APAP Emerging Leadership Institute Announces 2019 Class of Participants
Participants to reflect on and develop ideas about leadership and their own careers

Washington, DC (September 11, 2018) – APAP, the Association of Performing Arts Professionals announces its 18th class for the Emerging Leadership Institute (ELI). ELI is an intensive two and a half day seminar that develops critical leadership skills for emerging performing arts professionals. Each year, a new cohort is selected to participate in ELI and attend APAP|NYC (January 4-8, 2019), APAP's annual members conference held in New York City every January.

"Bringing people from diverse professional backgrounds together in a space where they can learn from each other and grow as leaders in the field is, without a doubt, one of the most meaningful aspects of the program,” says Krista Bradley, APAP director of programs and resources. “We are providing a forum for these emerging leaders to grow by expanding their individual perspectives and networks, which can lead to creating positive change within their organizations and the performing arts field as a whole.”

Approximately 25 participants are selected each year from a wide pool of applicants and are comprised of those who work directly in the presenting and touring field which includes, but is not limited to, performing artists, presenters, managers, agents, producers and professionals who work for arts councils or service organizations. ELI is an opportunity to engage in new professional relationships, discuss new ideas, and become part of an expanding network of over 400 ELI alumni.

"ELI is one of the highlights of my year because of the participants. They are bright, creative and incredibly gifted people in the performing arts field. From their essays included with their application for the program we get a glimpse of the brilliant thinking and leadership skills that these upcoming new leaders already possess. And throughout our three days together their intelligence and energy is confirmed over and over again,” says Theresa Holden, co-facilitator of the ELI program. “As a veteran in our field, having benefited from so many years of my own APAP membership, I also relish knowing that the friends and colleagues these participants will meet during ELI will mean much to them for years to come. These new leaders and APAP's support of them are indeed a gift to our field."
APAP is committed to leadership development in the changing ecology of the performing arts industry, providing avenues for members to expand and strengthen their leadership skills. ELI 2019 will take place January 2-4, 2019 during the days leading up to APAP|NYC 2019 (January 4-8, 2019).

Participants of the 2019 Emerging Leadership Institute:
January 2-4, 2019

- **Emily Andrews**, contract and artist services coordinator, Selby Artists Mgmt LLC, New York, NY
- **Amanda Arboleda**, cultural participation program manager, ASU Gammage, Tempe, AZ
- **Katie Backus**, booking agent/artist manager, MKI Artists, Burlington, VT
- **Alana Barraj**, senior producer, The Arts Center at New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi
- **Rebecca Black**, audience services manager, Carolina Performing Arts, Carrboro, NC
- **Zach Blackwood**, artist producer, FringeArts, Philadelphia, PA
- **Sara Brookner**, foundation relations manager, ArtsEmerson, Somerville, MA
- **Isaac Bunch**, artist manager, Sciolino Artist Management, New York, NY
- **Baha Ebrahimzadeh**, marketing coordinator, UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance, Los Angeles, CA
- **Sarah Edison**, director of outreach and operations, Brooks Center for the Performing Arts, Clemson, SC
- **Dominic Green**, community engagement manager, Omaha Performing Arts, Omaha, NE
- **Lauren Hood**, artistic programming manager, The New Victory Theater, New York, NY
- **Grace Kelmer**, associate director, Mainstage, The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, MI
- **Alexandra Kotis**, associate producer, Lincoln Center, New York, NY
- **Amie Lugo**, programming coordinator, The Bushnell, Hartford, CT
- **Erika Moore**, program coordinator, ASU Gammage, Tempe, AZ
- **Sarah Nicholas**, manager, program & production, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Vienna, VA
- **Katie Ortman**, program & outreach director, Des Moines Social Club, Des Moines, IA
- **Tiffany Richardson**, co-founder & violist, Sound Impact, Fairfax Station, VA
- **Victoria Shamas**, assistant manager, programming, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC
- **Kristen Taylor**, junior board member, Washington Performing Arts, Washington, DC
- **Joseph Thomas**, manager of communications technology, Alternate ROOTS, Atlanta, GA
- **Thuy Tran**, associate producer of public programs, JCCSF, San Francisco, CA
- **Matthew Travis**, director of choral and orchestral programs, Midland Center for the Arts, Midland, MI
- **Michelle VanHuss**, director of touring and university initiatives, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Dayton, OH
- **Kyla Waldron**, rentals and front of house manager, The Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington, VT
- **Ramsey Walker**, program coordinator, Newman Center for the Performing Arts – University of Denver, Denver, CO
- **Cassandra Wilson**, advisor, international services and initiatives, Creative New Zealand, Auckland, New Zealand
**About the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP)**

The Association of Performing Arts Professionals, 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 more than 1,700 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. 4-8, 2019) - APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting.

**About APAP|NYC**

APAP|NYC is the world's premier gathering of more than 3,600 performing arts professionals in New York City at the New York Hilton Midtown and Sheraton New York Times Square. APAP|NYC features more than 1000 world-class artist showcases held around the city, an EXPO Hall boasting nearly 400 booths, dozens of professional development sessions, A-list keynote speakers, and pre-conference forums, many of which are free and open to the public and members. See more conference information at apapnyc.org, and APAP membership information at apap365.org.

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