News Release

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APAP Announces New Leadership Fellows Program

Best of today’s arts leaders welcome personal and professional development amidst changing industry

Washington, DC (May 26, 2015) - The Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) in partnership with the USC Arts Leadership Program announces its inaugural class of participants for the APAP Leadership Fellows Program. The 2015 cohort of 24 was chosen from more than 50 competitive applicants. Launching in June 2015, the APAP Leadership Fellows Program seeks to build a body of knowledge and contribute to the growth and development of the field of performing arts presenting in a time of unprecedented change.

“Now is a time that demands creative and applied leadership. The best of today’s arts leaders – experienced, dedicated and passionate about their work – want and need innovative personal and professional development opportunities that embrace the radically changing environment,” says Mario Garcia Durham, president and CEO of APAP. “We are truly excited about the possibilities of our new Leadership Fellows Program. The response from the field to this new initiative has been extremely positive, and we look forward to learning a lot from the inaugural class.”

Prior to the inception of the Leadership Fellows Program, APAP saw a need for leadership development among mid-career professionals in order to advance the presenting field in the future.

“This program is not simply for those who want to do their job better – though that is an inevitable result – but for those who seek to transform the world through their work as an arts leader,” says Durham.

Participants in the inaugural cohort of Fellows have demonstrated a commitment to a collaborative process that will enhance the knowledge, skills and overall capacity needed to effect change in their current work and for the future. For long term impact on individuals and the field, the program has a 20 month arc, beginning with a five-day
summer intensive at the University of Southern California (USC), followed by ongoing peer-based mentoring, annual gatherings at the APAP|NYC conference in New York City and continuous engagement in an online resource and discussion platform.

For more than 50 years, 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.

Kenneth Foster, director of USC’s Arts Leadership Program, and Scott Stoner, APAP’s vice president of programs and resources, are co-directors of the Leadership Fellows Program.

A core group of industry professionals will also lead the cohort and guide them through the program including: Janera Solomon, executive director of the Kelly Strayhorn Theater; Barrie Steinberg, director of Frank Salomon Associates; Carlton Turner, executive director of Alternate ROOTS; Clyde Valentín, director of Ignite/Arts Dallas; and Jacob Yarrow, programming director for Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa.

APAP Leadership Fellows Program
Inaugural Class

- Jon Catherwood-Ginn, partnerships and engagement manager, Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech - Blacksburg, VA
- Joe Clifford, audience engagement director, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Dartmouth College - Hanover, NH
- David Denson, senior programming manager, AT&T Performing Arts Center - Dallas, TX
- Jill Dombrowski, executive producer, Montclair State University - Montclair, NJ
- Simone Eccleston, assistant director of programming, Harlem Stage - New York, NY
- Tanya Gertz, director of campus programming, Luther College - Decorah, IA
- Jason Hodges, executive director, Anchorage Concert Association - Anchorage, AK
- Brooke Horejsi, assistant dean/ executive director, University of Utah/College of Fine Arts/Utah Presents - Salt Lake City, UT
- Anne Kogan, programming manager, Lisner Auditorium, The George Washington University - Washington, DC
- Jaamil Olawale Kosoko, co-director, anonymous bodies || art collective - New York, NY
- Chris Ludwa, artistic director, Bay View Music Festival - Petoskey, MI
- Stephanie McKee, executive/artistic director, Junebug Productions Inc. - New Orleans, LA
• Allen Moon, director of touring, David Lieberman Artists’ Representatives - Newport Beach, CA
• Rosalina Ooi, president, Perak Society of Performing Arts - Perak, Malaysia
• Crystal Michelle Fuller Perkins, associate artistic director, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company - Dayton, OH
• Andre Perry, executive director, The Englert Theatre - Iowa City, IA
• Samuel Pott, artistic director, Nimbus Dance Works - Jersey City, NJ
• Heather Rigby, general manager of productions, L.A. County Arts Commission/Ford Theatre Foundation - Hollywood, CA
• Omari Rush, curator of public programs, Ann Arbor Art Center- Ann Arbor, MI
• Kevin Seaman, general manager, Queer Cultural Center - San Francisco, CA
• Nurit Smith, deputy director, Grand Performances - Los Angeles, CA
• Kathleen Spehar, executive director, The O’Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University - St. Paul, MN
• Beatrice Thomas, independent arts consultant - San Francisco, CA
• Tamica Washington-Miller, associate director, Lula Washington Dance Theatre - Redlands, CA

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

About the Association of Performing Arts Presenters

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. 15-19, 2016) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

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