

APNNE Meeting

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

In attendance:

- President: Darcie Champagne - Stockbridge Theater/Pinkerton Academy
- Vice President: Chloe Powell - Barn Arts in Barnard, VT and ALIA Productions
- Treasurer: Vicky Pittman - Colonial Theater in Keene, NH
- Secretary: Madeline Bell - Flynn Center for the Performing Arts

- Adrienne Petrillo - NEFA
- Allison Hawkins - new staff at New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

- Andrew Pinard - Claremont Opera House (as of January 1), founder of Hatbox Theater in Concord, NH
 - Non-traditional spaces
 - Complimentary programming to expand audiences
 - Non-competitive arts organizations
- Dan Darling - Franklin Opera House in Franklin, NH
- Shannon Bohler - Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College
- Liza Sacheli - Mahaney Arts Center, Middlebury College
- Laura Jean (LJ) Gilloux - Lebanon Opera House, new Events Manager
- Jordia Benjamin - Deputy Director of Indigo Arts Alliance in Portland, ME
 - Established in 2019
 - Artist residencies centering BIPOC artists
- Keisha Luce - Highland Center for the Arts

Darcie - Intro/welcome

- Renew membership - form on the website
 - Sliding scale
 - Pay-what-you-can
 - Individual and FREE memberships based on hardship during
 - Dues based on artistic programming budget
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdR9f1FZwwJOFFucvqpUt0kyXG6v3fzM5I3d8CHMgI22M22MQ/viewform>

- Reopening professional development grants
 - Only open to members
 - <http://www.apnne.us/professional-development.html>

Adrienne - NEFA update

- Idea Swap
 - VIRTUAL meeting this year
 - November 17 and 18
 - Adapting event to current realities

- Will continue to adapt grant deadlines/requirements based on current needs
- Share some good news and inspiration
- More info to come
- Registration opens next week
- <https://www.nefa.org/events/idea-swap-virtual>
- Creative Ground
 - Website updates debuting in the next month
 - This team is also thinking about peer-learning opportunities
 - <https://www.creativeground.org/>

COVID/REOPENING DISCUSSION:

- Many organizations using Bindle
 - <https://joinbindle.com/>
 - NIVA members can receive a discount for Bindle - <https://www.nivassoc.org/>
- Others using Co-Verified
 - <https://www.coverified.us/>
- Good example of public messaging - <https://hop.dartmouth.edu/live-events/visitor-information/health-safety-policies>
- COVID graphics package - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o8sGe5HfPxEZ7qLS5hpXa6sLxj8DiUUh>

Andrew

- Hatbox
 - Masks required in venue
 - 100 seat capacity - one seat left and right of each group which = 70% capacity
- Claremont
 - Mask required in venue
 - No vax requirements
 - Not able to verify/confirm information via Bindle
 - Don't want to put people in the position of being dishonest
 - 780 capacity to 300 seats
 - Only 40% vaccinated in Claremont
 - Procedures in place to avoid closing again in the future

LJ

- LOH outdoor events over the summer
- Indoor shows started three weeks ago
- Masks required
- Proof of vax/negative test required starting October 1 using Bindle
- <https://lebanonoperahouse.org/covid-19-response-plan/>

Liza/Shannon

- Using honor system for proof of vax
- Middlebury bubble is 90% vaccinated
- People attesting to vaccination when they purchase tix
- Masks are required for the DURATION of the show/visit
- Committed to streaming events for the majority of performances this fall
 - UVM Lane Series - tickets automatically include the live stream of events
 - Virtual programming expanded audiences outside of VT and the country
 - Wonderful for accessibility needs
- General admission for the venues, closing first two rows to distance artists/audience
- <https://www.middlebury.edu/college/arts/about/health-and-safety>

Vicky

- Proof of vax/negative test
- Masks required in venue
- Responding to requests to artists and agencies to be safe
- Renters are thankful that Colonial put those rules into place
- Attendance numbers are going up
- <https://thecolonial.org/>

Keisha

- Proof of vax/negative test
- Over 80% vaccinated in VT
- Made the commitment to verify with ID and vax card
- Do what we can to NOT become hot spots for the spread of COVID

TOURING ARTISTS GUIDELINES?

- Middlebury and Colonial
 - Must provide proof of vax
 - Wearing masks until they are on stage

MEETING TOPICS

- Andrew: variety of touring acts and development of new work
 - Create incubator spaces for artists to develop touring artists
 - Create artistic work that tours similar size venues and builds audiences
 - Liza: APNNE/NEP collaborations in the past that made price points accessible for New England venues; currently more relationship-based projects/touring
 - Darcie: APNNE identifying New England artists and inviting them to meetings
- Liza: Interested in the following topics
 - a) coping with COVID
 - b) accessibility and inclusion
 - c) rebuilding our field in a better/more compassionate/less transactional way