

Lourdes Lopez

Arts & Entertainment

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Alumni Hall of Fame 2018

After nearly four decades as an acclaimed dancer and arts executive in New York, Lourdes Lopez came home to Miami in 2012 to head Miami City Ballet as the second artistic director of the esteemed company founded by the great Edward Villella. The ballet's stature has only grown in artistry and acclaim under her direction and vision.

Born in Havana just before Cuba's fall, Lourdes fled with her family to Miami, starting ballet lessons at age five on a doctor's recommendation and attending school at Coral Way Elementary and Shenandoah Junior High.

She earned a full scholarship at eleven to New York City Ballet's "School of American Ballet," training in Miami during the year and in New York in summer. She moved to New York at fourteen to study there full time, earning a spot in the company's corps de ballet just after her sixteenth birthday.

As a soloist and principal dancer, Lourdes danced for two legends of the art form, George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, dancing featured roles in Firebird, The Four Temperaments, and other classics.



On retiring from the dance she reported on arts and culture for New York's WNBC-TV, later joining the faculty and administration of Ballet Academy East and the dance faculty of Barnard College.

As executive director of The George Balanchine Foundation and co-founder of the The Cuban Artists Fund and the New York-based Morphoses dance company, Lourdes gained the experience and reputation to lead a major American ballet company and to join the Ford Foundation's Board of Trustees, the first artistic ever elected to serve.

For her work at the highest levels of artistry, education, philanthropy, and management in cultivating excellence in the dance and the arts, in Miami and across the country, we are proud to welcome Lourdes Lopez to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Alumni Hall of Fame.

