

ABOUT ISPA

The International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) is a global association of more than 500 arts management leaders from 56 regions, who come together with the shared goal of strengthening and developing the arts internationally. We achieve this by building leadership ability, by recognizing and discussing field-wide trends and new developments, and by deepening global exchange through the arts. ISPA members include presenters, performing arts organizations, artist managers, competitions, funders, consultants and other professionals working in the performing arts. Founded in 1948 by Patrick Hayes, 2017 marked ISPA's 69th Anniversary. [View Historical Timeline](#)

ISPA is:

- a meeting place – we hold two Congresses every year – one in New York and one in a different global city
- a resource for expanding personal and professional networks
- where professionals learn about performing arts in different regions of the world
- where arts leaders keep up to date on issues, challenges and solutions from fellow colleagues around the world
- about facilitating the development of emerging and mid-career leaders

MISSION & STRATEGIC PLAN

ISPA programs provide the opportunity to meaningfully and directly impact the performing arts community. They are the tools that we employ to achieve ISPA's mission of strengthening and developing the arts internationally. [View Strategic Plan 2017 - 2021](#)

ISPA MEMBERSHIP

ISPA membership is more than 500 strong including organizations from 54 countries on five continents. Artists, managers, presenters, festivals, and facilities, government agencies, service organizations, and businesses represent the ecosystem of the global performing arts community. [View list of current ISPA members](#)

ISPA CONGRESSES

ISPA Congresses bring together performing arts leaders to discover the next great idea, strengthen relationships, and rejuvenate their passion for the arts. Programming is geared toward administrators, presenters, managers, agents, artists, and government/cultural leaders.

ISPA holds two Congresses annually, one every January in New York City and a second Congress in a different region of the world. Recent International Congress locations include Seoul, South Korea (2012), Wrocław, Poland (2013), Bogotá, Colombia (2014), Malmö, Sweden/Copenhagen, Denmark (2015), and Melbourne, Australia (2016). ISPA's 100th Congress, *Identities*, was held in Montréal, Canada in May 2017.

[View Past Congresses](#) | [View Upcoming Congress Schedule](#)

ISPA Congress Numbers

- 69 Annual New York Congresses; 31 International Congresses
- Montréal 2017 ISPA Congress –420 delegates from 31 countries
- New York 2017 ISPA Congress –560 delegates from 51 countries
- Melbourne 2016 ISPA Congress – 400 delegates from 30 countries
- New York 2016 ISPA Congress –535 delegates from 55 countries
- Malmö/Copenhagen 2015 ISPA Congress –400 delegates from 39 countries
- New York 2015 ISPA Congress –530 delegates from 54 countries
- Bogotá 2014 ISPA Congress –500 delegates from 35 countries

PITCH NEW WORKS

ISPA's Pitch New Works Program provides a forum for creators and arts professionals to share and discover new performing arts projects. Twice a year, ten submissions are selected to be presented to hundreds of performing arts professionals at ISPA's Congresses. [View roster of past Pitch New Works projects](#)

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

ISPA's Fellowship Programs were created to provide emerging and mid-career performing arts professionals with the opportunity to expand their international networks through membership and attendance at an ISPA Congress. ISPA currently offers two types of Fellowship Program: Global Fellowship and Regional Fellowships. In 2017, there are 58 Fellows from 23 countries participating. [View Fellowship Program Details](#)

COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAM

ISPA's Community Building Program provides support to new members by easing their transition into the broader network at an ISPA Congress. New members are paired with an ISPA veteran who welcomes them to the Congress, and facilitates their participation in ISPA's extensive network of arts professionals.

ISPA LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

ISPA's leadership consists of board of directors that represents the membership's diversity, eight Committees, which support the board, and CEO David Baile.

- Chief Executive Officer | [David Baile](#)
- Board Chair | [Mary Lou Aleskie](#) (Executive Director, International Festival of Arts & Ideas)
- [View ISPA Board of Directors Listing](#)
- [View ISPA Committee Member Listing](#)
- [View ISPA Staff Listing](#)