



TECHNICAL THEATER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2023 | 4:00 PM | Zoom

LPC Mission Statement

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

LPC Planning Priorities

- ❖ Implement the integration of all ACCJC standards throughout campus structure and processes.
- ❖ Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.

Technical Theater Advisory

Voting:

Rachel Anderson, LPC Alumna
Gary Brunclik, The Bankhead Theater
Mark Duncanson, Pleasanton Civic Arts
Erica Engel, The Bankhead
Carol Hovey, LHS and TVRT
John Kelly, LPC Faculty
Cyndi Lagodzinski, Director
Mike Rinaldi, Northern Lights
Bonnie Schmidt, Livermore Opera
Lisa Tromovitch, Liv. Shakespeare Festival

Nonvoting:

Amy Mattern, LPC
Helena Cruz, LPC
Vicki Shipman, LPC

Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Bonnie Schmidt, John Kelly, Helena Cruz, Carol Hovey, Mike Rinaldi

2. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** (no quorum)

3. **Industry Update**

Bonnie Schmidt discusses the need to have the sets build out of house and incorporate projections into their builds. They do rear projections more often than front projections due to technology changes. The upcoming opera is called "Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck. Bonnie has stepped down as production manager and is now responsible for coordinating props and getting them into rehearsal.

Bonnie and Kelly discussed the storage situation at the old novel construction site on Pacific Avenue in Livermore, California. They are concerned about the possibility of the city tearing the building down and building housing. The storage is in an old production place called Da Vinci, which has been vacant for a few years. Bonnie hopes that the city will find a solution to the storage issue. Bonnie mentions that they have just completed a song of the Nightingale at the Firehouse Arts Center, which put them back post Covid with a few challenges.

Carol Hovey discusses the need for led lighting for the entire district, especially for the high school theater. Carol is frustrated with the antiquated and obsolete system. She is fighting the good fight to get LED lighting. Carol discussed the upcoming schedule for 23/24, with Cameron scheduled to renew their theatre tech each year in June and July. They mention that Cameron will return to work in the fall. Carol appreciates the current employee, Cameron, who is young and eager to do well. Carol is retiring this year but will remain active.

Mike Rinaldi - discussed the steady booking of hotels for the summer and into October. The bookings have been steady, and he is looking forward to October. Mike discussed upgrading their moving legs. Has a 32-foot mobile stage with a hard roof. In some places, the stage doesn't fit. In some cases,

he has had to build a plywood deck across the sidewalk to carry the weight of the trailer and get it into the building. Next fall, Mike can show students how to set up the mobile stage.

4. Faculty Report

John Kelly – Xanadu was a huge success; we had 8 shows and added 2 more. Every show was sold out.

Kelly and Bonnie discuss the idea of using projections for a play based on the Broadway stage version, but the projectors are expensive, and the set design didn't work due to logistical issues. They decided to use screens instead, with the actors appearing behind screens instead of projected scenery. Kelly mentions that projections are becoming an important part of modern theater and wants to work with projections soon.

Book of Will set was rented out to Silicon Valley Shakespeare for their summer plays.

Enrollment is up overall at LPC, and doing much better and maybe adding some classes. Stagecraft classes are full. The campus has dropped all mask requirements after a health scare and recently dropped vaccination requirements. They are also adding some classes, such as stagecraft classes.

Some students are starting to work in places like the Bankhead Theater as a regular techs. We've hired students that went through our program and hired them for our summer shows. This experience will provide great professional experience with pay and training.

We want to work more with other companies building sets for theater programs and would like referrals to expand working with other groups in the area. Our theaters are available for rent, and are having some success with renting out the facilities.

The amphitheater equipment is out to bid and approved for the district to approve the company that won the bid. This topic will be up for approval in July. Once that is approved, we will have \$250K worth of moving lights and LEDs - outdoor weather-rated lights. This will be a nice addition and provide more opportunities for the department and venue.

There will be a Footloose performance this summer, with 30 people in the cast and 14 in the crew.

Kelly encourages students to talk to a financial aid counselor for help with financial aid matters.

5. Recommendations from the Advisory Board

Carol requested a letter from Kelly's program stating the need for high school students to be prepared for running the LED light board and adequate training on software, lighting, and sound. LVHS is behind on this technology.

6. Next Regular Meeting (Date) - Kelly will send out an invitation in the fall.

7. Adjournment – 5:10 pm