

VERDERY ROOSEVELT APPOINTED SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT AT THE UPPER MANHATTAN EMPOWERMENT ZONE

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New York, N.Y. – Verdery Roosevelt has been appointed as the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corp.'s (UMEZ) new Senior Vice-President for Program & Non-Profit Investments; she will manage the Cultural Industry Investment Fund.

Ms. Roosevelt had previously served as Executive Director of Ballet Hispanico for over three decades, where, in partnership with Founder and Artistic Director Tina Ramirez, she led its growth from a community-based organization to become the nation's preeminent ambassador of Hispanic culture. During her tenure, she produced over 50 new works for the Company, which performed in leading concert halls throughout South America, Europe and the United States; built annual scholarship support to over \$125,000 for the School of Dance; and expanded Ballet Hispanico's educational program, *Primeros Pasos*, to serve 20,000 students nationwide each year.

Additionally, Ms. Roosevelt directed the initial \$1.8 million purchase and renovation of Ballet Hispanico's permanent headquarters on Manhattan's Upper West Side, as well as the subsequent \$9.3 million expansion, which doubled the size of the facility's capacity.

She has also served as Chairman and Board Member of Dance/USA, the national service organization for professional dance. She has been a guest speaker at numerous arts administration seminars and programs, including New York University, the University of Wisconsin, and the Yale School of Drama, and has served as a panelist for national, state and local arts agencies.

In 2004, Ms. Roosevelt received a Women of Achievement Pacesetter Award from the New York City Council; the Arts Management Career Service Award in 2000; and a 1981 Management Achievement Award from ACUCAA, now Association of Performing Arts Presenters.

Ms. Roosevelt, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Alabama and her Master's Degree from the School of Business/Bolz Center for Arts Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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