



# TECHNICAL THEATER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 2, 2022 | 4:00 PM | Zoom

## LPC Mission Statement

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

## LPC Planning Priorities

- ❖ Implement the integration of all ACCJC standards throughout campus structure and processes.
- ❖ Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.

## Technical Theater Advisory

### Voting:

Rachel Anderson, LPC Alumna  
Gary Brunclik, The Bankhead Theater  
Helena Cruz, Las Positas College  
Mark Duncanson, Pleasanton Civic Arts  
Erica Engel, The Bankhead  
Carol Hovey, LHS and TVRT  
John Kelly, LPC Faculty  
Cyndi Lagodzinski, Director  
Amy Matter, LPC  
Mike Rinaldi, Northern Lights  
Bonnie Schmidt, Livermore Opera  
Vicki Shipman, LPC  
Lisa Tromovitch, Liv. Shakespeare Festival

## Meeting Agenda

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

John Kelly, Helena Cruz, Amy Mattern, Bonnie Schmidt, Mark Duncanson, Lisa Tromovitch, Mike Rinaldi, Gary Brunclik, Cyndi Lagodzinski

### 2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Cynthia motioned to approve and Gary seconded. Motion passed.

### 3. Industry Update

#### Livermore Valley Opera (Bonnie)

- Otello received rave reviews. Emily Paulson is our new production manager and was happy to work with the Bankhead Theater.
- This summer we have several operas scheduled in the Vineyard.
- This fall we will be doing an Elixir of Love. And in March of 2023, we are doing Tosca

#### SPARC (Lisa)

- Three shows at Darcie Kent Vineyards with a new stage this summer.
  - Issue: Understaffed and getting the help that we need.
- Over the past two years, our new building capital has been put on hiatus during Covid. We are relaunching our capital campaign. Our goal is to be on the City Council docket on May 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - We have a piece of land picked out in the Stockman's Park development—we have the grassy area of the park, the veteran's statue near the science center, and the black box experimental theater space to do kind of things we couldn't do in the Bankhead Theater and so that we can go full time. We have a cultural core of diverse groups providing a variety of theatrical and educational events.
- Women's Theater Festival - just did a reading last Monday and a new play Winter's Passage by Jennifer LeBlanc. It's ready for full production.
- Sponsored a reading at the University of the Pacific of a new play that is the first draft about an artist in the 1930s when they were just starting art therapy.

#### Firehouse Arts Center (Mark)

- Previously working with Bay Area Children's Theatre.
- Was able to have live events in the mix of different mandates.
- For the first time in three years, we are going back to about 90% of summer drama camp.

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- Artists are open and available to be open on our stage. We have a shortage of theater technicians. We are in the middle of recruitment for a full-time technician. Bob Elliott retired back in December and Mike Roberts is in his position.
- We are trying to reshape our focus on the Firehouse to focus on multiple Bay Area acts. We have many talented people in dance and ensemble. We have a full-time staff that is brand new from coordinator to manager.

### **Bankhead Theater (Gary)**

- During the pandemic, I left Livermore and flipped houses for a year. Luckily for me, I have some skillset besides production.
- Sales are going very well and raised a lot of money during the pandemic. We were able to upgrade our PA and acoustics, and networking state-of-the-art. There is a 150% difference in our sound quality and very happy about that.
- We have booked 1/3 more shows at the Bankhead and moving forward our season is quite full.
  - Looking for good lighting technicians.
- We have dropped our mask mandate following Alameda County Health Department and as a result more people are returning to the theater.

### **Cynthia (Self-Employed)**

- Things are coming back and I am under contract to perform this summer.
- Find that some people are unwilling to work if the cast is not fully vaccinated.
- I'm going back to school for my master's in directing.

### **Northern Lights/LPC Staff (Mike)**

- We are working again and we have rentals happening with Bankhead and Firehouse.
- We have a busy calendar coming up and bookings with festivals, etc.

## **4. Faculty Report**

### **John Kelly**

- We have low enrollment right now. I'm teaching Stagecraft over the summer so that students can go out and know how to use the tools and hang lights.
- We had our first live show in the summer last year – a cabaret production in the outside amphitheater.
- We've had no cases of Covid during our productions.
- We have a mask mandate that goes through the summer.
- Our summer production is Little Shop of Horrors. We found a place in Tracy that rents a theater package that includes the puppets and the dentist's chair.
- Peter and the Star Catcher was over the fall and was a successful production. However, audiences were not that big for this. We did the High Fidelity production in the spring and it was well received.
- We are working on recruitment for performing arts students as enrollment is very low. We attended a conference on theater educators in Baltimore and know that this problem is happening nationally. Part

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of this is from high school theater programs being shut down during the pandemic and we are seeing the downstream effects of this.

- We are continuing the general CTE program and had a few people fulfill the requirements during the pandemic. One for Stage Management and we are hoping to have a few more folks soon.

### 5. Recommendations from the Advisory Board

- **John Kelly** - Would like to find out what our advisory board members need and would like to get your ideas.
  - **Mark Duncanson** – we like to get students engaged in theater venue management and other programs that we can start and sustain. We want students to experience different options in a theater so they have tools in their tool belts. In our summer camps, we built a farm team of improvisers and actors and we want the same for technical theater where they will learn to run the sound and light board and interpret a stage plot so they can assist and learn what is possible to do when getting to LPC. We are trying to change this at a high school level. We can be a satellite for a community college and would like to explore these options to collaborate with LPC.
  - **Lisa Tromovitch** – Our tech is outdoors and pretty simple. We can be at a beginning level for our soundboard position this summer. We need people that are growing into this career. Students don't need their certificate to work with us on the tech side. We need to encourage students to use Handshake for recruiting purposes. Cal State East Bay is doing a virtual job fair through Handshake – Handshake is like LinkedIn for college students. Also, Lisa needs to buy Covid tests in bulk and Gary B sent her two contacts that can help.
  - **John Kelly** – important to get students to look at Handshake. Getting more resources for job boards and might create a lesson plan or documents on a webpage on how to obtain jobs in the industry. Also, I'd like to inventory our pieces so that it's available for sharing with theaters. Kelly mentioned sending out a regular email to local places to keep in touch and share information on Covid tests and Handshake.
  - **Gary B** – is going to post on Handshake and is encouraged.
  - **Cynthia** – important for students to learn how to get a gig or to document their work for auditions. Tools are changing so quickly and might be important to have a class to promote looking for a job.
  - **Bonnie** – We do projections for every opera. We've built multiple platforms and multiple stairs for Otello. We do rentals from Utah Opera and have an incredible inventory of costumes; very seldom do we have to modify the sizes of the costumes. Sending back is easy, no cleaning is necessary. Occasionally, I pull from Douglas Morrison.

**6. Next Regular Meeting (Date) – Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.**

**7. Adjournment – 5 p.m.**