# The 44th National Conference & Theatre Tour

**We’re Going Virtual in 2020!**  
**July 13-15**

## DETAILED SCHEDULE

All times, dates and presenters are subject to change

**Last updated 7/11/2020**

### Monday, July 13, 2020  
*All times are Eastern Daylight Time*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 12:00 - 12:30 PM | Welcome & Opening Ceremony  
*Board Chair, Molly Fortune, and President and CEO, Ken Stein, welcome you and take you on a brief overview of the conference making sure everyone is ready to get the most out of this virtual gathering.* |
| 1:00 - 2:15 PM | Tools & Techniques *(Live Virtual Education Session – attendance is unlimited)*  
*Getting Creative with COVID-19*  
*Join your peers from theatres that are offering programming in creative ways and in alternative spaces. We’ll discuss remaining in the spotlight even if it’s not currently shining on your stage. Presenters to be announced.* |
| 1:00 - 3:30 PM | Tools & Techniques: Intensive *(Live Virtual Education Session – attendance is LIMITED)*  
*Raise Your EQ: Racism 101*  
*A 2.5-hour session about Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion led by expert consultants from Equity Quotient, a national consulting firm providing training and organizational transformation to nonprofits.  
*NOTE: This is the only session during the conference that will have limited attendance.* |
| Available starting at 1:00 PM and throughout the entire conference | Tools & Techniques OnDemand  
*(Pre-recorded Education Sessions available to attendees at any time during the conference)*  
*Select a session from our OnDemand Library (see titles on pages 4-5; speaker info at end of the schedule) and then plan to join us later for Happy Hour where you can ask questions or give feedback on what you have learned so far. You could also just go watch TV, but there will be a quiz!* |
| 4:30 PM | Networking: Virtual Happy Hour  
*Grab your Quarantini or a COVID Cocktail and join us for an LHAT Happy Hour. We’ll start by interviewing a few speakers from our recent webinars, then open audio and video for everyone on the line to share stories, good and bad. See and hear from your favorite LHAT peeps.* |
**Tuesday, July 14, 2020**

**All times are Eastern Daylight Time**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>LIVE! Meet the LHAT Service Providers &amp; Suppliers EXPO</strong>&lt;br&gt;Just like at our in-person conference, during this 90 minute live portion of this year’s EXPO, you can meet virtually with experts in the field to discuss the latest tools, technology &amp; best practices for the preservation, restoration, and operation of historic theatres. Explore the 2020 exhibitors’ virtual booths, where you’ll have access to OnDemand videos, downloadable brochures, and will find a link to connect live with them through a live online virtual meeting. Sorry -- we couldn’t figure out how to serve virtual cocktails and appetizers during the Expo! <strong>2020 Exhibitors include:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Agile Ticketing Solutions&lt;br&gt;• Artsman&lt;br&gt;• Conrad Schmitt Studios, Inc.&lt;br&gt;• DLR Group&lt;br&gt;• ETC&lt;br&gt;• Etix&lt;br&gt;• EverGreene Architectural Arts&lt;br&gt;• Gala Systems, Inc.&lt;br&gt;• John Canning &amp; Co. Ltd.&lt;br&gt;• John Tiedemann Inc / Historic Plaster Conservation Services USA&lt;br&gt;• Lay 3D Reality Capture&lt;br&gt;• Mills + Schnoering Architects, LLC&lt;br&gt;• National Trust Insurance Services, LLC&lt;br&gt;• OTJ Architects&lt;br&gt;• Schuler Shook&lt;br&gt;• SERAPID Inc.&lt;br&gt;• Stages Consultants, LLC&lt;br&gt;• Staging Concepts&lt;br&gt;• Studio T+L&lt;br&gt;• The Compass Group, Inc.&lt;br&gt;• Theatre Consultants Collaborative&lt;br&gt;• V.I.P. Tours of New York&lt;br&gt;• Watchfire Signs&lt;br&gt;• Wenger Corporation&lt;br&gt;• Whirley-DrinkWorks!</td>
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<td>2:00 - 3:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>Tools &amp; Techniques</strong> <em>(Live Virtual Education Session – attendance is unlimited)</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Staying Busy in the Dark</strong>&lt;br&gt;Join your peers who are still dark but who have managed to keep busy by laying the foundation for a successful re-opening – whenever that might be. We’ll discuss community building, fundraising, and other operational issues that face theatres that are currently dark but hope to open soon.</td>
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<td>Available throughout the entire conference</td>
<td><strong>Tools &amp; Techniques OnDemand</strong> <em>(Pre-recorded Education Sessions available to attendees at any time during the conference)</em>&lt;br&gt;Select a session from our OnDemand Library <em>(see titles on pages 4-5; speaker info at end of the schedule)</em> and then plan to join us tomorrow afternoon for Happy Hour where you can ask questions or give feedback on what you have learned so far.</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>The 2020 LHAT Virtual Theatre Ramble</strong>&lt;br&gt;Join your friends for a virtual plane ride, bus ride and walk as we tour some historic theatres you might not normally see at our live conference. On an island or up a mountain, these theatres are opening their doors just for us. Forget sheltering in place. You’ve been wanting to get out and see the world. Now you can!</td>
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## 2020 Keynote Address

**Asking in the Moment**

Join Robert Bull, fundraising expert and President of The Compass Group, as he discusses fundraising in this moment through a part-educational, part-biographical, and part-inspirational keynote talk.

**Educational:** Understand the philanthropic landscape in this moment and how historic theaters can successfully advance their own fundraising efforts amidst a global pandemic, economic uncertainty, and racial unrest.

**Biographical:** Learn about Robert’s own theatre background, his experience as an African American professional in the industry, and the intersection between his theater and fundraising roles.

**Inspirational:** Listen to the ways to make important and effective asks in a moment when it is most needed and most impactful for historic theaters.

### Tools & Techniques (Live Virtual Education Session – attendance is unlimited)

**Open for Business (Sort of)**

Join your peers who have actually re-opened their doors and hosted events. Limited capacity, social distance seating, mask or no masks are just some of the topics we’ll cover.

### Available throughout the entire conference

**Tools & Techniques OnDemand**

**(Pre-recorded Education Sessions available to attendees at any time during the conference)**

Select a session from our OnDemand Library (see titles on pages 4-5; speaker info at end of the schedule) and then plan to join us later for Happy Hour where you can ask questions or give feedback on what you have learned so far.

### 3:30 PM

**The 2020 LHAT Annual Membership Meeting & Closing Remarks**

Join members of the LHAT National Board to learn how the organization is doing financially and what plans we have for the future. We’ll be electing new Board Members and answering any questions.

### 4:30 PM

**Networking: Virtual Happy Hour**

Grab your Quarantini or a COVID Cocktail and join us for an LHAT Happy Hour. We’ll start by interviewing a few speakers from our recent webinars, then open audio and video for everyone on the line to share stories, good and bad. See and hear from your favorite LHAT peeps, share virtual hugs and a toast as we close out another LHAT National Conference!
**Tools & Techniques OnDemand - Available Sessions below** (with approx. run times)

- **Insurance Coverage/Issues Related to Coronavirus and Reopening Your Venue** (56:12)
  
  *Ken Sullivan, CIC, MBA, Client Executive with National Trust Insurance Services*, an LHAT national partner, covers such topics as: what is keeping you from having Business Income coverage; General Liability considerations with respect to reopening your venue; Workers Compensation in relation to the Coronavirus outbreak; and how staff downsizing can be protected via Employment Practices Liability insurance.

- **The Event Safety Alliance Reopening Guide** (1:06:44)
  
  As municipal officials begin to allow small groups of people to gather in public even while the fight against COVID-19 continues, there is a tremendous need for guidance about how small events and venues can reopen as safely as possible under these incredibly challenging circumstances. In response, the Event Safety Alliance released The Event Safety Alliance Reopening Guide in May 2020. **Presenter:** Steven A. Adelman of Adelman Law Group, PLLC and Vice President of Event Safety Alliance.

- **Non-Profit Board Governance Best Practices** (1:28:43)
  
  Boards can lift an organization up, but they can also unknowingly tear them down. Who runs the organization? Are term limits good? What are bylaws and do we really have to follow them? What does fiduciary responsibility mean? What is the difference between an operational board and a governing board? Learn about best practices around governance, policy and board/staff relations from Ken Stein, CEO of the League. He has over 25 years of nonprofit management experience and is certified in Board Governance Best Practices by the nation’s leading non-profit board resource, BoardSource. While this topic was not designed to discuss COVID-19 issues specifically, we will discuss how board governance best practices can help you navigate these challenging times. This session is primarily for theatre executive level staff and board members, but anyone wishing to know more about how boards work will leave with valuable information. **Presenter:** Ken Stein, League of Historic American Theatres

- **Data Defense in the Age of COVID-19: How to Protect Your Personal Identity & Business Data...in Plain English!** (1:02:42)
  
  Several national and international agencies have reported a growing use of COVID-19-related themes by malicious cyber actors, while the surge in teleworking has increased the use of potentially vulnerable services, such as VPNs, amplifying the threat to individuals and organizations. Cybercriminals are targeting individuals, small and medium enterprises, and large organizations with COVID-19-related scams and phishing emails. Data security’s constantly emerging threats — particularly in the age of COVID-19 — can feel a lot like playing an unending game of whack-a-mole. This session explains, in plain English, how to better secure one’s Personally Identifiable Information and sensitive business and payments data in this era of growing fraud and costly breaches. Learn how to deal with the dangers of ransomware and other online threats; simple steps you can take to protect loved ones and yourself from hackers, phishers, extortionists, and other cyber miscreants, and limit or prevent the damage they can cause to finances, privacy, reputations, and even your physical and mental well-being. A brief bonus section will cover payment processing, an explanation of the confusing rates and fees, and how to reduce costs. The session is valuable to everyone for both their personal and professional lives. **Presenter:** Wynn Salisch, Casablanca Ventures

- **Back to the Seats: Recommendations for Post-Pandemic Concessions Delivery and Revenue Maximization** (1:18:07)
  
  For historic theatres, finding new ways to generate revenue through concession sales has always been a priority. Once theatres are allowed to reopen, delivering concessions safely, while still trying to generate revenue, will be a new and unusual challenge. Join this webinar, presented by veterans from the concessions fields and a historic theatre operator, to learn recommendations and best practices for dispensing beverages post-pandemic — how to speed up service through simplifying menus, requiring pre-ordering, making batch cocktails, self-pouring and updating coupons. PPE and sanitizing stations and more are covered. **Presenters:** Liz Deambrosio and Bernie Campbell, Whirley Drinkworks!, Greg Edelson, ValidFill, and Wendy McCain, Struthers Library Theatre

- **How to Reopen — Re-Imagining Normal** (1:20:05)
  
  While we all long to return to our theatres, reopening plans must be customized to reflect our unique needs, challenges and opportunities. As COVID-19 guidance evolves, we’ll talk about what to believe and what to consider as you refine your plans. Join **Janis Barlow (Janis Barlow & Associates), Janet Gates (Elgin & Winter Garden Theatres) and Janet Sellery (Sellery Health & Safety)** as they explore resources and ideas for reopening theatres.
• **Pathways to (Re)Opening Night** (1:08)
  How do historic theater / venue patrons, performers, and staff interact in a post pandemic world? The coronavirus pandemic has focused a spotlight on many aspects of our daily lives and routines that often have been taken for granted. Entertainment is accessible today from the safety and comfort of one’s own home – live streaming, produced recordings, scheduled broadcasts. However, these options do not allow for the immediacy, intimacy, and connections patrons experience while attending live performances. What will your venues look like next month or next year? The presenters will share financial, operational, and physical observations and recommendations for potentially reopening with safety and success in mind. Topics will address alternate pricing models and revenue streams, engaging communities in new ways, working with volunteers, maximizing spaces for revenue generation, and identifying best strategies for queuing, lobby and back-of-house usage. **Presenters:** Chris Loeser, AIA, Principal, and Christina Kruise, DLR Group

• **The Rebuilding Power of Historic Theatres** (Time TBD)
  The coronavirus has had a devastating impact on America’s arts sector. Cancellations and closings are taking place at thousands of arts organizations and 10 percent don’t believe they will survive the crisis. Join this lively webinar with national arts leader, Randy Cohen, VP of Research at Americans for the Arts, for an update on the (troubling) health of the nation’s arts sector as well as how historic theatres can be an essential tool in rebuilding their community—socially and economically. Fill your advocacy quiver with 10 case-making arrows to ensure a vital community presence for your theatre. **Presenter:** Randy Cohen, Americans for the Arts

• **Creative Borrowing for Your COVID 19 Comeback** (1:12:44)
  This webinar provides information about how nonprofit organizations can use fully secured borrowing to help them through a financial crisis. Richard Linzer of Linzer Consulting gives an overview of this common financial tool. Irene Namkung, former board chair for Northwest Folklife Festival, and Stuart Weiser, former manager of the Eugene Symphony Orchestra, share how their organizations used fully-secured borrowing to manage their financial crises and ultimately become stronger, more resilient organizations. Additional presenters: Michael Faison, Idaho Commission on the Arts; Brian Rogers, Oregon Arts Commission and Oregon Cultural Trust; and Karen J. Hanan, ArtsWA (the WA State Arts Commission).

“Creative Borrowing for Your COVID 19 Comeback” and the accompanying materials were developed and presented by the state arts commissions of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The webinar was produced with the permission and assistance of Richard and Anna Linzer. The associated materials are available to anyone free of charge and may be copied and distributed as needed without permission.

• **How to Clean & Disinfect Public Seating** (58:13)
  As facilities look to reopen safely, one of the biggest questions is how to clean and disinfect the seating quickly, cost effectively, thoroughly and without damage. Leaders of cinemas, performing arts centers, education facilities, sports venues and churches are trying to determine the right disinfectant to use, the equipment to apply it, as well as the timing and frequency of disinfecting. The session includes recently released testing methods and results, insights from a recent study of facility disinfecting plans, and best practices from textile experts. Thank you to Irwin Seating Company for granting LHAT permission to share this webinar with our 2020 conference attendees. **Presenters:** Joe Kilby, Association for Contract Textiles (ACT); Dave Wells, Sr., Culp Contract Fabrics; David Adair, Executive VP, Absecon Mills; Jason Vanderground, Irwin Seating Company
2020 LHAT National Conference Presenters

(Additional presenters and bios will be added soon.)

David Adaire, is the Executive Vice President of Absecon Mills in Cologne, New Jersey. Absecon’s focus is performance fabrics and fabric finishing technology, with the capacity for thousands of pattern and color combinations. He'll speak to topics including fabric structure and composition and colorfastness of yarns and dyes. dadaire@absecon.com

Steve Adelman is Vice President for the Event Safety Alliance and head of Adelman Law Group in Scottsdale, Arizona. His law practice focuses on risk management and litigation regarding live events throughout North America, and he also serves as an expert witness in crowd-related lawsuits. Steve Adelman is widely recognized as an authority on event safety and security. He writes the monthly “Adelman on Venues” newsletter, teaches “Risk Management in Venues” at Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, and he frequently appears in national and local media for analysis of safety and security incidents at public accommodations. Steve Adelman graduated from Boston College Law School in 1994. sadelman@adelmanlawgroup.com

Janis Barlow is a theatre consultant specializing in research, strategic planning and feasibility studies. Her background combines comprehensive project planning, facilitation and management experience with degrees in theatre, sociology and architecture. From 1981 to 1989 she oversaw planning, design, construction, public relations and fund raising for the award-winning, $30 million Elgin and Winter Garden theatre restoration. Since 1990 she has consulted for a client list all across the United States and Canada. She took on an 18-month assignment as Executive Director of Willowbank – the School of Restoration Arts in 2017 and completed phase two of the restoration of the 1842 Willowbank estate. Janis is relocating full time in her home town in the Niagara Region of Ontario, Canada and turning to work as a theatre consultant to help with post pandemic planning work. She has served on the boards of the League of Historic American Theatres and the World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre among many others. janis@jabarlow.com

Robert Bull, Jr. serves as president of The Compass Group, guiding the company’s exceptional consulting services and driving strategic growth and development. Robert’s career spans more than two decades of fundraising consultation, resulting in more than $1 billion in philanthropic gifts across the sectors of conservation, healthcare, arts, and education. Robert’s impact through fundraising extends beyond client service into education, teaching individuals and institutions next-level success through his dynamic speaking, presenting, and lecturing in the classroom and beyond. Robert holds a M.S. in Organizational Leadership and Management from Antioch University New England and a B.A. in Theatre and Arts Administration from Goucher College. He is pursuing a PhD at Antioch University in the Graduate School of Leadership and Change. rbull@compassgroup.com

Bernie Campbell has been with Whirley Drinkworks! for over 30 years. He has provided valuable guidance to numerous theatre locations showing them how to make Souvenir vessels a key component of their revenue stream. Whirley Drinkworks! specializes in the manufacturer of refill/souvenir vessels throughout the world. Bernie pioneered the “Back to the Seats” program and has worked with the rest of the team at WhirleyDrinkworks! to refine the offerings that you see in many of the live event theatres around the world today. BCampbell@whirleydrinkworks.com

Randy Cohen is Vice President of Research at Americans for the Arts—the national advocacy organization for the arts—where he has been empowering arts advocates since 1991. He publishes Americans Speak Out About the Arts, a national public opinion study about the arts as well as the two premier economic studies of the arts—Arts & Economic Prosperity, the national economic impact study of nonprofit arts organizations and their audiences; and Creative Industries, a mapping study of the nation’s 675,000 arts businesses and their employees. His 10 Reasons to Support the Arts blog received the Gold Award from the Association of Media & Publishing—their top honor for best blog post of the year. Randy led the development of the National Arts Policy Roundtable, an annual convening of leaders who focus on the advancement of American culture—launched in partnership with Robert Redford and the Sundance Institute. A sought-after speaker, Randy has given speeches in all 50 states, and regularly appears in the news media—including the Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and on C-SPAN, CNN, CNBC, and NPR. rcohen@artsusa.org

Liz Deambrosio has been with Whirley Drinkworks! for over 30 years. She is Whirley’s Theatre Channel Manager staying focused on the highly profitable sippy cup success story that has traveled to almost every Theatre around the USA, Canada and now Europe. Working closely with Whirley’s Sales Force and Theatre Bar Managers, Liz provides a unique set of skill sets on how to help Theatres create “Speed of Service” programs around “Signature Show Cocktails”, “Double Pours” and “Upsells” all tied to the “Back to the Seats” sippy cup program that helps Theatres drive revenue. LDeambrosio@whirleydrinkworks.com
Greg Edelson has been with ValidFill since its founding in 2009. He has been in retail technology for over 30 years, starting with the IBM Corporation and moving into RFID base controlled dispensing. Together with their sister company Whirley-Drinkworks!, ValidFill helps operators place beverage dispense points in locations they never considered before while creating prepaid guest offer that lift their dispensed category profits to be the highest performing in their industries while speeding guest service. gedelson@validfill.com

Michael Faison is the executive director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. Faison previously served as the director of the Arts in Education Division of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the assistant director of the Oregon Arts Commission, and the executive director of the Center for Arts Management and Technology at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He served as an information technology consultant for Pittsburgh’s Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild and was a high school art teacher in the Austin Independent School District, Austin, Texas. Faison is a member of the boards of the Western States Arts Federation, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University Alumni Association, and his local Rotary club. He holds a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the University of Texas at Austin, a master’s degree in arts management from Carnegie Mellon University, and multiple Texas teaching certifications. Michael.Faison@arts.idaho.gov

Janet Gates is the Managing Director of the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, a thriving historic venue in downtown Toronto, Canada. During her association with the Centre she has successfully moved the Centre into a sustainable operating model, with significant improvements to the commercial viability of the Centre. Her background is in not-for-profit association management and tourism operations, with the last 20 years in the public sector in economics, finance, tourism and sport. Janet.Gates@heritagetrust.on.ca

Karen J. Hanan is a senior executive with 25+ years of success providing leadership and managerial direction to state and regional arts service and presenting organizations. She was appointed Executive Director of ArtsWA (the WA State Arts Commission) by Governor Jay Inslee in 2014. As the agency’s head, Karen’s role is to grow the organization’s capacity, services and potential for positively impacting the arts field, arts in education, the creative economy and the State. Previously, Karen was Executive Director of Arts Northwest, the regional service organization for performing arts organizations, arts presenters, artists, agents and associated organizations. Karen is a well-respected member of a number of industry organizations, and sits on several Boards of Directors including the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the Western States Arts Federation. She enjoys opportunities to be a speaker, panelist or event participant where the focus is an arts-related topic, or the creative economy. karen.hanan@arts.wa.gov

Joe Kilby is the Assistant Director of ACT, The Association for Contract Textiles. ACT is the leading trade association for the design, development, and production of textiles for commercial interiors, and provides a critical resource for contract textile information and education. ACT is responsible for establishing and promoting the performance and environmental guidelines for woven, coated and knit fabrics for indoor use. joe@contracttextiles.org

Christina M. Kruise leads business operations and fundraising support efforts for DLR Group’s Cultural + Performing Arts Studio. She focuses on development and planning for cultural facilities, working to ensure spaces are equitable, accessible, inclusive, and representative of the communities in which they exist. She works directly with clients on projects ranging from facility and capital campaign feasibility studies to business planning, grant writing, and facility rightsizing. An experienced practitioner, Christina has a deep understanding of the forces and trends at work in the arts and cultural sector, and how these elements impact the choices being made for a facility. ckruese@dlrgroup.com

Anna Linzer is a poet and writer. Her book of fiction, GHOST DANCING, was published by Picador of St. Martin's Press and received an American Book Award. In addition, her poetry and stories have appeared in literary magazines and anthologies, including Kenyon Review, Carolina Quarterly, PARIS, LA, and Blue Dawn, Red Earth.

Richard Linzer provides consultation for businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. He works with organizations in the areas of financial management, board development, group facilitation, institutional analysis, and strategic planning. Since 1965, Richard Linzer has consulted with over 500 businesses, agencies, and nonprofit institutions in the arts, education, health care, social services, the humanities, and environmental fields. twolinzers@gmail.com

Christopher Loeser, AIA is an LHAT board member and an architect at DLR Group, focusing on the design of both new and renovated cultural and performing arts facilities. He has specialized expertise in the restoration and renovation of historic theaters, including working closely with Cleveland’s Playhouse Square on numerous projects over the past decade. Chris has deep knowledge of how theaters work and how design choices may impact the experience of patrons, artists, and staff/operators. Chris has spoken at national conferences of the Theatre Communications Group and USITT. cloeser@dlrgroup.com
Wendy McCain, the executive director Struthers Library Theatre (SLT), leads the 138-year-old theatre in achieving its mission to entertain, enrich and educate the local community. In 2019 SLT received a performing arts liquor license adding a new revenue stream for the theatre. Reusable cups also reduce the impact on the environment. Struthers Library Theatre is the 2018 Outstanding Historic Theatre of the Year. wendy@strutterslibrarytheatre.org

Irene Namkung was born into the turbulent world of Japanese occupied Shanghai in 1943. She lived in Japan and Korea, before emigrating to the U.S. in 1949. Her talented parents were soon part of Seattle’s burgeoning cultural scene. The many artists and musicians who were regular visitors to her home were strong influences on Irene. At Reed College, Irene collaborated with a student/faculty board to present a diverse offering of artists including Julian Bream, Ravi Shankar, Mississippi Fred McDowell, and the Nomura Kyogen Theater. In 1966, Irene co-founded the Seattle Folklife Society to present traditional musicians. In 1971 Irene began a 14-year career as a professional studio potter, gaining board experience with the Portland Saturday Market and the Oregon Potters Association. In 1974, along with her life partner, John Ullman, Irene started Traditional Arts Services, a management company for traditional musicians. Their roster included Bill Monroe, Queen Ida, Mike Seeger, and Elizabeth Cotten. At booking conferences Irene pioneered in independent showcasing. She eventually became president of the Western Arts Alliance board. In 1991, Irene joined the board of Northwest Folklife, a four-day festival with 200,000 attendees. In 1996, the Folklife board realized the organization was in financial trouble and asked Irene to become president. By the end of the 1998 festival, it was clear that Folklife was close to insolvency. With Richard Linzer’s help, Irene instituted a Credit Holders program which saved Folklife from a half-million-dollar debt.

Brian Rogers, a longtime arts and culture consultant, is executive director of the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust. He has led planning and facilitated retreats, with a focus on funding stabilization and grant programs, for several state arts agencies and multiple cultural organizations across the country. Rogers served as deputy executive director of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) for 16 years, where he was responsible for grant programs, financial oversight and the administration of the agency. He led development and implementation, through a public/private partnership, of the innovative and groundbreaking data collection and reporting tool, the “Cultural Data Project.” Rogers served on the governing body for the project and acted as the state’s task force manager. Rogers holds a bachelor’s in fine arts from Tyler School of Art at Temple University, where he majored in painting, and a master’s in fine arts from the Graduate School of Art at the University of Arizona.

Wynn J. Salisch, CCM, CHS, ETA CPP, MBKS, is the founder and Principal of the financial technology firm Casablanca Ventures LLC. A veteran theatre professional with over a half century of experience in show business – from onstage, backstage and front of house to venture development and corporate management – plus the payment processing and hospitality industries, he’s directed over 1,000 operations worldwide from cinemas and live theaters to performing arts and sports stadium venues, helped build the Clearview Cinemas movie theatre circuit and design New York City’s Angelika Film Center, designed lighting for theatrical and concert attractions, and created successful entertainment publishing and hospitality ventures, among other credits. He teaches payment processing and cybersecurity for trade organizations nationwide, studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and with Tony Award-winning theatrical lighting designer Jean Rosenthal, and is a graduate of The School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University. Wynn is a Partner on the Electronic Crimes Task Force of the United States Secret Service and a life member of Variety the Children’s Charity, Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers, the International Moving Image Society (formerly the British Kinematograph Sound and Television Society), and Cornell Hotel Society. He’s on the Board of Directors of Tony Award-winning La MaMa E.T.C. and the Asian American International Film Festival, and the Board of Advisors of the Provincetown Film Society and their international film festival, plus a consultant for Milwaukee Film’s international film festival and their historic Oriental Theatre. He’s also a member of the League of Historic American Theatres and the International Cinema Technology Association, and an Honorary Member of Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision - The New Zealand Archive of Film, Television and Sound and of the Cinema Projectionists Union of Iceland. wynn@casablanca-ventures.com

Michael R. Schnoering, FAIA is a Partner with Mills + Schnoering Architects, LLC, a full service architectural firm with broad experience in the planning and design of new buildings and historic preservation. He manages the firm’s theater projects. In his work with historic theatres, he is particularly focused on project planning; budgeting and fundraising; program development; site design; and project scheduling. He is also interested in engaging with owners and managers of mid-century Modern theatres to help them understand and enhance their newly historic buildings, and he specializes in identifying and designing integrated solutions to accessibility challenges. Mr. Schnoering holds a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and is a Registered Architect in 14 states and the District of Columbia. He serves on the Board of Directors of the League of Historic American Theatres, the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, and the Cultural Access Network (CAN) of New Jersey. He is the author of numerous articles on the process of theater planning and is a consistent presenter at LHAT and CAN events. mikes@msarchitectsllc.com

Janet Sellery is one of Canada’s leading experts in health and safety and the arts, entertainment and live events. She started her career in stage management and moved into health and safety after a critical injury involving an actor. Janet pioneered the health and safety
Ken Stein is President & CEO of the League of Historic American Theatres. Ken has consulted with numerous non-profit arts organizations and has presented at several national and regional conferences. As a former historic theatre executive as well as a board member for other arts organizations, Ken sees Board Governance from both sides and will attempt to demonstrate how theatre executives and board members can work together collaboratively and effectively with less stress and more fun.

Alec Stoll, ASTC has 15 years of nationwide experience backstage and a further 18 in theatre consulting. He is internationally respected as a theatre planner and designer. Alec has played integral roles in well over 100 academic, professional and community venues as well as historic renovation and restoration projects. Alec is a past board member of the American Society of Theatre Consultants, the League of Historic American Theatres and the RCHP Affordable Housing Corporation. Alec holds an MFA in Theater Production Management from Brandeis University and a BFA in Technical Theatre from Emerson College. alec@stagesconsultants.com

Kevin Sullivan is a Client Executive in the National Trust Insurance Services (NTIS) division of Baltimore-based insurance agency Maury, Donnelly & Parr. NTIS is a joint venture between MDP and the National Trust for Historic Preservation which was formed in 2003 to meet the challenging insurance issues facing historic properties across this Country. In short, NTIS is a specialized insurance broker, consultant, and program administrator specifically created for the owners and stewards of historically prominent buildings (and the organizations that operate within). NTIS operates in all 50 States. As part of the NTIS team, Kevin oversees current client service and new client procurement. He is a graduate of Denison University and earned an MBA from the University of Baltimore. He also holds the Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) designation. Kevin works extensively with historic theaters, often on-site, to reduce risk and properly insure operations and historic properties. Popular presenter at LHAT conferences. Maury Donnelly & Parr is an LHAT national partner. Kevin-Sullivan@mdpins.com

Jason Vanderground, is Irwin Seating’s Director of Marketing. He will be presenting important data gathered from Irwin Seating’s Safe Reopen survey, observations on Irwin’s in-house testing using the new ACT guidelines for resistance to cleaners and disinfectants, and best practices for caring for finishes such as laminate, wood stain and plastic. jason.vanderground@irwinseating.com

Dave Wells is the Sr. Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Culp Contract Fabrics. Culp offers PVC-free polyurethanes, and woven fabric with iClean technology. We’ll be tapping Dave’s valuable experience in the development and performance of polyurethane. dawells@culp.com

Stuart Weiser, Deputy Director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts, has a career in the nonprofit arts spanning nearly four decades. A musician by training, Mr. Weiser has managed symphony orchestras in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Oregon. He has also served on the staff of the New Jersey Symphony, Long Island Philharmonic, and Aspen Music Festival, was Development Director of the Boise Philharmonic, and for seven years was conductor of Opera Idaho’s summer parks performances. In addition to his work in the symphony world, Mr. Weiser has also managed the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center, an 800-seat historic theatre in Hanover, PA. Mr. Weiser holds a BA from the State University of New York College at Fredonia, and a Master of Science degree in Leadership and Business Ethics from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He has lived in Boise for 12 years and is a frequent guest speaker on the topics of fundraising, finance, board development, and the economic impact of the nonprofit arts. stuart.weiser@arts.idaho.gov