

PRESS RELEASE

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE REGROUPEMENT QUÉBÉCOIS DE LA DANSE
The Master Plan Takes Centre Stage!

Montreal, October 31, 2011 – There was a record turnout at the 27th annual meeting of the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD), held on October 29, 2011, at the Circuit-Est centre chorégraphique. Over one hundred RQD members gathered to discuss the implementation of the **Master Plan for Professional Dance in Quebec 2011–2021**, five months after its unveiling.

Following the general assembly, in which Marc Boivin was unanimously chosen to continue as President of RQD, members were invited to describe how they have adopted the Master Plan. For many, it was an opportunity to publicly express their engagement and commitment to implementing the Plan. There are several initiatives already aligned with the Master Plan, notably a project announced at the meeting by Marie Chouinard, accompanied by Sylvain Émard, to be unveiled to the media in the coming days.

In the afternoon, over sixty people participated in workshops aimed at laying the foundations for a collective strategy to promote dance across Quebec, as per one of the five areas of expansion in the Master Plan: geographic expansion. There was no shortage of creativity and enthusiasm among participants, and their efforts will no doubt bear fruit in the months to come.

This 27th annual meeting of RQD members allowed us to concretely assess the Master Plan's ability to engage and unite people in a community that's already taking action! Despite the current economic climate, RQD President Marc Boivin is confident that, starting in 2012, the various levels of government will support the implementation of the Master Plan. "What I've heard today is that this Master Plan is supported by an entire community and that it will serve as a superb strategic planning model for the next 10 years. The key partners of the Master Plan must respond, as of this year, with increased public funding for the discipline."

To implement the Master Plan, RQD is backed by a solid Board of Directors. President Marc Boivin, well known in the milieu as a performer, teacher and choreographer, is joined by: Susan Alexander, Administrative Director of Ballet Divertimento; Mélanie Demers, Artistic Director of Mayday; Danièle Desnoyers, choreographer and Artistic Director of Le Carré des Lombes; Pierre Desmarais, Artistic and Executive Co-Director of Danse Danse; Karla Étienne, Executive Assistant, performer and teacher at Compagnie Danse Nyata Nyata; Isabelle Gagnon, performer; Tessa Goulet, arts manager; Sylvain Lafortune, teacher and performer; and Jamie Wright, performer and teacher.

The **Regroupement québécois de la danse** (RQD) is a non-profit association that represents and defends the interests of close to 500 dance professionals, including performers, choreographers, teachers, researchers, rehearsal directors, cultural workers, creators, specialized presenters, dance companies, professional dance schools and service organizations. Active at the municipal, provincial and federal levels, **RQD** has sought to advance all aspects of professional dance for over 25 years. Since June 2, 2011, **RQD** and its members have had a valuable new tool at their disposal: the **Master Plan for Professional Dance in Quebec 2011–2021**.

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SOURCE:

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