News Release

Contact:
Jenny Thomas  Sarah Martin
Director, Marketing and Communications  Manager, Marketing and Communications
202-207-3857  202-207-3853
jthomas@apap365.org  smartin@apap365.org

APAP Announces the Leadership Fellows Fourth Cohort

An ever-changing performing arts field and evolving leadership demand new avenues for personal and professional development

Washington, DC (May 22, 2018) - The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) in partnership with the University of Southern California’s (USC) Arts Leadership Program announces its fourth class of participants for the APAP Leadership Fellows Program (LFP). The fourth cohort of 25 was chosen from a diverse pool of applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the performing arts presenting field and engaging in a collaborative process to enhance the knowledge, skills and overall capacity needed to effect change in their current work and the future face of the field.

Building upon the program’s inaugural launch in 2015, the APAP Leadership Fellows Program invests time and training in mid-career professionals from across all sectors of the performing arts, creating a dynamic knowledge and leadership network.

Starting with a curriculum-based, five-day intensive at USC, Leadership Fellows mentor and learn from each other over the course of the program’s 20-month arc, including annual gatherings at the APAP|NYC conference (January 4-8, 2019) in New York City and through continuous online engagement.

“I’m very excited about welcoming this cohort as it marks an important milestone for the Leadership Fellows Program and the performing arts field as a whole. When this cohort graduates in 2020, APAP will have supported 100 individuals representing diverse backgrounds and communities, providing them with the guidance, tools, and network to become leaders who can and will help move the field forward,” says Mario Garcia Durham, APAP president and CEO.
APAP has been committed to leadership development in the changing ecology of the performing arts industry. Through this program, the Fellows sharpen their engagement with the performing arts presenting community and expand and strengthen their leadership skills.

“Anyone interested in investing in system-wide, sector-wide change should see this program and its developing leaders as the central strategy in seeding long-term positive impacts in the performing arts field,” says Omari Rush, a member of the first LFP cohort and now a group leader for the fourth cohort. "The members of the LFP cohorts are the rising, future, and even current leaders of our field. They/we are connected, networked, energized, and ready to innovate practices and shift paradigms,” says Rush.

Kenneth Foster, director of USC’s Arts Leadership Program, and Krista Bradley, APAP’s director of programs and resources, co-direct the APAP Leadership Fellows Program.

A core group of industry professionals, who are themselves LFP alumni, will also guide the cohort through the program. These group leaders include: Jon Catherwood-Ginn, associate director of programming at the Moss Arts Center, Blacksburg, VA; Tiffany Rea-Fisher, artistic director of Elisa Monte Dance; Amy Miller, director of engagement at Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center of the University of Alabama at Birmingham; and Omari Rush, executive director of CultureSource in Detroit, MI.

**APAP Leadership Fellows Program**
**Cohort IV (June 2018-January 2020)**

- Aisha Ahmad-Post, director, Ent Center for the Arts at UCCS Presents, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs – Colorado Springs, CO
- Robin Anderson, executive director, AXIS Dance Company – Oakland, CA
- Jill Barnes, executive director, The Washington Center for the Performing Arts – Olympia, WA
- Erica Bondarev Rapach, associate executive director, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center – College Park, MD
- Jonathan Campbell, performing arts manager, Aga Khan Museum – Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Molly Clark, associate director of artistic planning, ArtPower at UC San Diego – La Jolla, CA
- Ariana Hellerman, principal, Ariana’s List – New York, NY
- Consuelo Hidalgo, Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano – Guayaquil, Ecuador
- PennyMaria Jackson, marketing director, Apollo Theater, New York, NY
- Megha Kalia, founder and creative director, NYC Bhangra Dance – Jersey City, NJ
• Yayoi Kambara, KAMBARA + DANCERS – San Francisco, CA
• Mary G. Madigan, director, Madigan New Music – Brooklyn, NY
• Jared Morrison, Tennessee Arts Commission – Nashville, TN
• Margo Ohlson, director, theatre operations, The University of Akron – Akron, OH
• Michael Orange, Matatu – San Francisco, CA
• Courtney Ozaki, operations and business director, Lone Tree Arts Center – Lone Tree, CO
• Kyung Park, artistic director, Kyung’s Pacific Beat – Brooklyn, NY
• Courtney Pyke, production manager, Roseneath Theatre – Toronto, Ontario, Canada
• Rachel Rosado, assistant director, cultural programs, Asia Society – New York, NY
• Aaron Shackelford, director of programming, Fine Arts Center – Amherst, MA
• Ryhna Thompson, founder and president, Envision Management & Production – Montreal, Quebec, Canada
• Gaurav Vaz, vice president, Artist Management (Music), OML Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. – Mumbai, India and Toronto, Canada
• Ruth Wikler-Luker, curator and producer, Boom Arts – Portland, OR
• Susie Williams, managing director, Acrobatic Conundrum – Seattle, WA
• Tyese Wortham, director of community engagement, Community Arts Stabilization Trust – San Francisco, CA

The APAP Leadership Fellows Program is partly funded by the American Express Foundation, The Wallace Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about the program please visit www.apap365.org.

About APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals

APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust, performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our 1,600 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, national consulting practices that serve the field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors and led by President & CEO Mario Garcia Durham. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference—the world’s leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (January 4-8, 2019)—APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.