2019 Governance Committee: Cory Baker - WAA Past President, Chair, Long Center for the Performing Arts, Austin, TX; Chris Ayzoukian, Reser Center for the Arts, Beaverton, OR; Sandy Garcia, Pentacle, New York, NY; Christine Offer, Magpie Exchange, Calgary, AB; Ralph Remington, City of Tempe, Tempe AZ (carry-over from 2018); Judy Tsang, Stern Grove Festival, San Francisco, CA (board representative); Chris Wolf, Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, Torrance, CA (board representative).

The Board of Directors appoints the Governance 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 four members who are not directors or officers. At least one member of the Governance Committee (including the Chair) served on the Committee in the previous year to ensure continuity. The Governance Committee cannot nominate its own members for service, but its members may be nominated from the floor. The Governance Committee nominates a candidate for each office that is to become vacant seven days after the next annual meeting of the membership. The election will take place at the annual membership meeting.

WAA Annual Membership Meeting
The Governance Committee Report and Election of Officers takes place during the Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, August 29, 2019, at the JW Marriott @ LA Live, Salon H/1. 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.

Secretary/Treasurer (two-year term through 2021)
Cathy Weiss, Dell E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts, Wickenburg, AZ.

Seventeen years ago, Western Arts Alliance embraced me as a new member. This organization has been the foundation of my presenting career. To be considered for a position on the WAA Board of Directors is truly an honor and would allow me to give back to the field that has supported me over the years as a rural presenter. Previous WAA Boards have been successful, and I hope to build upon that work. I look forward to contributing to the organizations’ strategic plan while envisioning the future through the new plan. My interests are in serving the finance and the professional development committees and working on a succession plan for our Executive Director. I look forward to bold conversations that move us forward as arts leaders and as colleagues and developing initiatives that keep us thinking and moving creatively as we navigate the future. Working with the WAA staff over the years on committees and as a board member has been a fulfilling experience, and I am enthusiastic about continued service to the organization.

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In 1997, Cathy Weiss became a founding board member of the Del E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts and in 2003 named as Executive Director. The Webb Center is a 600-seat state of the art venue located in Wickenburg Arizona. The Center is a nonprofit organization that raises or earns almost $2 million annually to operate, in a community with a population of 10,000 in the winter months. With a staff of 7 employees and 125 volunteers, the Webb Centers’ body of work includes: presenting a series of 35 professional touring national and international performances between November and April, managing an artful workspace designed to permit artistic companies to create new work, The Made in Wickenburg Residency Program. Education components include lifelong learning, arts-in-education programs to 2,900 children in rural Arizona through free classroom workshops, school performances, and producing two incredible summer arts camps in June, Camp Imagination. Ms. Weiss is fiscally responsible for the organization while overseeing facility management, audience development, publicity/marketing, membership/volunteer services, fund, and board development. Ms. Weiss was raised in Arizona and before entering the nonprofit world enjoyed a 27-year career in the luxury hotel business in locations all across the world. She lives in Wickenburg with her husband Rui Pereira, currently serving as Mayor of Wickenburg.

Directors (three-year term through 2022)
Stephen Blanchett, Artist, Collin Artists, Juneau, AK

It is an honor to be nominated to serve on the board of directors of WAA for a second term. The momentum that WAA has made over the years towards bringing equity and inclusion at all levels of the organization has been inspiring. It has been so rewarding for me to be part of the Advancing Indigenous Performance and Black Arts @ WAA programs. I am a traditional Yup’ik dancer and composer of drum songs. I am also a founding member of the contemporary musical group, Pamyua. It has been a privilege to serve in leadership roles with the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, First Alaskans Institute, and Pamyua Inc. I have produced many dance, music and film projects. I am a 2015 National Artist Fellowship recipient through the Native Arts and Culture Foundation, a 2019 Dance/USA Fellowship recipient, and a 2019 & 2016 recipient of the Rasmussen Foundation’s Artist Fellowship. I consider myself a global citizen whose Yup’ik and African-American roots guide my leadership and artistic vision. Originally from the small community of Bethel Alaska, I now live in Juneau, Alaska, where I continue my work advocating for cultural practices as the Art & Education Director with the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council.
I am a graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage with a Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Alaska Native Studies. I was pointed in this academic direction by Native American author Vine Deloria (Custer Died For Your Sins), who once wrote, "Being born Native is like being born into politics.” I truly believe that being born Alaska Native, we have a responsibility to fight for our traditions and heritage. So as an artist I not only have a passion for performing, but I also love to teach and perpetuate Alaska Native traditions and to be an advocate for equity and inclusion in the arts and culture industry. I will continue to work towards these goals if I am elected to continue my service on the WAA board of directors. Guayana! Thank you!

Dani Fecko, Fascinator Management, Vancouver, BC

I am full of gratitude to be returning to the board of the Western Arts Alliance. I am invigorated by the deep commitment to inclusion the organization is striving to achieve, and am very proud to be just a small part of supporting initiatives such as AIP, Black Arts at WAA and Launch Pad. As a Canadian, I am constantly considering how to make our voices more present at the conference, while also watching to see what learnings can be shared back home. I look forward to supporting more and more indigenous voices at the Conference. In the next three years, I want to find ways to make the conference more accessible and to provide more professional development for us all to take to our artists and venues when it comes to inviting people of all abilities into our spaces. As ever, I have a firm commitment to learning across generations – to working with my 35below colleagues to make sure we are supporting our organizations and learning from those that came before us to build more intergenerational work environments.

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Dani Fecko is Founder of Fascinator Management, an agency, and consultancy based on Unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaɁ (TsleilWaututh) Nations. Fascinator represents nine contemporary performance clients from Vancouver, Toronto, and Halifax. Fascinator is also the Canadian advocate for Caravan artists supported by Farnham Maltings in the UK and is the Canadian liaison for Performing Arts Hub Norway. Fascinator mentors emerging agents, producers, and artists in Canada and around the world. Dani trained as a Stage Manager at Studio 58 and worked for multiple companies locally and Theatre Replacement, New World Theatre, and more across Canada and Europe. She tour-managed across North America, Mexico, and Europe with Rimini Protokoll and to Europe and across Canada with Company 605. She was Managing Producer of Boca del Lupo and spent four years as Associate Curator at the PuSh Festival. Dani was an ISPA Fellow from 2012 – 2014 and participated in the APAP Leadership Fellows Program from 2016 – 2018. In the fall of 2019, she will begin teaching Creative Entrepreneurship at Simon Fraser University in BC. As part of the board of WAA, she has been co-chair of the professional development, mentoring, and 35below committees and has been on the strategic planning and governance committees. She is also a committee member for the International Society for Performing Arts. She lives in Vancouver with her pianoplaying husband, Angus Kellett.

Rob Tocalino, Robert & Margit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis, Davis, CA

It is an honor to serve the vibrant Western Arts Alliance community. My two years of board service has coincided with a remarkable period of growth in WAA programs. The launch of the Advancing Indigenous Performance initiative as well as the inaugural Black Arts at WAA program have been transformative for the organization. This work has had a deep impact on me personally and professionally; I relish the opportunity to continue working with the remarkable staff, my fellow board members, and WAA membership. If elected, my top priorities for my first full threeyear term would be:

- A continued focus on maximizing our communications efforts to keep WAA Members engaged, with an eye towards membership retention and growth.
- Build on the meaningful work the WAA has done to create opportunities and address systemic issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the performing arts community in the west.
- A focus on maintaining the culture and financial viability of the WAA Conference, while envisioning diversified revenue opportunities for the organization.

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Rob Tocalino is the Director of Marketing at the Robert and Margit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis. In his current role, he is responsible for earned and contributed revenue streams totaling approximately $3M annually, external organizational communications and strategy including advertising, public relations, and ticket office operations. In his time at the organization, Tocalino has built successful revenue management and patron loyalty teams and infrastructure and re-envisioned the delivery of program and enrichment materials. He previously served as the Associate Director of Marketing for SFJAZZ, during which time he led a Wallace Foundation-funded effort to attract a younger audience for jazz. The resulting program, SFJAZZ Hotplate, is still in place at the new SFJAZZ Center. Before SFJAZZ, Tocalino served as the Managing Director of Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival.
Director (Two-year term through 2021)

Antonio Gomez, Independent Artist and Education Manager, Tacoma Arts Live, Tacoma, WA

I am humbled by the opportunity to serve my colleagues and our field through a nomination to the Board of the Western Arts Alliance. With experience as a presenter, educator, and artist, I hope to contribute to WAA’s long term vitality by addressing core questions about the role of live performing arts in an increasingly segmented society. We have a unique potential not only to express an artistic vision and entertain but to play a crucial role in transforming communities. While we have always known the incredible impact of the arts intuitively, more and more evidence points to the importance of artistic expression and cultural dialogue in sustaining communities where people of all ages can learn and grow. To reach this potential, we must face our own challenges with regard to relevancy, accessibility, equity, and continuity. My greatest priorities are helping our field increase its relevance as our nation transforms culturally and demographically, as well as harnessing artistic expression to impact broader social issues ranging from education to cultural equity and civic dialogue.

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Antonio lives at the intersection of music, education, arts presenting, and public media. He is passionate about intertwining these skills to connect learners of all ages with compelling cultural stories and inspiring art. Tony manages economically and culturally accessible education programs at Tacoma Arts Live, including school-based ballet folklórico, drumming, and theater programs. A former K12 teacher and Humanities Washington speaker, he is a curriculum designer for arts nonprofits and public media (including PBS’ Latino Americans and John Leguizamo’s Tales of a Ghetto Klown). As a percussionist, Tony specializes in Afro-Latin, Mediterranean, and Arabic genres. He co-founded Trio Guadalevin, which explores musical connections between Mexico and the Mediterranean, as well as the Eurasia Consort, and Tango del Cielo. He has received support for international study and performance from Artist Trust (Mexico) and the Jubilation Foundation (Spain and Morocco) in addition to immersive work in Cuba, Italy, Argentina, and Panamá.