



*From: Gail Humphries, Dean  
October 2020*

Dear Board Colleagues,

I do hope that you are faring well as all continues to be most challenging with time passage. Below you will find several updates related to our functioning and the upcoming months. We know that we are continually pivoting at this point and all plans must be fluid, but I am moving forward with the best knowledge and courage that I can muster.

1. BOARD MEMBER

As you know from my earlier email, Bill Doan has unfortunately left the Board. Brant Pope has been approved via acclamation and will become our new Board member as treasurer. It is my pleasure to welcome another illustrious colleague to our Board.

2. STATUS OF APRIL 2021 MEETINGS

After a fruitful conversation with Gregg Henry last week, I have much information to share with you.

KCACTF

The 2021 KCACTF Plans are moving forward as best they can. KCACTF intends to:

- a. Host ASPIRE LEADERSHIP 2020 and 2021 cohort this year – during traditional week of April 11-17
- b. Host Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Finalists 2020 and 2021 students as well as 2020 and 2021 musical theatre students - during traditional week
- c. Continue to host the traditional disciplines of scenic/costumes/sound/lighting design, dramaturgy, directing, playwriting, dramatic criticism and stage management, and new Regional student advisory board reps

National Award ceremony on April 17, 2021 – KCACTF is hopeful that Public Health challenges will allow planning to proceed; as much of the National Festival as possible will be in The Reach, but the Awards will be held in the Terrace Theater.

Plans are formulating for the KCACTF regional festivals—all will occur online, and most fees are waived.

## OUR BUSINESS MEETING/STEVENS ADDRESS AND LUNCHEON

Gregg has suggested the new building-The Reach-as our location for the meetings and luncheon. There are several possibilities for us, and the rooms have windows, the building is bright and new and has much to offer. Gregg had offered to work with me to ZOOM our meeting to members who cannot attend, using a large screen in the meeting room. Here is a link to virtually tour The REACH: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/reach/>

I am in contact with Bonnie Nelson Schwartz about the Cosmos Club and will also be in contact with the River Inn about our block of rooms. Dan was able to negotiate with them after our cancellation last year and we should be able to just articulate the deposit from last year to this year.

We also hope to make one new addition-having a seminar presented on Saturday to the students in the ASPIRE Leadership Program by our Roger L. Stevens address. The students will again be invited to join us for the luncheon, but this will give them an opportunity to interact with the presenter in a more informal format and furthers our efforts in cultivating leaders in the theatre for the future. Kathy Irvin has agreed to be our point person from the Board on this.

**Should the need arise, to cancel our meetings due to COVID challenges, rest assured that we will explore digital platforms so that our meetings will go forward.**

### 3. DIALOGUE WITH INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

My discussions with each of you individually yielded terrific results. At this point, the Board responsibilities include the given secretary and corporate secretary duties assumed by Kim and Randy. Kathy has agreed to focus on a new initiative and move forward on educational/professional alliances. This is something Thomas Schumacher had suggested to me before COVID and now it seems all the more important for us to collaborate and align our resources. If you are interested in working with Kathy on this, please let BOTH of us know. It would be great to have one more member involved. Cindy has agreed to work with Bonnie Nelson Schwartz on the Uta Hagen Award (it was funded for just one year). The recipient sent Bonnie a wonderful email about the impact of the experience. Cheryl, perhaps we could feature something in the next issue of The Gazette? Her profile and photo are on the website now, but her comments were splendid. That leads me to the next area of responsibility-The Gazette. Cheryl Black has agreed to take that over from Dan for our next issue. Much appreciation! Henry will handle archival and historical material, a significant item for us. Harry will remain member at large. NOW, if we just can get a treasurer on the board.

### 4. BANK ACCOUNT MOVED FROM SUN TRUST (now TRUIST) TO BANK OF AMERICA

Dan and I worked diligently to make a shift in our checking account to Bank of America. Over the past year, working with Sun Trust has been problematic and generated many challenges because of their requirement for signatory rights to be done in person in DC. This always made it challenging for changes in the Deans and Treasurer. Bank of America has branches all over the US and changes will be readily accomplished at individual locations that best suit those with signatory rights. We also now have the account in California, where we are incorporated. It all makes sense to Dan and me as an expeditious move forward.

## 5. DIALOGUE WITH PREVIOUS DEANS

Please be aware that I am in dialogue with the previous deans and they are providing insight and guidance. My deep gratitude to Dan and Karen who I seem to pester relentlessly. Since I did not get to fulfill my understudy role in DC this past April, but I am still forging my way. I am sending a slightly different version of my Dean's Notes to the former deans, so that we are all in communication

## 6. WEBSITE UPDATE AND MEMBER COMMUNICATION

The website is currently being updated. The process is iterative, but we have made progress. A new SCHOLARSHIPS tab has been added with descriptions of the scholarships, as well as photos of nearly all recipients. The nomination form for Fellows is updated and on the web, as is our current financial report. Edie Fox, our webmaster, is working diligently with us. My Dean's Notes will be added but revised for members. The first NOTES is revised and on the web with a tab.

If you have other thoughts, please send them to me directly. We have added a GALLERY of photos including meetings from the time after the 50th year celebration. Felicia Loudre has a host of photos and made the selection and did the photo listings. A special thanks to her. At this time, communication is essential, and we want our members to have current information.

A special thanks to our wonderful administrative assistant, Kristy Simpson, who worked diligently with Dan, Karen, and me to get the postcard designed, printed, and distributed. She notes that she has received email responses from over 25 members with address corrections. That is a good yield given our membership, is just under 150. Credit to Dan for the idea. He was concerned about folks not receiving The Gazette.

Dan has asked me to acknowledge the passing of Kristen Linklater, since she was not included in the latest issue of The Gazette. So many of us have been impacted by her marvelous work and her legacy will surely live on. I will likely send out an email to our membership, if you think that this is appropriate. PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

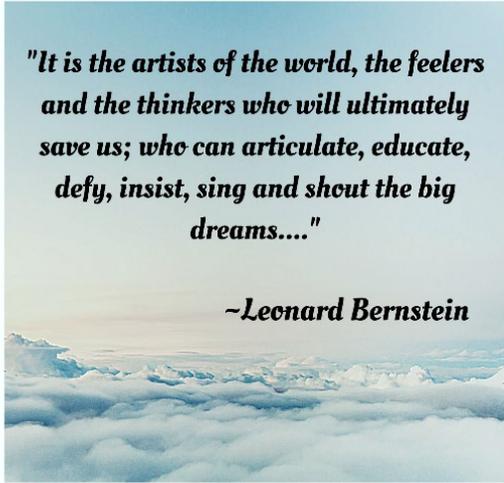
*Kristin Linklater (2001)*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/theater/kristin-linklater-vocal-coach-dies.html>

## 7. OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Please remember that I am only a text or email away and invite your thoughts and suggestions.  
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[ghumphries@stephens.edu](mailto:ghumphries@stephens.edu)

*Gail*



***"It is the artists of the world, the feelers  
and the thinkers who will ultimately  
save us; who can articulate, educate,  
defy, insist, sing and shout the big  
dreams...."***

***~Leonard Bernstein***