copeland, aims to provide opportunities for children in under-resourced communities to engage their bodies, hearts and minds in learning through dance, especially ballet; advance the art form of ballet through greater diversity, equity and inclusion; and pursue social justice through arts activism.

#### **National Dance Institute:**

National Dance Institute (NDI), founded in 1976 by New York City Ballet principal dancer Jacques d’Amboise, is an arts education leader worldwide. Since its founding, NDI has impacted the lives of more than two million children through engagement in immersive, participatory dance and music programs. NDI disseminates its acclaimed teaching method through the NDI Collaborative for Teaching & Learning, a professional development program for teaching artists, dance educators, musicians, and organizations. Through school partnerships, after-school classes, public performances, and teaching artist trainings, NDI’s inclusive programming delivers invigorating and joyful responses to the critical need for transformative and relevant arts education for all children. Each year, NDI delivers its award-winning arts and learning programs to more than 6,000 public school children per week throughout New York City and reaches thousands more through 12 NDI associate programs across the United States.

#### **Boys & Girls Clubs of America:**

For 160 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America ([BGCA.org](http://BGCA.org)) has provided a safe place for kids and teens to learn and grow. Clubs offer caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Boys & Girls

Clubs programming promotes academic success, good character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles. More than 4,900 Clubs serve over 4.3 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. National headquarters are located in Atlanta. Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of America on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

**The Ford Foundation:**

The Ford Foundation is an independent organization working to address inequality and build a future grounded in justice. For more than 85 years, it has supported visionaries on the frontlines of social change worldwide, guided by its mission to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. Today, with an endowment of \$16 billion, the foundation has headquarters in New York and 10 regional offices across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

**The Goldman Sachs Foundation – *One Million Black Women Initiative:***

In partnership with Black-women-led organizations, financial institutions and other partners, Goldman Sachs has committed \$10 billion in direct investment capital and \$100 million in philanthropic capital over the next decade to address the dual disproportionate gender and racial biases that Black women have faced for generations, which have only been exacerbated by the pandemic. The initiative, [One Million Black Women](#), is named for and guided by the goal of impacting the lives of at least one million Black women by 2030. Goldman Sachs' research [Black Womenomics](#) has shown that sustained investments in Black women will catalyze economic growth, making for not only a fairer, but also a richer society.

###