

**LITERARY
MANAGERS AND
DRAMATURGS OF THE
AMERICAS**

FY21 Annual Report

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CO-CHAIRS

After two years of primarily online activity, it is our pleasure to see so many of you in person at this conference. And to those of you joining online, we are delighted that the learnings of the past two years can be incorporated into our present and future. As we traverse the landscape of the Covid-changed theatre world, we are reminded of the strength of community, and the work that ours does to shift the theatrical ecology for the better.

We'd like to extend enormous gratitude to everyone who's contributed time, energy, and thoughtfulness to this organization. Our Executive and Board are endlessly grateful for the generosity of LMDA's volunteers, donors, and members, for all of your contributions. Thank you for a fantastic year, and we look forward to traveling beyond the proscenium and exploring new landscapes together.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Moore'.

Bryan Moore
President



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne G. Morgan'.

Anne G. Morgan
Board Co-chair



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenna K. Rodgers'.

Jenna K. Rodgers
Board Co-chair

HIGHLIGHTS

356

MEMBERS

195

**CONFERENCE
ATTENDEES**

89

TOTAL EVENTS

\$5.600

**GRANT FUNDS
ISSUED**

\$25.575

**RESERVE FUNDS
RECEIVED**

3

**CONTINENTS
REPRESENTED**

01 MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

356 TOTAL MEMBERS

26 American states represented

5 Canadian provinces represented

3 Mexican states represented

9 Countries represented:

Australia, Canada, England, Greece, Ireland, Mexico,
Scotland, and the United States

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN

Individual: 125

Early Career: 60

Introductory: 70

Institutional: 17

Pay what you can: 84

2021 CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

PROGRAMMING

- 9 Asynchronous virtual sessions
- 18 Synchronous virtual sessions
- 13 In-person sessions
- 11 Discussion groups

PARTICIPATION

- 195 Total participants joined in one of two modalities:
 - 146 Virtual
 - 49 In-person

ACCESSIBILITY

- Closed captioning
- Oral simultaneous interpretation

REGIONAL ACTIVITY

The 2021 regional activities offered space for communal gathering, building shared resources, and creating networking opportunities. Regional and international dramaturgs, and dramaturg-adjacent folx convened to develop new channels for dramaturgical connectivity!

2021 ACTIVITIES:

- Microturgy with foolsFURY's BUILD FORWARD digital convening in the Bay Area.
- Decolonizing Dramaturgy Workshop Series in Canada.
- Dramaturgy Strategy Meetings + Speed Dramaturgy in the Southwest
- 1-on-1 Meetups + UMass Amherst's Dramaturgy Roundtable in the Northeast
- NEW cross-regional Affinity Spaces for Latinx Dramaturgs & Dramaturgs with Disabilities.

DRAMATURGING THE PHOENIX FORUMS

Through its essay collection, its bi-weekly forums, and its growing community, Dramaturging the Phoenix offers a dramaturgical exploration of theatre's potential to transform - with a focus on converting theory into practice.

Our goal is to have every LMDA contribute to the project in some way.

Please join us!

PARTICIPATION

67 Essays submitted

33 Forums held

112 Unique participants

02

GRANTS & AWARDS

GRANTS & AWARDS

Early Career Dramaturgy Travel Grant

- Prior to finalizing the 2021 conference format, two ECDs were selected to receive funds to travel to the conference. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the two recipients declined their awards and the funds were re-allocated for scholarships during the 2022 conference.

The two award recipients were:

- Cristina González
- Rachel Oschenschlager

GRANTS & AWARDS

The 2021 **Elliott Hayes Award for Excellence in Dramaturgy** was presented to **Arminda Thomas**, in recognition of her work on CLASSIX. CLASSIX is an organization whose mission is to expand our understanding of the classical theater canon through an exploration of plays by Black writers that speak to the time that they were written and now.

The **Field Grant**, which is designed to support dramaturg-led projects towards an expansion of the field in geographic space throughout the Americas, was awarded to **Nahuel Telleria** for their project, *Staging Research: Theater and Politics in Contemporary Argentina*.

The **Innovation Grant** was awarded to **Kristin Johnsen-Neshati** for their project, *1,001 Plays*.

03 BUDGET

In 2021, LMDA began the fiscal year with an accumulated operating surplus of \$9,842. Covid-19 led to many changes and adjustments over the year. The surplus was maintained by offering dual modality for the conference, by generous donors, and careful cost-cutting measures.

Thanks to our conference team and Grants Coordinator, the conference was subsidized through a \$15,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Lessing Circle is a fundraising initiative established in 2017 with that goal in mind. To date, 25 patrons have donated or pledged \$2,500. Funds are directed each year to innovative programming and a reserve fund.

Funds Utilized:

- 2021: Accessibility accommodations for the conference
- 2020: Translation and closed captioning support for the conference
- 2019: Outreach to Mexican and Latinx artists in support of the 2020 conference
- 2018: Critical access upgrades to LMDA's website and online server
- 2017: ArtEquity pre-conference workshop

THE LESSING CIRCLE

\$4,000 from this fund, contributed by a donor to support annual projects that LMDA would otherwise be unable to undertake, was used to hire Molly Marinik as our Grants Coordinator to support LMDA's process of applying for public and foundation funding.

- 2021 is the last full year Molly will be with us in the role; we will be transitioning to a new Grants Coordinator in 2022 with Molly's support.
- We welcome Jolene Noelle as she takes over the Grants Coordinator position!

PRESIDENT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A huge thank you to all who donated to LMDA in support of our initiatives, programs and member services, including The Lessing Circle and our annual fundraising campaigns:

- \$1,839 was raised during Lessing Week
- \$930 was raised through conference donations
- \$3,856 in general donations were made throughout the fiscal year
- The Radiating Change campaign is ongoing and has raised \$14,725 in pledges and donations to date.
 - These funds are intended to build LMDA's capacity for great accessibility, innovation, and equity through LMDA's programs and community.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING

04 INITIATIVES

INTERNATIONAL DRAMATURGY LAB

This international dramaturgy-driven initiative was launched in 2020. It is designed to facilitate open-ended artistic collaboration, by connecting dramaturgs, directors, theatre makers, and thinkers around the topic: What does it mean to work dramaturgically across borders?

- 93 participants from 7 dramaturgical organizations and networks
- 18 countries represented
- 14 initial groups, resulting in 11 shared reports and presentations
- 7 external guests from theatres in 6 countries that followed projects and engaged with IDL participants at the final meeting

PUENTES

Puentes: (conversaciones sobre) el dramaturgismo en México is a series of conversations that revolve around the work of the dramaturg and its link with performance and the performing arts. We inquire about dramaturgy, its practice, its tasks, as well as its different iterations depending on the specificities of the geographical and temporal conditions in which it exists.

Hosted by Eréndira Santiago, 7 conversations were held virtually throughout 2021 and featured guests from across Mexico, including:

- Gabriela Aparicio, Juan Carrillo, Rocío Galicia, Lourdes Guzmán, Martha Herrera-Lasso, Magdala López Ramírez, Lydia Margules, Alfredo Michel Modenessi, Brenda Muñoz, Analola Santana, Martha Toriz, and Claudio Valdés Kuri

NEW PLAY EXCHANGE

In an ongoing partnership with the National New Play Network, LMDA members are eligible to receive a discounted reader membership on NPX.

This is made possible through the generous support of an anonymous donor.

- To date, 13 discounted memberships have been used

To access this benefit, please email LMDA Administrative Director, Lindsey R. Barr at Imdanyc@gmail.com

The logo for the National New Play Network (NPX) features the letters "NPX" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are centered within a dark orange rectangular background. Above and below the letters are thin white horizontal lines, creating a stylized frame around the text.

National New Play Network
New Play Exchange[®]

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

The LMDA Anti-Racism Task Force is dedicated to implementing anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and accessible practices within LMDA, dramaturgy, and the larger field of theatre. As such, monthly task force meetings focus on self-education through a reading/viewing group, finding and coordinating educational opportunities for LMDA members, and considering questions for those who hire and train dramaturgs and literary managers.

Anti-Racism reading club

- Summary of works discussed

Progress on tasks:

- Mission, Ideation, and Action Statement

COMPENSATION TASK FORCE

After creating a series of Employment Tools during shutdown, regular meetings of the Task Force went on hiatus as everyone braced for the great (bumpy) return to the workplace. Meetings will reboot post-conference to focus on updates to the Employment Guidelines and Sample Contracts, including responses to industry-wide changes to labor practices in the wake of the pandemic and #WSYWAT.

Accomplishments:

- Began conversations with members of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) about potential union representation for dramaturgs in certain situations.
- Advanced commercial contract templates to include Additional Weekly Compensation (AWC) and payments toward health insurance during weeks of full-time employment.
- Participated in UK Dramaturgs' Network events and continued endorsement and promotion of their new Dramaturgs Contract Package.
- Continued individual contract/employment consultations for LMDA members.

05 TRANSITIONS

OUTGOING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LMDA would like to thank our outgoing executive committee members for volunteering their time and service to LMDA for the past two years.

Dani Joseph, Co-VP of Membership

LaRonika Thomas, Co-VP of Membership

Amanda Dawson, VP of Communications

Phaedra Scott, VP of Programs

Jacqueline Goldfinger, 2022 Conference Chair

INCOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LMDA would like to thank all of our incoming and continuing executive committee and board members for the extensive volunteer time they commit to this organization, its activities and membership. We welcome our new Executive Committee members:

Emma Bilderback, Co-VP Anti-Oppression

Russell M. Dembin, Co-VP Anti-Oppression

Jacqueline Goldfinger, VP Marketing & Communications

Martine Kei Green-Rogers, Co-VP Anti-Oppression

Natasha Hawkins, Co-VP Freelance

Liana Irvine, VP Regional Activity

Jessica Kahkoska, Co-VP Programs

Matt McGeachy, President, LMDA Canada

Evan Medd, Co-VP Membership

Linnea Valdivia, Co-VP Programs

CONTINUING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LMDA would like to thank all of our continuing executive committee and board members for the extensive volunteer time they commit to this organization, its activities and membership. We acknowledge the Executive Committee Members who are continuing their service beyond the initial two-year appointment:

Jane Barnette, VP of University Relations
Elizabeth Coen & Kristin Leahey, Co-VPs of Publications
Heather Helinsky, Co-VP of Membership
Finn Lefevre, Co-VP of Freelance
Karen Jean Martinson, VP of Advocacy
Brenda Muñoz, VP of LMDA Mexico
Tanya Palmer, Treasurer
Roxanne Ray, VP of Grants & Awards
Deanie Vallone, VP of Institutions

INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS

In 2021, LMDA welcomed David Geary and Natasha Sinha to our Board of Directors. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their service to date, and for their commitment to helping guide the organization, advance our mission, and support the vital work of our profession.

David Geary, Capilano University

Natasha Sinha, Playwrights Horizons

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

LMDA would like to thank our outgoing board member Liz Engelman for her support in guiding the organization. Her contributions to LMDA and to the field of dramaturgy over many years have always advanced the important work carried forward by the Executive Committee and Board.

Over the past 25 years, Liz has served as an Executive Committee member, as President, as Board Chair, and as a Board member at large. Thank you Liz for your time and energy!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all LMDA members and conference participants who help make our organization a pivotal point of connection between disciplines, countries, and artists!



**DONATE TO
LMDA TODAY!**

**CASHAPP:
\$LMDANYC**

