
Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas

FY20 Annual Report

Letter from the President and Board Chair

A year ago, it was hard to imagine we'd be holding a second virtual AGM & conference. Despite the huge challenges of the past year, for LMDA, for institutions, and most of all for individuals, we have seen people rise to confront obstacles, reduce barriers, overcome borders, make new works, and make work better.

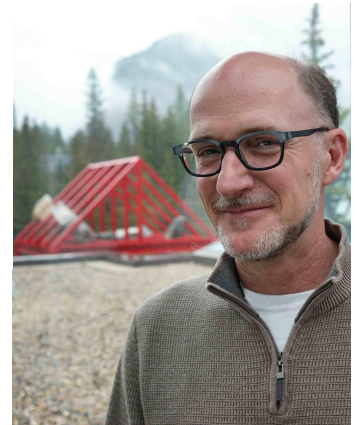
Thank you all, from the Executive and Board, to all of LMDA's volunteers and donors and members, for contributing so much over the past year. The work continues.



Bryan Moore
President, LMDA



Brian Quirt
Board chair, LMDA



HIGHLIGHTS

392

Members

295

Conference
attendees

64

Total events

\$17,300

Grant funds issued



MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

392 TOTAL MEMBERS

- 43 States in the US represented
- 7 Canadian Provinces represented
- 2 Mexican States represented
- 10 countries represented: Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN

- Individual: 147
- Early Career Dramaturg: 108
- Introductory: 121
- Institutional: 16

2020 CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

PROGRAMMING

- 18 asynchronous sessions
 - 14 English + 4 Spanish
- 11 synchronous sessions
 - 9 English + 2 Spanish
- 6 discussion groups

ACCESSIBILITY

- Closed captioning
- Oral simultaneous interpretation

PARTICIPATION

- Total participants: 295
- Countries represented:
 - Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, United States

REGIONAL ACTIVITY

The 2020 regional activities offered space for communal gathering, building shared resources, and creating networking opportunities. Regional and international dramaturgs, and dramaturg-adjacent folx convened on Zoom to develop new channels for dramaturgical connectivity, to escape the chaos of the pandemic and find connection through our mutual love of dramaturgy!

- 22 regional events in 2020
- 128 participants
- 9 of 22 regions held events

EVENTS INCLUDED:

- Meetups in Philadelphia & the Northeast
- Ensemble Microturgy in the Bay Area
- Speed-Dramaturgy in Chicago & the Southwest
- Happy Hour in Canada
- Valentines' Day with Mountain West
- Roundtable conversation in Third Coast
- Puentes! In Mexico

DRAMATURGING THE PHOENIX

Through its essay collection, its weekly forums, and its growing community, Dramaturging the Phoenix asks us to imagine what's possible when in-person theatre rises from its dormancy (and ashes) when it's safe to return.

Our goal is to have every LMDA contribute to the project in some way. Please join us!

- 71 essays submitted
- 42 forums held
- 170 unique participants

COMPENSATION TASK FORCE

During the pandemic shutdown, LMDA has convened a monthly task force of about a dozen members to examine and respond to the various employment and compensation challenges in our field.

Accomplishments include:

- developing new **Employment Tools** (see new website menu), including: **Pricing Your Dramaturgical Services** (including a Dramaturgy Market Rate Calculator), **Negotiation Checklist**, and **Intern Bill of Rights**;
- revising LMDA's **Employment Guidelines** and **Sample Contracts**, which will roll out later this summer; and
- partnering with the **UK Dramaturgs' Network** to endorse and promote the use of their new **Dramaturgs Contract Package**.



GRANTS & AWARDS ACTIVITY

GRANTS & AWARDS

Early Career Dramaturgy Travel Grant

- Prior to the change in conference format, LMDA intended to provide the ECD travel grant to two early career members. When the conference format was changed to virtual, the Grants and Awards team used the funds to support ECDs attending the virtual conference.
 - 8 ECDs received complimentary conference registration:
 - Rocio Calvo
 - Liam Gibbs
 - Sarah Kiker
 - Roweena Mackay
 - Lily Shell
 - Manuela Sosa
 - Hope Victoria
 - Fernando Vieira

GRANTS & AWARDS

The Elliott Hayes Award for Excellence in Dramaturgy - 2020

The Hayes Award was presented to **Emma Tibaldo**, in recognition of her exemplary leadership of the Playwrights Workshop Montréal, where she has served as Artistic and Executive Director from 2008-2021.

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 **Lindsay Jenkins** for her work on *Sandbranch*, a devised theatre project that seeks to explore and expand on Afrocentric dramaturgical methods that take the research off the page and put it into the body.

GRANTS & AWARDS

The Innovation Grant

This year's Innovation Grant was awarded to **David Clauson** for their work on *The Alternative Canon*, a free online sourcebook to help artists and educators challenge Eurocentric, patriarchal, racist, and other biases in theater history.

The Leon Katz Award for Excellence in Mentoring

The 2020 inaugural Katz Award in Mentoring was awarded to **Paul Walsh**, Professor in the Practice of Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism at the Yale School of Drama for his outstanding impact on the field through the breadth and depth of his mentoring of dramaturgs, students and theatre artists over several decades.



BUDGET

BUDGET UPDATE

In 2020, LMDA began the fiscal year with an accumulated operating surplus of \$13,262. Covid-19 led to many changes and adjustments over the year. The surplus was maintained by modifying the conference, by generous donors, and careful cost-cutting measures.

Conference expenditures

- Thanks to our conference team and Grants Coordinator, the virtual conference was subsidized through grants and sponsorships
 - 2020 Conference sponsors:

The logo for the American Theatre Archive Project, consisting of the letters 'APA' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.The logo for the American Theatre archive project, featuring the text 'American Theatre' in a serif font and 'archive project' in a smaller, italicized serif font, both in white on a light blue background with a decorative left edge.

nightswimming



THE LESSING CIRCLE

LMDA's Board is committed to supporting and sustaining the organization's invaluable contribution to the theatrical landscape. The Lessing Circle is a fundraising initiative established in 2017 with that goal in mind. To date, 25 confirmed patrons have each donating \$2,500. Funds are directed each year to innovative programming and a reserve fund.

- \$13,000 was directed to annual activity in 2020 for 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



PRESIDENT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

\$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

- With Molly's support, we applied for and were awarded \$10,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts to support our 2020 annual conference. Molly has continued to work with LMDA in 2021 on these invaluable initiatives, and we are pleased that the NEA has also funding the 2021 conference !

MICROGRANT INITIATIVE

In lieu of the annual fall fundraiser, LMDA, with the support of Ramona Rose King, Kelly Miller, and Kris Karcher, created the Dramaturgy Microgrant Initiative in response to widespread income loss among dramaturgs due to Covid-19.

- \$12,300 was raised from 79 donors
- 82 dramaturgs received microgrants of \$150
- 39 recipients received a complimentary LMDA membership subsidized by a generous donor

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING

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:

- \$1,144 was raised during Lessing Week
 - These funds were used to support 8 ECDs at the virtual conference
- \$3,535 was raised through conference donations
- \$3,520 in general donations were made throughout the fiscal year



NEW & CONTINUING INITIATIVES

THE 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 projects undertaken

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, 12 discounted memberships have been used
 - To access this benefit, please email LMDA Administrative Director, Lindsey R. Barr at Imdanyc@gmail.com

The logo for NPX (National New Play Exchange) features the letters "NPX" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are centered within a white rectangular box that has horizontal lines above and below the text.

National New Play Network
New Play Exchange[®]

ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

The LMDA Anti-Racism task force is interested in interrogating anti-racism within LMDA, Dramaturgy, and the larger field of Theatre. As such, part of the task force focuses on self-education through a reading group, finding and coordinating educational opportunities for our members, and asking questions of the places who hire and train dramaturgs.

- Anti-Racism reading club
- Progress on tasks:
 - LMDA Structures
 - Training



EXECUTIVE & BOARD TRANSITIONS

INCOMING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & BOARD

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 appreciate all of your dedication and can't wait to see the wonderful work to come!

We welcome the following to the Executive and Board:

Lynde Rosario, President-elect as of June 2021

Marie Barlizo, Board member, joined July 2020

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

LMDA would like to thank our outgoing board member Amrita Ramanan 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. Thank you Amrita for your time and energy!

I welcome my successors Anne and Jenna to the role and wish them great adventures as Co-Chairs. They are terrific leaders and will bring wisdom and action to all of LMDA's ongoing and future initiatives.

Brian Quirt, Board Chair

INCOMING BOARD CHAIRS

LMDA is thrilled to welcome Anne G. Morgan and Jenna K. Rodgers as the incoming co-board chairs. In this moment of transition – for the organization, the theater community, and the world – Anne and Jenna aim to lead with advocacy and rigour to ensure the ongoing vitality of dramaturgs in the field. They are excited to support the Board President and Executive Committee in their visions and activities and are dedicated to a future for LMDA that is accessible, inclusive, and generous.



Anne G. Morgan
National New Play Network



Jenna K. Rodgers
Chromatic Theatre



(Liam E. Gibbs - 2020 ECD Travel Grant Recipient)

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