

San Diego Community College District, City College

Technical Theatre Advisory Board

November 2, 2018, 11:30 a.m.

Present: **CHAIR: Duane Gardella**, San Diego City College, Dramatic Arts Professor
Robin Roberts, University of San Diego Faculty, Freelance Scenic Designer
Katie Rodda, San Diego City College Dramatic Arts Professor
James Saba, Executive Director, San Diego Junior Theatre
Jay Sheehan, San Diego State University Theatre Arts Professor; President, Cue One Productions
Ben Thoron, Production Manager, The Old Globe

Absent: **Ryan Heath**, Production Manager, Diversionary Theatre
John David Peters, San Diego Opera
Paul McDonald, IATSE Local 122
Kyle Waterman, Production Manager, San Diego Junior Theatre

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:35 by Chair Duane Gardella at City College, Room C105, and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 3, 2017 were read and approved.

D. Gardella and **K. Rodda** described the Technical Theatre Certificate and program at San Diego City College.

The advisory board approves for the following award(s) at San Diego City College to be effective Fall 2019:

Technical Theatre, Certificate of Achievement

COURSES REQUIRED FOR THE MAJOR:		UNITS
DRAM 123	Beginning Stagecraft	3
DRAM 124	Makeup for the Stage	3
DRAM 126	Advanced Stagecraft	3
DRAM 143	Beginning Costuming	3
DRAM 129A	Beginning Scene Painting	3
DRAM 129B	Intermediate Scene Painting	3

Total Units 18

Motioned (**Roberts**); Second (**Sheehan**)

K. Rodda provided a narrative of the 2016 CTEA (Career and Technical Improvement Act) application process and results. A grant of \$117,500 was made to support the Technical Theatre Certificate Program at City College; however, the funding was pulled when it was discovered that the TOP (Taxonomy of

Programs) Code for the Certificate was designated as “Drama, Theatre, Interpretation” (1007.00) instead of “Technical Theatre” (1006.00). Faculty and administrators from the City College Dramatic Arts Program and Visual and Performing Arts Department have begun the lengthy process to make the necessary changes to the TOP Codes, so the City College Dramatic Arts Program members will be applying for the grant again for 2019-2020.

B. Thoron and **J. Saba** both said that they frequently are in need of paid technicians to hang and focus lighting instruments for productions at the Old Globe and at San Diego Junior Theatre. **D. Gardella** and **K. Rodda** will reach out to current City College Technical Theatre students to make them aware of these opportunities.

J. Sheehan mentioned the many production management opportunities in the music industry. His company, Cue One Productions, oversees Production Management for large-scale music concerts, and he is actively looking for skilled technicians to work with him. He also recommended that students look at the publications ArtsSearch and Offstage Jobs for employment opportunities.

There is a San Diego Technical Theatre Facebook page which also lists employment opportunities.

J. Sheehan also mentioned that the major hotels in San Diego, particularly those near the San Diego Convention Center, frequently have positions in technical theatre and rigging for their many events. Additionally, MSI (Meeting Services Incorporated) has a production branch called MIS Production Services which hires skilled technicians.

J. Saba mentioned that the “gig economy” which has changed employment nationally is also impacting hiring in the world of theatre. Many employees work “at will” at various theatres or for production companies at one time, putting together a living wage from many different sources.

J. Sheehan reported that SDSU has just hired a new Professor of Projections. Theatrical projections are burgeoning industry and a new field which will provide employment opportunities nationwide.

J. Sheehan also reported that the field of robotics is overlapping with theatre as well, as there have been improvements and inventions in stage machinery with motors, computer controls, and other forms of automation. The University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Yale University, and Penn State all offer degrees in this area.)

Another new, developing area that provides employment for theatre technicians is in the area of theme park design. With Southern California’s enviable number of theme parks, this is an industry which will employ theatre technicians.

R. Roberts described a new computer program and phone application called ProCreate which is a new method of digital communication. She also recommends that theatre students become proficient in Photoshop, as this skill is in demand for scenic designers and theatre technicians.

Since all board members had previously toured the City College theatre complex, there was no formal tour. However, when B. Thoron visited the theatre in 2017, he had the following recommendations:

1. *I would encourage a professional rigging inspection [of the lines which provide the counter-weight system the scenery and lighting battens], I am concerned about the age of the hemp lines and without a thorough review, it’s hard to know whether the rest of the running rigging is still*

in adequate condition. My guess is that the hemp rope is over 40 years old. I imagine that the remainder of the system has been “maintained” but not replaced in as many years.

2. *Yes, **the lighting system clearly needs a full scale replacement.** None of your students would see equipment of that age (call it “antique”) in any venue that they might work in the future.*

Action Items:

1. **J. Sheehan** will come to City College in Spring 2019 to provide a presentation about transfer opportunities at SDSU. **D. Gardella** will coordinate that with him.
2. Technical theatre students will tour The Old Globe (led by **B. Thoron**) to see the facilities and backstage areas of the three theatres there.
3. **D. Gardella** will identify students from City College who can assist **J. Saba** and **B. Thoron** with opportunities to hang and focus lights for upcoming productions at San Diego Junior Theatre and The Old Globe.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.