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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dance/USA Announces Executive Director Andrea Snyder Will Step Down in 2011

Washington, DC – Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance, announces that **Executive Director Andrea Snyder** will step down in June 2011 after more than 11 years in the position.

“I believe it's time for a change, not just for me, personally, but for Dance/USA,” notes Ms. Snyder. “I strongly believe that Dance/USA can benefit from the energy, vision, skills, talents, and dynamics new leadership can bring. The field is changing; the world is changing. It's time for a new voice to set an exciting and valuable course for the future of Dance/USA.”

During Ms. Snyder's tenure with Dance/USA, the organization has grown from a budget of less than \$900,000 to over \$2 million with a staff of 16; established three branch offices to service local communities in New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC; inaugurated two major national initiatives to strengthen the field – the National College Choreographers Initiative and Engaging Dance Audiences – and managed Irvine Dance in California to support choreographers in the state; greatly strengthened and expanded its research and advocacy capacities; launched a study to explore export strategies for American dance; co-sponsored six years of the National Dance Presenters Leadership Forum and co-published an accompanying guidebook, *Presenting Dance*; and was a major planning partner for two National Performing Arts Conventions, among other things. Upon leaving Dance/USA, Ms. Snyder intends to serve as a personal and executive coach, working with artists, administrators, and arts organizations to help their growth, achievement, and leadership.

“For close to 10 years, Andrea has been an extremely dedicated and strong leader of Dance/USA and the entire dance field,” reflects **Paul King**, Dance/USA board chair and co-founder of White Bird. “While the Board of Dance/USA continues to support and appreciate Andrea's leadership of our organization, we respect and support her request to make this transition.”

(more)

Over the next 18 months, Dance/USA's Board of Trustees will implement a comprehensive plan for the Executive Director search and transition. The Board has established a nine-member committee to initiate and implement the search for Ms. Snyder's replacement over the next 12 months. The **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** has granted Dance/USA \$60,000 to implement this comprehensive search plan.

The members of the search committee are: **Karen "KB" Brown** (Philadelphia), **Wayne Hazzard** (San Francisco), **Paul King** (Portland, OR), **Ken Maldonado** (NYC), **Cookie Ruiz** (Austin, TX), **Johanna Seltzer** (Washington, DC), **Ken Tabachnick** (NYC), **Nancy Umanoff** (NYC), and **Jawole Willa Jo Zollar** (Brooklyn and Florida). An advisory group is also being created to engage with the committee when needed.

Interviews with board members, staff, funders, consultants, peer leaders, and Dance/USA members will be ongoing through the first phase of the process; analysis from these conversations will help to clarify specific skills and priorities for the position. The job announcement will be posted in late spring 2010 and the committee will interview final candidates by late fall 2010 with the goal to confirm an appointment by early 2011. The new Executive Director will have several months of overlap with Ms. Snyder, who will serve in a part-time, advisory capacity before she officially leaves Dance/USA on June 30, 2011.

About Dance/USA

Dance/USA is the national service organization for the professional dance field. We believe that dance is essential to a healthy society, demonstrating the infinite possibilities for human expression and potential, and facilitating communication within and across cultures. Dance/USA sustains and advances professional dance by addressing the needs, concerns, and interests of artists, administrators and organizations. By providing services and national leadership, Dance/USA enhances the infrastructure for dance creation, education and dissemination.

Established in 1982, Dance/USA is a membership organization serving a broad cross-section of professional dance (currently over 400 ballet, modern, ethnic, jazz and tap companies, dance service and presenting organizations, individuals, and related organizations). With an informed understanding of local dance communities and an eagle-eye view of dance nationally, we occupy a unique position in the field. By working primarily in the interests of our membership, Dance/USA strengthens the dance field as a whole and the performing arts field in general. Dance/USA's priorities include **advocating** for dance, providing **information & research** on the field, **convening & networking**, and **building leadership** among dance professionals. Learn more about Dance/USA and our branch offices by visiting our website, www.danceusa.org.

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