APAP Emerging Leadership Institute Announces 2017 Class of Participants

Rare opportunity for each participant to reflect on and develop their ideas about leadership and their own career

Washington, DC (September 9, 2016) – The Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) announces its 16th class for the Emerging Leadership Institute (ELI). ELI is an intensive two and a half-day seminar that develops critical leadership skills for emerging performing arts professionals. Each year, a new cohort is invited to participate in ELI and attend APAP|NYC, APAP's annual members conference held in New York City every January.

“We created ELI because there is a need in the field to retain people with 3-7 years of experience and equip them with the training and tools to take the next step in their career, becoming effective leaders in the performing arts,” says, Scott Stoner, vice president of programs of APAP. “It is important to stimulate conversation and provide a forum for these young leaders to grow and think about how leadership can operate on different levels and then take that knowledge and apply it first-hand.”

Approximately 25 participants are selected each year from a wide pool of applicants and are comprised of those who work directly in the presenting and touring field which includes, but is not limited to, performing artists, presenters, managers, agents, producers and professionals who work for arts councils or service organizations. ELI is an opportunity to engage in new professional relationships, exchange ideas, and become part of an expanding network of over 400 ELI alumni.

“Year after year I am inspired by artists, managers and cultural workers who are building careers in our field. My role is to co-facilitate dialogue, introduce mechanisms for action and ignite strong relationships development among the expanding ELI alumni network,” says, Rosalba Rolon, long-time co-facilitator of the ELI program. “What makes the ELI effective is that participants are sharing their experiences among similar-minded individuals and expanding their individual perspectives to provide strategies that may ultimately permeate their organizations.”

Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2017, APAP has been committed to leadership development in the changing ecology of the performing arts industry, providing avenues for members to
expand and strengthen their leadership skills. ELI 2017 will take place January 4-6, 2017 during the days leading up to APAP|NYC 2017 (January 6-10, 2017).

Participants of the 2017 Emerging Leadership Institute:
January 4-6, 2017

- **Sara Bailey**, program manager, Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA
- **Rachel Behring**, programming specialist, AT&T Performing Arts Center, Dallas, TX
- **Rachael Walters Brightwell**, associate director of programing and outreach at Emory University’s Schwartz Center for Performing Arts, Atlanta, GA
- **Robyn Busch**, program associate, international, Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, Baltimore, MD
- **Mickey Davis**, program director, Des Moines Social Club, Des Moines, IA
- **Meera Dugal**, programming manager, David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center, New York, NY
- **Grace Eubank**, special events manager, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Brooklyn, NY
- **Kevin Hasser**, general manager, National Players, Olney, MD
- **Ariana Hellerman**, consultant, Hostos Center, Bronx, NY
- **Isabella Hreljanovic**, producer and performer, Manhattan, NY
- **Daniela Jacobson**, executive and development associate, New England Foundation for the Arts, Boston, MA
- **Allison Kadin**, marketing manager, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Brooklyn, NY
- **Caroline Leipf**, development and administration associate, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- **Mari Levasheff**, marketing business analyst, UC Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures, Santa Barbara, CA
- **Ethan Messere**, assistant director of presenting and touring, South Arts, Atlanta, GA
- **Abbey Messmer**, programming manager, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale, AZ
- **Lauren Metts**, senior manager of patron relations, The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, Louisville, KY
- **Joe O’Neill**, theatre programmer, City of Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs, Las Vegas, NV
- **Hanna Oravec**, assistant director for programs, Wesleyan University’s Center for the Arts, Middletown, CT
- **Heena Patel**, owner, MELA Agency, New York, NY
Katie Spohr, special events and booking manager, Indiana University Auditorium, Bloomington, IN

Phinn Sriployrung, integrated marketing specialist, Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

Willie Sullivan, front of house coordinator for University Musical Society, Ann Arbor, MI

Kim Szeto, program manager for Creative City at the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), Boston, MA

Chelsea Walsh, artist liaison, Artis –Naples, Naples, FL

Megan Pagado Wells, associate director of Artist Partner Program, The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD

Amanda Wu, individual giving and special events manager, Cal Performances, Berkeley, CA

About the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP)

The Association of Performing Arts Presenters, 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 1,500 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, and 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 (Jan. 6-10, 2017) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

About APAP|NYC

APAP|NYC is the world's premier gathering of more than 3600 performing arts professionals, and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters 60th annual members conference, APAP|NYC 2017, in New York City at the New York Hilton Midtown and Sheraton New York Times Square. APAP|NYC features more than 1000 world-class artist showcases held around the city, an EXPO Hall boasting nearly 400 booths, dozens of professional development sessions, A-list keynote speakers, and pre-conference forums, many of which are free and open to the public and members. See more conference information at APAPNYC.org, and APAP membership information at apap365.org.