**ELAC Theater Department CTE Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

Location: Zoom

Date: May 2, 2023

Time: 10:00am-11:30am

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the ELAC Theater Department CTE Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:00am on Zoom by Jessica Hansen.

**Present**

Cristina Frias, Jessica Hansen, Hashi Stone, Francois Pierre Couture, Vanessa Mizzone Pellegrini, Natalie Wong, James Buglewicz, Kaz Kasnetsis, David Scott, Nathan Davis, Elvia Rubalcava, Jeff Kleeman, Sylvia Cervantes Blush, Jon Rivera, Cheryl Rizzo, Sara Guerrero, Tony Shayne, Manny Prieto, Alex Meda, Claudia Duran, Lisa Wolpe, Brent Bruin, Jocelyn Tamayo, Wayne Nakasone, Alicia Green, Lorena Ortega

**Welcome & Introductions**

Jessica announces the focus of meeting is theater and suggest using the zoom chat for questions. Meeting is scheduled for 10:00am-11:30am. Jessica defined what the CTE meeting is, career tech education, ELAC theater is career driven.

**Theater Department Values**

Vanessa Mizzone Pellegrini**:**

* 10 values: for guidance of future theater workings
* Department reminders

**Theater Department Update and Perkins Grants**

Hashi Stone:

* The experience for students
* Online classes
* 2 new courses: Theater for Social Justice & Chicano Theater
* Update theatrical training equipment

**Discussion Topics**

a) Community and Student-Centered Season Planning

i) Who should be on our season planning committee?

ii) How should we choose our season productions?

iii) How can we best engage and serve our community with our show selections?

b) On-Campus Production Planning

i) What changes has the theater experienced in the past year that we should keep

as we return to on-campus productions?

ii) What changes could we make to our productions and process to better prepare

our students?

**Jessica Hansen**

Asks, who should be a part of the season picking and how do we pick?

**Claudia Duran**

Asks, how is it currently done?

**Vanessa Mizzone Pellegrini**

Explains the current process.

**Sylvia Cervantes Blush**

Suggest having students involved in process.

**Elvia Rubalcava**

Agrees

**Brent Bruin**

Suggest having design and tech students involved.

**Claudia Duran**

Student advisory board

**Sara Guerrero**

Survey students before going into selection; having bookstore keep database of plays and recommendations and comments of plays for future students to use.

**Cheryl Rizzo**

Involving teams in reading plays; engaged in process and opinions.

**Tony Shayne**

Ideas that are not focused on plays; performance art etc.; try devised works to break out of the theater mold.

**Brent Bruin**

Asked, how do play selections affect student directions in education/career path?

**Jessica Hansen**

Responds about student career prep regarding season selection. Mentions Career prep class.

**Vanessa Mizzone Pellegrini**

Performance East (Theater Club) is invited to be part of the selection committee; suggest asking student designers to committee.

**Vanessa Mizzone Pellegrini**

Important to remember that ELAC is a two-year school; try to help students finish within that time.

**Francois Pierre Couture**

Asks, any ideas for various types of theater positions available for students and how is it reshaping during these times?

**Tony Shayne**

Events, non-theater-based things, pop up museums, performance art, etc. Valuable for students to see what a theater education can do and what jobs are available.

**Claudia Duran**

Internships, experience at different performing spaces

**Wayne Nakasone**

Building connections and networking are important.

**Cheryl Rizzo**

Asks, (in chat) What is the alumni component?

Jessica responds that it is highly active but more of a one-on-one student.

**Sylvia Cervantes Blush**

Importance for community college graduates to have multi-disciplinary skills so they understand things like business and communication; so, they can be a well-rounded artist.

**Claudia Duran**

Suggest having workshops, one day workshops to teach business or other skills necessary to be well-rounded.

**Elvia Rubalcava**

Supporting idea of workshops

**Jessica Hansen**

Moving forward, what kind of shows should be picked?

**Tony Shayne**

Asks, what about devised works? Creators- bringing that aspect to the student’s environment.

**Vanessa Mizzone Pellegrini**

Yes, in house devised work has been done but not outside devised work.

**Claudia Duran**

Asks, about year-round works. Winter student directed projects.

**David Scott**

Defining the process for deciding Winter One Acts

**Jocelyn Tomayo**

Student Perspective: directing students to advance experience.

**Claudia Duran**

To do devised works she suggests, see student mindset and creativity, can be fun, include everyone:

* One-week programs
* No class
* Play around- 1-hour pieces
* One week long
* Let students suggest more than one text-based work.

**Sylvia Cervantes**

At UCSB they have program called Launchpad; shadowing professionals – be part of new play development, work with playwrights from the beginning to be part of discussions, student designers create inspiration boards being part of the process from beginning.

Swap list – a list of correlating plays of a time, not just Shakespeare but translating the classics and the times with plays from BIPOC for diversity in historical teachings.

**Tony Shayne**

Revisit traditional plays and the way we stage them is important (black box vs proscenium)

**Sylvia Cervantes**

It challenges everyone.

**Francois Pierre Couture**

Re-centering all aspects of theater.

**Brent Bruin**

Asks, about the design process.

**Francois Pierre Couture**

Process of design (US style) is a fewer week process, tech role, other countries more interactive role, we should experiment with an interactive process of all roles at theater and having them all (design teams as well) involved in process from beginning.

**Brent Bruin**

Agrees with being a part of process from beginning (including costumes).

**Jessica Hansen**

Community, what can we do to engage college community and our greater community?

**James Bugelwicz**

Explains theater in the community role and various programs and shows they have produced.

**Claudia Duran**

Suggests teaming with local high schools and universities, in particular Cal State Los Angeles, and collaboration opportunities.

**Sylvia Cervantes Blush**

Engaging ELAC departments like Women's studies, LGBTQ clubs; building community within college and expand theater's reach within the college; continue online platform to keep accessibility across the world.

**Elvia Rubalcava**

Check ins with professions like this meeting, and globally; exchanged between departments.

**Sylvia Cervantes Blush**

Importance of networking and how schoolmates become the network; building and fostering broad networks and relationships; help emerging artist beak down barriers and become not new and emerging.

**Jessica Hansen**

Post distance online education and campus life, what does it look like and what has changed due to Covid?

**Cheryl Rizzo**

Boston Court is keeping zoom/virtual platform, it has brought accessibility they can not let go.

**Claudia Duran**

How to manage and having covid protocols.

**Brent Bruin**

CTG changing tech schedules (10 of 12).

**Francois Pierre Couture**

Revising schedule of production and the way we approach tech, adding a Monday break.

**Sylvia Cervantes Blush**

(continuing to answer previous question) On campus/stay home support, improve show translations for pandemic showing, support from her department is an issue, bandwidth and technical support, covid and mental health.

**Jessica Hansen**

Thanks Everyone and calls meeting at 11:30 am.

**Meeting Minutes Summary: Take-Aways**

* Create short term workshop to fill the gaps in curriculum and serve the students.
* Mentorship is key. Students mentoring students, faculty and staff mentoring students, and

alumni mentoring students.

* Ensure that we are able to push students forward during their studies to employment.

Focus on a business class with promotion and management skills. How to manage is very important with administrative topics.

* Training should focus on communication.
* Importance of internship experiences, especially with our local community and industry partners.
* Create a “playground” performance opportunity. No longer than 1 hour, devised, dance and all student led. Also called Launchpad. Designers involved, creating inspiration boards.
* Use the BIPOC Swap List. Need to continue to focus on history but with a new lens. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hrNaae60biRBsRTgX3oGPuZ7qMliQrBNgPYdJO40c64/edit#gid=0
* Continue to do classic pieces, but don’t feature them in the same way. Challenge them, shake it up, and challenge ourselves with concepts and new presentation styles.
* Outreach to high schools is vital to the department.
* Increase audience development and cultivate theater patrons.
* Pursue collaborations that build bridges. Work with transfer programs (CSULA). Interdepartmental collaboration within the school.
* Plan with the “ripple effect” in mind.
	+ Theater Department: Students, Staff, Faculty
	+ College: Interdepartmental; Arts, Media, Design Career & Academic Pathways
	+ Community: East LA, High School Partners, Transfer Partners, Theater Community
	+ Global: Culturally Responsive, Representation, Equity

Moving forward in Theater:

* + Plan to work with Zoom in the future for meetings and collaborating.
	+ Everything takes longer with the protocols.
	+ No more 10 out of 12 days
	+ Consider the schedule impact on faculty and staff.
	+ Virtual shows need support from the department and have many technical needs.
	+ A way to increase student bandwidth.
	+ Create lighting and tech packs for students performing remotely.
	+ Live simulcast the shows on Vimeo or other platforms.
	+ Check in and check out meetings after rehearsals to avoid the harsh transition to

isolation.

**Location:** ZOOM ID: 929 2772 8072

**D** For the Season Selection Committee:

* + Have a panel of student representatives
	+ Students are stakeholders
	+ Representatives from Directing, Design & Technology, Acting, etc.
	+ Create a survey for each years incoming students to share their ideas for the

seasons.

* + Create a 2-year strategic plan
* Focus on creating relationships. Students can work with guests and community

and industry partners to start building networks.

* Ensure staff is a part of the creative planning.
* Think outside of plays: movement pieces, devised work, performance arts, etc.
* Experience theater and non-theater performance.
* Consider the resources. Human resources. Tools and material resources.
* New play or new works festival., May 21

**Time:** 10 – 11:30 AM

**Contact Information**

**T h e a t e r**

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