

TASC MEMBERSHIP MEETING 1
ATHE 2019
HYATT REGENCY GRAND CYPRESS, REGENCY 2
ORLANDO, FL
AUGUST 9, 11:30 am – 12:45 pm

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The site was acknowledged as being on Seminole lands. We went around the room and introduced ourselves. Those in attendance provided their name, their institutional affiliations, and their roles within ATHE and the focus group.

Those in attendance were:

Melanie Blood (blood@geneseo.edu)
Amanda Dawson (amanda.dawson@brescia.edu) - Conference Planner
Krysta Dennis (kdennis@siena.edu)
Angela Duggins (angela.duggins@siu.edu)
Aaron Ellis (aaronmoorellis@gmail.com)
Amanda Ewing (ewingam@umich.edu)
Sarah Fahmy (sarah.fahmy@colorado.edu)
Moriah Flagler (moriahflagler@gmail.com)
Erika Hughes (erika.hughes@port.ac.uk)
Inga Meier (meieri@sfasu.edu) - *Secretary*
Michael Mufson (mmufson@palomar.edu)
Aubrey Helene Neumann (neumann.102@buckeyemail.osu.edu)
Tiffany Pounds-Williams (tiffany.pounds@gmail.com)
Theresa Robbins Dudeck (email) – Focus Group Representative
Rivka Rocchio (rocchisr@potdam.edu)
Jashodhara Sen (Jashodhara.Sen@coloradu.edu)
Michael Stauffer (Michael.Stauffer@wheaton.edu)
Claire Syler (sylerc@missouri.edu)
Blake Willoughby (blake.willoughby@mail.missouri.edu)

Everyone was reminded to join the membership page on the ATHE website, if they haven't already done so:

- Visit www.athe.org
- Click on “my profile” from the list of options at the top of the page
- Click on “Groups”
- Click on “Focus Groups T-W”
- Click on “Theatre and Social Change”
- Click on “Join Group”

People were encouraged to also join the Facebook group page.

II. REPORT FROM GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

There were reminders for specific events / opportunities at this years ATHE:

- The performance of *After Orlando*, (August 9, 8:00 – 10:00 pm, Grand Cypress DE) including talkback, facilitated by TASC member Joan Lipkin
- The screening of *The Rest I Make Up* about Maria Irene Fornes (August 10, 8:00 – 10:00 pm, Grand Cypress DE)
- The Graduate Student Subcommittee Membership Meeting (August 9, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, Regency 7) and Evening Social (August 9, 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Offsite)
- The availability of the food trucks

Other information conveyed from the meeting included:

- There are roughly 715 people in attendance at ATHE this year, a smaller number than usual.
- There will be efforts to switch conference fees to a sliding scale, based on income, not rank
- An ad hoc committee is being formed by Chase Bringardner to asses the health of the focus groups.
- Due to the various delays this year, the conference theme for 2020 has not yet been selected. It is expected that the conference theme will be announced by September 1, 2019.

III. DEBUT PANEL

The call for the debut panel will be listed on the web page, along with the other calls for debut panels. This year, the debut panel was held on Thursday, August 8, 2:15 – 3:45 pm in Palm DEF. There were 15-20 submissions. Of the four panelists who were accepted, two attended. Because of this, it was agreed to continue accepting four panelists for future panels, to ensure sufficient attendance. The two panelists who attended were Po-Hsien Chu and Robyn Lee Horn. Both panelists were awarded \$200. Each panelist was paired with a mentor. Despite approval of a/v funds, the panel was not granted a/v equipment, which was limited this year. Moving forward, the graduate students will coordinate the debut panel.

IV. BY-LAWS

Despite efforts at recovery, the by-laws have still not been recovered.

V. ELECTIONS

Elections were held for the following positions within the focus group: conference planner, secretary, pre-conference planners, grad student representatives, and members at large. Starting with the 2020 conference, the grad student representatives will coordinate the debut panel. Also, as the TASC pre-conference occurs every other

year, there will be a pre-conference in 2020. The results of the election were as follows:

Conference Planner: Tiffany Pounds-Williams (1 year shadowing + 2 years of service)

Secretary: Erika Hughes (2 years)

Members-at-Large: Amanda Dawson, Aaron Ellis, Moriah Flagler, Inga Meier, Rivka Rocchio, Beliza Torres Narváez (1 year)

Grad Student Representatives / Debut Panel Coordinators: Sarah Fahmy, Aubrey Helene Neumann, Blake Willoughby (1 year)

Pre-Conference Planners: Aaron Ellis, Amanda Ewing (1 year)

Games We Play Coordinators: Erika Kuhn, Tiffany Pounds-Williams, Rivka Rocchio (1 year)

VI. OTHER

The proposal was made to create a listserv that is easily accessible, and to send that listserv or the CFP to NAST. Likewise, a proposal was made to create a Google Drive folder for all relevant TASC documents.

There will be a follow-up meeting on August 10, 12:45 – 2:00 pm in Poinciana CD to work on pre-conference planning and to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming call for papers.

TASC MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2
ATHE 2019
HYATT REGENCY GRAND CYPRESS, POINCIANA CD
ORLANDO, FL
AUGUST 10, 12:45 – 2:00 pm

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The site was acknowledged as being on Seminole lands. We went around the room and introduced ourselves. Those in attendance provided their name, their institutional affiliations, and their roles within ATHE and the focus group.

Those in attendance were:

Bonsai Bermúdez (Bonsai@WeSayYEPP.com)
cfrances blackchile (ccf22@miami.edu)
Suzanne Burgoyne (burgoyne@missouri.edu)
Aaron Ellis (aaronmoorellis@gmail.com)
Amanda Ewing (ewingam@umich.edu)
Sarah Fahmy (sarah.fahmy@colorado.edu)
Bianca Frazer (Bianca.frazer@colorado.edu)
Andrew Gaines (Andrew.gaines@ghc.edu)
Nadia Garzon (ngarzon@rollins.edu)
P Gibson Ralph (pralph@brockport.edu)
Kyla Kazuschyk (kkazuschyk@lsu.edu)
Inga Meier (meieri@sfasu.edu) - *Secretary*
Michael Mufson (mmufson@palomar.edu)
Aubrey Helene Neumann (neumann.102@buckeyemail.osu.edu)
Beth Osnes (beth.osnes@colorado.edu)
Mike Poblete (mpoblete@hawaii.edu)
Jeffrey Pufahl (jeffpuf@ufl.edu)
Theresa Robbins Dudeck (email) – Focus Group Representative
Jashodhara Sen (Jashodhara.Sen@coloradu.edu)
Sarah Tan (sarah.tanhy7@gmail.com)
Jacqueline Viskup (jviskup@pensacolastate.edu)

II. 2020 THEME

While the 2020 conference theme has not been set (the theme should be formulated by September 1, 2020), we do now have keywords via Amanda Dawson:

- Shifting gears / moving forward / moving backward -> connection to 200 election
- Combustion (as explosion or something that happens within)
- Emission
- Renovation

Questions to be answered in relation to to these keywords include:

- What is our goal / place in relation to the conference / possible themes?
- What are we calling our membership to propose?

Potential partnerships include:

- Theatre as Liberal Art
- Wellness, Community, and Aging
- Asian Theatre Focus Group

To discuss some of these questions further, we broke into 4 subgroups (1 for pre-conference and 3 for brainstorming more generally)

III. SUBGROUP 1 (per Aubrey Neumann):

- Assessment and Evaluation
 - Quantitative versus Qualitative
 - Standardized versus Culturally specific
- Health and Wellness
 - Of people, communities, and our climate
 - Providing care for audience, participants, etc.
 - Applied theatre versus Drama therapy (and everything in between)
- Machines and Loops
 - Feedback Loops
 - Praxis (importance of not losing rigor in our call for workshops)
 - Machines (funding, organizations)
 - Breaking the machine
- Polarization
 - Gentrification
 - Race relations
 - Socioeconomic divides
- Shifts
 - Paradigm shifts
 - Education the next generation (children and teens)
 - Teaching artist citizens in higher education
 - Memory
 - Sustainability (making space for, learning to value)
 - Best practices for collaborating within a community

IV. SUBGROUP 2 (PRE-CONFERENCE) (per Aaron Ellis and Amanda Ewing):

- Ideas for the Pre-Con:
 - Migration / Home / Homelessness / Storytelling / Singing songs / What we take with us, what helps us re/constitute "Home" / "Community" /

"Identity" / Alternative Economy and space/place making /
Intergenerational connection

- Local issues:
 - Gentrification / ICE and Border Patrol Raids / Specific to SW Detroit which is a largely Latinx community
 - Detroit has consistent water shutoffs
- Possible local collaborators:
 - [Heritage Works](#)
 - African Dance & Drum Company (and dances of the diaspora)
 - African World Festival Community Tent Sponsors
 - Summer Youth Works Company teaching emerging youth to be dance instructors, filling a community need for arts instruction in schools
 - [Black and Brown Theatre Company](#)
 - Google Drive with headshots available
 - Intergenerational
 - Education for emerging actors
 - Liturgical work
 - [Detroit Rep Theatre](#)
 - Oldest professional theatre company in Detroit
 - Equity Theatre Company
 - Representation of community and great local ownership over the theatre
 - [Matrix Theatre Company](#)
 - Social Justice Theatre Company in SW Detroit
 - Active team company develops original work
 - [Mosaic Youth Theatre Detroit](#)
 - Has multiple youth “tracks”. There’s dance, choir, and theatre. The theatre company has collaborated with the Public (NY)
 - Office in midtown, youth from all over the Detroit area
 - [Living Arts](#)
 - Integration of arts into classrooms and curriculum
 - Emphasis on bilingual instruction
 - Operates in SW Detroit
 - [The Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers](#)
 - Monthly storytelling event with music and dance
 - Performances by emerging and seasoned professionals
 - Local artists, entrepreneurs, and artisans present their creations and products for a unique shopping experience
 - Takes place at The Charles H Wright Museum of African American History
 - [Arab American National Museum](#)
 - Only Arab American cultural museum in the country
 - Dearborn, MI - a suburb of Detroit
 - Hosts performing arts and storytelling events - working with Ping Chong on the [Undesirable Elements](#) series

- [Detroit Creativity Project](#)
 - Applied Improv with City Youth
 - Founded with Keegan Michael Key
 - Collaboration between many Detroit youth arts organizations
 - *A collaborator of mine runs the logistical and booking aspects of this project. She said there is a group of youth arts programs in the city that are all on a joint task force. If we prepare an ask, she will take it to the group (DCP, Living Arts, Mosaic, Matrix are all on this committee) – Amanda Ewing*
- Street Theatre / Box Truck Show
- Possible Working Group Co-sponsors:
 - Religion and Theatre
 - Theatre as a Liberal Art
 - Wellness, Community, and Aging
 - Middle East Studies
 - Asian Theatre Studies

V. SUBGROUP 3 (via Jacqueline Viskup)

- More interactive/on our feet panels
- Activism in and about Detroit
- Bringing in local artists/activists/non-profits
- Socioeconomic issues: listening to advocates and hosting collaborative creative workshops with advocacy groups
- 2-part panels to give more time to collaborate
 - Maybe one part for collaboration, one for presentation/performance
- Panels to support grad student work
- Forum theatre on how to talk to swing voters or how to get out the vote
- Partner with Latinx/Indigenous FG on panel about local Michigan indigenous populations and the issues they face
 - Applied theatre about local indigenous experiences
- Applied theatre for anti-racism
- Practice facilitating
- Forum theatre: Joking nightmare situations at ATHE or in academia

VI. SUBGROUP 4 (per Inga Meier)

- Shifting Strategies through Practice based Proposals
 - Use of Body -> Healing Processes
 - Postcolonialism / Neocolonialism / Neoliberalism
- Combustion
 - Transitional Spaces vs. Binaries
 - Complexities of Identities (e.g. immigrant, LGBTQ+, class, etc.)
- Importance of Inclusivity
- Activism / Community Engagement

VII. OTHER

At the end of the meeting, we discussed an incident during the talkback following *After Orlando*, when an ATHE member, who identified as gay and Muslim expressed his concern with the portrayal of a gay Muslim character within the play. Instead, within the talkback his words were taken to mean the opposite, namely that he was grateful for the manner of representation. The incident was distressing to both the ATHE member and to others who understood that his words had been misrepresented. The conversation gave rise to more general questions and issues regarding inclusion at ATHE. We were briefly joined by president-elect Joshua Abrams. It was agreed that we needed to create a more formal space to accommodate these types of conversations, both within the group and within ATHE, perhaps in the form of a panel in 2020. Further, these issues could be raised within the ad-hoc committee exploring the health of the focus groups.