

**Western Alliance of Arts Administrators Foundation
dba Western Arts Alliance**

2009 Annual Meeting of the Membership

Phoenix, Arizona

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel

Encanto A, Second Floor

340 North 3rd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Draft Agenda

Friday, September 4

9:15 – 11:00 a.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Introduction of Board of Directors
- IV. Approval of Minutes: 2008 Membership Meeting
- V. President's Report
- VI. Executive Director's Report
- VII. Treasurer's & Finance Committee Report
- VIII. Nominations Committee Report (see candidate slate)
- IX. Election of Officers and Directors
- X. Other Business
- XI. Open Forum with the WAA Board and Executive Director
- XII. Adjourn

Western Alliance of Arts Administrators Foundation
dba Western Arts Alliance
2008 Membership Meeting
Friday, September 5th, 2008
Seattle Sheraton Hotel

Call to order

President Aaron Egigian of Orange County Performing Arts Center calls the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion

Resolved: The membership approves the agenda. The motion is made by Michael Reed, Second by Michael Alexander.

Motion carries.

Introduction of Board of Directors

Mr. Egigian introduces the current board: David Fischer (Vice President, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts); John Haynes (Secretary and Treasurer, Performing Arts Center Eastside); Myron Martin (Immediate Past President, Smith Center for the Performing Arts); Directors Cory Baker (Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts); Marc Baylin (Baylin Artists Management); Itzik Becher (Aviv Productions Inc.); Nancy Christensen (MCM Artists); Romana Jaroff (IMG Artists); Lindsey Nelson (Flowerpot Productions); Harold Norris (H-Art Management); Michael Reed (ASU Public Events); Todd Walker (International Music Network).

Approval of Minutes: 2007 Membership Meeting

Motion

Resolved: The membership approves the 2007 Membership Meeting Minutes. Motion by Renae Williams, Second by Paul King.

Motion carries.

President's Report

WAA board and staff reviewed responses to last year's conference in Los Angeles, and participated in a Strategic Planning session to move WAA forward into the next two to three years.

Feedback for the 2007 Conference provided a surprising level of support for the changes WAA has made and continues to make, particularly from presenter members. Many exhibitors expressed support but also concern over such issues as Open versus Accessible Hours, foot traffic, hotel configuration and the conference schedule. While no consensus was reached by the board regarding Open and Accessible Hours, we recognize the need to identify and clarify both policy and protocol. Conference feedback also reflected solid support for Performance West.

Each year staff and board review all these responses, and within the constraints of time, space and our budget, introduce changes and adjustments to the conference schedule. This feedback is what influenced staff to ensure as many exhibits and salon conversation areas could be on one floor as possible.

In April, board and staff participated in a strategic planning session. David Fischer will speak in further detail about this during his Strategic Plan Update. In just over a decade Aaron has seen how technology has transformed how we do business. With the fiscally challenging year WAA and many of us have faced, we need to lay the groundwork now to successfully ride the next big wave. He believes that if we look at ourselves as a community of partners, not buyers and sellers, we can easily accomplish that.

Aaron joined the WAA board in 1999 when he was head of San Jose Conferences. This experience has enriched his life, and as he rotates off to the position of Immediate Past President, Aaron thanks the membership for having the privilege to serve in this role. He thanks his fellow board members and Tim and the staff for the great work they do.

Executive Director's Report

Tim begins by acknowledging the array of economic, political and cultural woes affecting the field, and reiterates that all of those issues that affect each member organization equally affect WAA.

This year's conference attendance is down 14 percent from last year. While this is a lot, it is mostly due to the fact that we have fewer exhibits this year—185 here in Seattle versus 240 last in Los Angeles.

The exhibit hall changes WAA began several years ago—moving from convention centers to hotels—while difficult in certain regards, are aligning exhibit inventory with current demand and reducing our fixed costs. The size of our exhibit hall is in line now with demand.

Presenter pre-conference registration here in Seattle, while down a bit from Los Angeles, was higher than that of the Long Beach Conference in 2006, the Albuquerque Conference in 2005 and the Spokane Conference in 2004, so presenter numbers are very strong. The ratio of pre-registered artist manager attendees to presenter attendees was in fact 50:50, making for a more focused and balanced marketplace.

A few more signs of this year's success:

- At the beginning of the conference, WAA's block of hotel rooms was oversold by 110 percent. It is clear to us that people are interested in attending our conference.
- The NextGen party on Tuesday night at the Triple Door was a smash success. WAA's Networking Committee, led by board members Cory Baker and Todd Walker, is doing phenomenal work to build a cohort of members among the new generation of presenters and agents.

- Our professional development institute programs sold very well this year. Two seminars sold out and were moved to larger rooms to accommodate this demand, and then sold out again—a fact that has everything to do with both the quality and timeliness of the content. Tim thanks Jerry Yoshitomi for organizing Sell More Tickets Raise More Money, NAPAMA for bringing us the important taxation courses, and Sue Endrizzi for her work.
- Over 300 delegates attended our Performance West events, including more than 100 WAA delegates that gave up their Labor Day holiday to come to Seattle early and participate in Bumbershoot. Tim thanks Todd Walker for his work with Scott Giampino at the Triple Door, Wier Harmon at Town Hall, Gary Bannister at Jazz Alley and Bob Redmond at Bumbershoot, and Gena Buhler at Fifth Avenue Theatre. Tim was very pleased with how Performance West turned out this year and looks forward to working in Phoenix for our Performance West program there.
- This spring the board decided to offer one Juried Showcase Session per day, making for a more competitive adjudication process and a larger audience for the participating artist and an altogether stronger showcase.

Tim does expect this coming year to be something of a challenge for WAA financially, but he believes WAA is in a far better position now as a result of these changes than we would have been if this conference was taking place next door at the Washington Convention Center.

Plans for the Year Ahead:

- This last year WAA's Membership Committee began work on a new membership plan, and they will be continuing that development with support from our Membership & Communications Manager Robin Mullins.
- One of the things we want to do first is to re-define the community of WAA –who comes and who belongs. First we are going to look at discontinuing secondary memberships. We want to create professional interest groups so that any staff of our member organizations can be 100 percent a part of the Western Arts Alliance community.
- This year we will begin work on a membership and association management database that is web-enabled, providing new tools and a simpler user interface for everything from membership to the conference and our ancillary activities. This is a large and complex project expected to take nearly two years and cost \$100,000. We hope to have it launched by the 2010 conference.
- We will also work to automate our onsite registration system, to make the process easier for our members and the WAA staff.
- Next year we'll be in Phoenix, Arizona, August 31st - September 4th, at the brand new Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel. The hotel is opening at the end of this month. It has a bit more exhibit space but still allows us to configure the hall in a similar way to this

conference in Seattle. The dates are set for the conference to fall before Labor Day weekend.

- We are returning in 2010 to Long Beach and the Long Beach Convention Center and Hyatt Hotel.
- Just before this conference, WAA and Perfomania launched our new partnership, which links WAA's membership database to Perfomania's powerful artist management tools. Starting this fall, WAA members may sign up for a free account and use Perfomania to publish artist rosters, press kits, audio/video samples and more.
- Finally, we are working on a Mexico project that will support Performance West programming for the conferences in Phoenix and in Long Beach (2010). 2010 is the bicentennial of Mexican independence, and the 100-year anniversary of the Mexican Revolution. We are in conversation with ArtésAmericas, University of Guadalajara and others to create a program for the 2009 and 2010 conferences. And as a part of this project, we hope to re-launch the old WAA Leadership Institute as the WAA Institute for a retreat in Mazatlan in the spring of 2010.

Tim thanks the many people who have worked together to create this conference:

- Cory Baker and Itzik Becher, co-chairs of the Professional Development Committee, and Sue Endrizzi for her work and guidance in developing this year's program.
- Our onsite volunteers Devon Zotovitch lent by Peter Lesnik from the Sunset Center and Brian Schaefer lent by Marty Wollesen from University of California San Diego.
- Our onsite staff Connie Lane, Showcase Production Manager; Chris Moore, Commons Manager and Laura's right hand; and Joel Mathews and Christy Lutz from Portland.
- WAA's core conference staff, Chelsea Maricle, Robin Mullins and Laura Ricker.
- Aaron Egigian for his great council and hard work as president and Myron Martin for his banter and wit while serving as president and immediate past president.
- The WAA Board.

Treasurer's & Finance Committee Report

John Haynes begins by thanking Renae Williams, his predecessor, for her leadership as Secretary/Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee, and her stewardship of Western Arts Alliance's finances. Three months ago John was elected to replace Renae when she resigned due to her pregnancy.

John introduces the Finance Committee: David Fischer, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts; Romana Jaroff, IMG Artists; Shoji Kameda, On Ensemble; Patricia Harris, Office of Cultural Affairs, City of Las Vegas; and Deirdre Valente, Lisa Booth Management; staffed by Tim Wilson.

The financial statements for Fiscal Year 2007 ending June 30 were audited by Claridad & Crowe, Certified Public Accountants of Larkspur, California. Unrestricted Revenue was \$712,013. Expenses of \$702,304 left WAA with a modest increase in unrestricted net assets of \$9,709. Revenue was up nearly 12 percent from the previous fiscal year. WAA's net assets increased by \$14,709 over that previous year-end. When measured against WAA's own financial plan, revenue for the year came in 20 percent over budget, though expenses were in turn 39 percent over budget. Though the surplus was modest, there was a surplus.

The auditors did not issue a management letter. Fiscal Year 2008 just ended June 30. We don't have a report since it is so soon after the close of the year. We are still working to close the books, but Tim is happy to report that we have a third straight surplus. Though still unaudited it appears to be in the range of \$30,000 - \$50,000. Our cash position at year's end was up \$12,000 over the previous year, and \$105,000 over Fiscal Year 2006.

The Year Ahead for the Finance Committee:

- WAA has engaged a new auditor, Kern & Thompson, based in Portland, Oregon. This fall staff will prepare schedules for the firm's audit of the Fiscal Year 2008 financial statements. We have chosen to delay the beginning of the audit to later in the calendar year to take advantage of lower fees, so we expect this work to be complete in early 2009.
- Upcoming work with board, committee and staff will include a review of personnel policies, employee benefits, accounting procedures, and governance policies, all processes that benefit from periodic review.
- We will continue work initiated by the Board and Finance Committee to codify the Willis Fund's investment and fundraising strategies, as well as its expenditure. The purpose of the fund is "to make grants to or support activities aimed at serving new and emerging nonprofit presenting organizations."
- In light of the economic realities we all confront right now, John outlines a few of the strategies WAA will employ to find its way through this recession, without compromising WAA's mission:
 - Careful planning;
 - Development of conservative budgets;
 - Maintain disciplined spending; and
 - Review and reconsider all of our banking relationships to ensure the safety of our assets.

Conference revenue will be down this year, but the good news is we have the good part of a year to do something about it. Like our own institutions and businesses, WAA is clearly feeling the effects of the economy, and WAA intends to act decisively to ensure the financial stability, well-being, and future of this organization.

Nominations Committee Report

Myron Martin begins by acknowledging Renae Williams and Matt Greenhill for their service on the board, and John Haynes and Nancy Christensen for stepping into their positions when both Renae and Matt resigned. Myron also thanks everyone for the extraordinary experience he has had serving on the board. He read the minutes from last year's membership meeting, at which he had asked the membership to please get involved with the WAA Board or with a committee, and he reiterates this ask.

This year's Nominations Committee is comprised of three artist/managers, three presenters, and one individual artist, from California, Massachusetts, Nevada and New York. Committee members are: Jason Belz, Kirshbaum, Demler & Associates; Celesta Billeci, UC Santa Barbara; Romana Jaroff, IMG Artists; Jude Narita, Narita/No Surrender Productions; Ellis Rice, City of Las Vegas – Arts & Community Events; and Todd Walker, IMN Artists. Myron thanks the committee for their work

The bylaws stipulate that this committee be chaired by the Immediate Past President, with two additional directors who are not officers, and four members at large. The current board rotation is as follows: Aaron Egigian's term as President ends and he moves to Immediate Past President. Past President Myron Martin rotates off the board. David Fischer's term as Vice President ends but he is eligible to run for President. The terms of Itzik Becher and Lindsey Nelson expire though they are both eligible for either of the open officer's seats. Cory Baker was elected to fill out the remaining term of Renae Williams' director's seat when Renae was elected Treasurer. Therefore, Cory is eligible for a full three-year term.

There are five positions to fill: two officer and three director positions. Myron introduces the candidates on the slate: For President, David Fischer, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts; for Vice President, Karen Fischer, Maui Arts & Cultural Center; for Directors: Cory Baker, Scottsdale Center for the Arts; Fiona Black, Capilano College; and Beth Macmillan, Artown.

Election of Officers and Directors

Motion

Resolved: The membership approves the slate of officers and directors as presented. Motion given by Harold Norris, Second by Michael Reed.

Motion carries.

Motion

Resolved: The membership elects the slate of officers and directors to the Board of Directors. Motion by Michael Alexander, Second by Mike Green.

Aaron asks for any discussion; hearing none, he asks for approval of the motion before the membership to elect the slate of candidates to the Board of Directors by acclamation. All are in favor; none are opposed.

Motion carries.

Aaron congratulates the newly elected officers to the Board, and announces that their terms will begin in seven days. He thanks Myron and the Nominations Committee once again for their work.

Strategic Planning Process Update

David thanks the membership for their support in electing him WAA's new Board President.

WAA began a strategic planning process this last fall to update the previous Strategic Plan of 2004. Since then, we have been in deep consideration and planning with the Marketplace Taskforce, which has been a core part of re-engineering the Western Arts Alliance. That process, which focused on the Marketplace itself, has brought about positive changes. Now it is time to look at WAA as a whole and to take in the effects of the Marketplace Taskforce, the re-organization of the conference, and the impact of Performance West, and carry those concepts all the way through every part of our business.

The conference evaluations and feedback that WAA gets from the membership is highly valued. We are always listening to the incredible amount of data that you provide us. David thanks board members Cory Baker and Marc Baylin, who, together with Tim and David comprise the Strategic Planning Committee. Michael Reed is also assisting in the drafting of the plan.

There are three themes the draft plan is focusing on:

- Under "Connecting," we are looking at peer to peer connections. We want to bring subgroups such as marketing, management, and finance teams together for greater learning opportunities and direction within the field. We are going to be expanding the opportunities to engage with artists and the field overall. WAA is looking at fundraising to help more block-booking opportunities and tour support funds with artists, and to provide more travel opportunities to see artists around the country.
- Under "Serving," we are looking at expanding the Professional Development Program to provide year-round activities. We want to strengthen and energize the conference, continuing to make it a core part of our business and a central opportunity for us all to connect and serve. We want to find new ways to increase the value of your membership. If there is any overriding aspect of this plan that is it: how WAA can provide greater value to the membership for your dollar.
- Under "Advancing," we want to ensure a stronger financial position for WAA in the long term. We want WAA to be on the cutting edge of technology and innovation, and we want to focus on the next generation.

The committee's next steps will be to define the best actions and strategies under each of these themes, assign a time frame, then prioritize and identify resources that we need in order to move forward. While we have deep committee involvement and board support, this plan is made strongest by feedback from the membership. David asks the membership to stay tuned to the website, give feedback and stay connected by spreading the word about the Strategic Plan to those not present this morning. We hope to have the plan adopted by spring 2009.

Retiring Board Members

Aaron recognizes retiring board members Itzik Becher from Aviv Productions, Lindsey Nelson from Flowerpot Productions, Myron Martin of The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, Matt Greenhill of Folklore Productions and Renae Williams of Music Center of Los Angeles. Aaron thanks them for the service they have given to the organization and the membership.

Open Forum with the WAA Board and Staff

Renae Williams, Music Center of Los Angeles, asks if staff could talk about what to expect in Phoenix, with the new hotel, the convention center, and showcase opportunities.

Tim explains that we will not be using the convention center at all. The Sheraton Hotel is located near where we were at the Hyatt in 2002. It is a brand new facility with 80,000+ square feet of meeting space. We have a hold on the Herberger Theater Center for showcase performances, which is kitty-corner to the hotel. We're talking with Michael Reed and Cory Baker and reaching out to other organizations to develop our Performance West Program.

Michael Alexander, Grand Performances, thanks Eleanor Oldham for the session on foreign taxation. He asks that everyone keep an eye on this issue so that when there is an opportunity to contact our elected officials, we weigh in on the fact that there are not many countries that have treaties with the United States, and do our best to get this issue off presenters' agendas.

Laura Colby, Elsie Management and Director of NAPAMA, thanks Tim and the board for making the room and the time for NAPAMA to present the session on taxation on international artists. She especially thanks NAPAMA board member Eleanor Oldham and Tim for making it happen so quickly.

Liz Silverstein, Siegel Artists Management, has used, enjoyed and benefitted from the Discovery Sessions, and suggests that in the future we offer fewer topics in bigger rooms later in the day. She greatly enjoys them and thinks they're a very good idea.

Richard Bryant, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, is delighted to be at WAA for the first time and thanks Tim and the board for hosting a wonderful conference. He asks that those who are members of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters to please let him know how the association can better serve them at the January conference and at all other activities.

David Rowe, David Rowe Artists, got up last year and expressed some concern about some of the Marketplace Taskforce changes and the way it had affected his experience at the conference. He wants to say those concerns have completely melted away at this conference. This has worked really fabulously, and he applauds everyone who has worked so hard over the past number of years to reenergize and rework this conference.

Katherine Miller, Kamstar Artist Management, thanks the staff this year. She would like to see us continue to work to keep the smaller artists and presenting and management organizations as members. Katherine suggests WAA hold a Tech 101 workshop, and asks that workshops not be scheduled during Load-In. She also asks if WAA can arrange the conference so that people do not have to fly on Labor Day weekend, which is a really big cost.

Tim appreciates Katherine's comments and explains that this year is a compromised schedule because we wanted to include Bumbershoot (which takes place Labor Day weekend) and be at this hotel, which has another convention loading in right behind us. Next year we will go back to the normal Tuesday-Saturday pattern

John Tomlinson, Paul Taylor Dance, loved finishing on Friday, and asks that WAA think about letting everyone have that weekend off.

Tim explains that the logistics and planning between the regional conferences is rather complicated, especially when scheduling around Jewish holidays, but that WAA is very open to ending the conference on a Friday.

Romana Jaroff, IMG Artists, adds that for those WAA members who go to all three conferences, having a week off between each conference is great.

Luke Smiraldo, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, asks about innovative facilitation designs for the workshops, as it would be great to move from a straight presentational model to a more interactive one where there are still some presentational aspects. He mentions the E-Marketing Workshop as an example where this could be useful, and asks that a dialogue be started around fostering new audiences that haven't necessarily been inclusive as of yet, such as building a hip hop audience.

Matt Greenhill, Folklore Productions, makes a pitch for serving on committees. WAA is a membership-based organization, so Matt encourages all of the membership to step up, check out what the various committees are trying to do, and participate.

Adjourn

Aaron thanks everyone for their comments and asks for a motion to adjourn.

Motion:

Resolved: The membership meeting is adjourned by acclamation. Motion given by John Tomlinson, Second by Dan DeWayne. All are in favor, none are opposed.

Motion carries.

Aaron thanks Myron Martin and the Smith Center for the Performing Arts for their sponsorship of the Cyber Café, Neil Benson and Opus 3 Artists for their sponsorship of the tote bags, and Craig Springer and the Cerritos Center for their support of The Commons.

Western Arts Alliance

2009 Slate of Candidates

2009 Nominations Committee: Chair- Aaron Egigian, Orange County Performing Arts Center (CA), Dan DeWayne, California State University at Chico (CA), Karen Fischer, Formerly of Maui Arts and Cultural Center (HI), Julia Glawe, IMG Artists (NY), Angela Mattox, Yerba Buena Center for The Arts (CA), Cynthia Patterson University of Texas at Austin (TX), David Rowe, David Rowe Artists (MA), Todd Walker, IMN

The Board of Directors appoints the Nominations Committee. The Committee is composed of: the Immediate Past President, who serves as Chair; two additional directors (neither can be the President and only one can be an Officer), and 4 members who are not directors or officers. At least one member of the Nominations Committee (including the Chair) has served on the Committee in the previous year to insure continuity. The Nominations Committee cannot nominate its own members for service, but its members may be nominated from the floor. The Nominations Committee nominates a candidate for each office that is to become vacant seven days after the next annual meeting of the membership. The committee presents its slate of candidates directly to the membership thirty days prior to the annual meeting. The election will take place at the annual membership meeting.

WAA Annual Membership Meeting

The Nominations Committee Report and Election of Officers will take place during the Membership Meeting that begins at **9:15 a.m. on Friday, September 4, 2009**. The meeting takes place in the Encanto A, on the second floor of the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel. Please participate in the governance of the Western Arts Alliance—plan to attend this important meeting! Note: Only primary contacts from member organizations may vote in the election.

Vice President (one-year term through 2010 to fill the seat vacated by Karen Fischer)



John Haynes, Performing Arts Center Eastside, Bellevue, WA

I'm honored to be nominated to as Vice President of the Western Arts Alliance and grateful for this opportunity to serve during what we all know is a difficult period for our remarkable community of artists, managers, and presenters. I have long been impressed by the quality of WAA's leadership and by its engaged and committed members. This is my tribe! As your Treasurer for the past year I was focused on fiscal stability, transparency, and accountability. As Vice President, I hope to be useful as we begin to realign our activities to the strategic plan and to help facilitate a thoughtful, ongoing dialogue with the membership on how best to respond to the challenges that confront us. We are a community of professionals who serve divergent interests with skill and energy, but who serve a common goal with a passion that unites us: to bring artists and audiences together in moments that change lives for the better. We know the What and the Why of our mission. The How will always be elusive and difficult, but together we can make sure that WAA continues to be a great forum for chasing the answers.

As Executive Director and CEO of Performing Arts Center Eastside (PACE), John Haynes is leading a \$160 million capital campaign, managing the design and construction of a new, 2,000 seat performing arts center in Bellevue, Washington, and creating a new presenting organization to serve the burgeoning communities east of Seattle.

Most recently, John was the inaugural Leighton Director for the for the Performing Arts at the University of Notre Dame, where he received the ND President's Award for managing the design, construction and launch of the new, five venue DeBartolo PAC. Prior to undertaking the Notre Dame project, John served as President and CEO of the California Center for the Arts in Escondido, as Executive Director of the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, and as a program development and production executive at both CBS and Viacom. During his years in Minneapolis, John served as the treasurer of Minnesota's statewide arts advocacy organization. He has lectured on nonprofit business models at the University of Minnesota, California State University, and in the People's Republic of China. He is a Westerner by birth (Santa Fe) and choice!

Secretary Treasurer (two-year term through 2011)



Renae Williams Niles, Music Center/Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles

Western Arts Alliance has long played a vital role in the development and progression of my career and it is my pleasure to give what I can back to the organization and its members. I am honored to be nominated to return to the WAA Board and serve in the position of Board Secretary/Treasurer which I previously held in 2007-2008. I will do my best to maintain and improve upon the work of John Haynes, who has worked diligently with our capable staff to maintain fiscal responsibility through an economically challenging time for us all. As a past Board Secretary/Treasurer and previous member of both the finance and executive committee, I was actively involved in a variety of decisions related to the financial management of the organization and am comfortable once again assuming such a role. Professionally, I have held various positions that required cautious fiscal oversight and the comprehensive review of financial statements. As WAA continues to serve its members through this difficult time, it will be imperative that we ensure fiscal prudence and organizational stability. With my knowledge and experience I will eagerly lead the finance committee and will provide support to the staff as needed.

Western Arts Alliance 2008 Slate of Candidates

Rena Williams Niles is Director of Dance Presentations at the Music Center, one of the three largest performing arts centers in the nation. In her current role she oversees all facets and staff of the dance program including programming, box office, finances, contract negotiation, marketing, education/outreach and program expansion. Prior to joining the Music Center, she was Director of Grant Programs for the L.A. County Arts Commission, responsible for its annual allocation of over \$2M and also participated in the artist selection process for the County's Ford Amphitheatre. She has worked with the Lula Washington Dance Theatre as Company Manager and with Grand Performances as the Special Projects Manager. Rena has been a panelist for the Entertainment Industry Foundation, the Irvine Foundation/Dance/USA, the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, and many local/regional arts agencies. She is also on the board of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Foundation. Rena holds a BA in Public Relations from the University of Southern California and has served on the WAA board previously from 2003 to 2008.

Directors (three-year term through 2012)



Nancy J. Christensen, MCM Arts and Entertainment, Teaneck, NJ

It is with great pleasure that I be considered for a full 3-year term for the Western Arts Alliance Board of Directors. Having just completed a 1-year term to fill a position vacated midterm, I have found this experience of being a WAA Board member to be fulfilling, creative and gratifying in all ways possible. Throughout my past 25+ years in this business, I have had extensive experience in the music field as an artist, presenter, and currently a manager. Although my primary background is in the area of classical music, I developed a highly-successful education and residency institute for Chamber Music America, and coordinated a 12-concert Folk Masters series for Carnegie Hall's Centennial season. As MCM Arts and Entertainment recently expanded its artist roster to include world music, dance, and theater productions, I feel these areas have allowed me to understand and work more deeply with the WAA membership and presenting organizations in all regions of the US.

As a potential continuing member of the Board of Directors, I feel the combination of my experience and commitment to the arts would bring additional strength to this marvelous organization. My goals for this 3-year term would be to work more closely with WAA's staff and the Conference Committee to strengthen and build a better conference for future years, including a re-examination of the showcase program in order to attract more presenter attendance. I would also like to be more involved with the Membership Committee in order to expand and connect presenters to each other and to artists, and ultimately strengthen touring in the West. I thank you for this opportunity to be nominated to the Board of Directors, and would sincerely look forward to working with the administrative staff and Board for the next 3 years.

Nancy Christensen has been booking concerts and residency activities as Managing Director with MCM Artists since 2002, and has attended annual conferences such as Arts Presenters, Chamber Music America, and the regional booking conferences. Prior to working for MCM, Ms. Christensen held the position of Education Director at Chamber Music America where she created and implemented the Education and Residency Institute for chamber ensembles and presenters, administered the Chamber Music Rural Residencies Program, and developed pre-conference chamber music seminars for the Western Arts Alliance. Previously, Christensen served briefly as Acting Director for the educational foundation Midori & Friends where she oversaw fundraising goals for both the New York and Tokyo programs. Preceding this position, Nancy Christensen was the Program Director for Midori & Friends and coordinated children's concerts involving over 10,000 students each year. In the early 1990s, Ms. Christensen served as Concert Coordinator for Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, booking chamber ensembles for the subscription concert series and coordinating the 12-concert Folk Masters series as part of Carnegie Hall's 1990-1991 Centennial celebration season. Nancy Christensen holds a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and Master of Arts degree in music theory, both from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.



Jeremy Ganter, Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis, Davis, CA

It is an honor to be nominated to serve on the WAA Board. My very first "in the field" experience as a presenter was at a WAA conference, and since then I continue to find immense value in the forward-thinking and supportive arts community that thrives at (and well beyond) each year's conference. I know this is due to an engaged membership, and strong leadership from WAA's board and staff.

As a member of the team that opened the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis—through its construction and fundraising campaign, to its opening gala, inaugural season, and beyond—I have had the unique and invaluable experience of bringing an arts organization, quite literally, to a whole new stage, all within the diverse and complex culture of a major research university. I'm excited for the chance to bring my experience and energy to the WAA board, and to contribute more deeply to WAA's continued success.

Jeremy Ganter became the Associate Executive Director & Director of Programming at the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis in September of 2006, after serving as the Artistic Administrator, and then Director of Programming, for five years. At the Mondavi Center, Ganter oversees the implementation of a season of over 80 productions and 100 performances, and recently managed the Mondavi Center's Creativity Project, a season-long, multi-disciplinary look at the creative spark, including the commissioning of five new works, an extensive residency with campus, and performances by the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Kronos Quartet, Shen Wei Dance Arts, Sideshow Physical Theater Company and the Empeyrean Ensemble. Ganter lives in Davis, CA with his wife Allison and their two sons.