



Elections for USITT Board of Directors

The USITT Nominations Committee is pleased to present the candidates for election to serve on the Board of Directors. The USITT Board of Directors is the governing body of the Corporation. Directors are charged with the responsibility to advise, govern, oversee policy and direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of the corporation to support its mission and needs. Each of the members nominated for a Board of Director position is running for a three-year term. It is critical that members participate in the election process; by doing so members invest in the future of the Institute. USITT members current as of noon, Eastern Time on January 25, 2023, are eligible to vote in the election.

**Please take time to review the biographies and position statements for
all candidates prior to casting your vote.**

President-Elect

The President-Elect, to be elected every third year, shall succeed to the Presidency following the President's third year in office. He/she shall have those duties as assigned by the President and the bylaws and shall serve in this office for a term of one year. He/she shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors.



Kasey Allee-Foreman
Position Statement

We face an exciting and challenging time as an organization. The USITT Board of Directors has made bold decisions about our organizational structure, setting us up to truly and transformatively progress as a thriving and successful mission-focused not-for-profit business.

I have spent many years in service to USITT, in several different capacities, on diverse committees, and finally on the Board. I have mentored new leaders and brought new voices to the table every step along the way. I believe my robust experience with our organization will be a tremendous asset in our current situation.

USITT has been instrumental in my growth as a person, as a professional, and as a leader. It is why I will always give back to this organization. I enthusiastically believe that we change lives and our industry every day. My leadership style is most closely aligned to the Transformational Leadership model, which centers the Mission/Vision of an organization. Clearly stated goals and purposes (core values) are at the heart of everything we do. My leadership goal is to empower every member of the team to create their best work and bring their most innovative ideas to serving our shared mission. I truly believe that organizations are so much stronger if every participant feels ownership in the good work we are doing. I do believe my experience with many areas of our organization will help me provide leadership and communication as president so that we move forward together, partnering in the future of USITT.

Bio

KASEY ALLEE-FOREMAN has served as Associate Producer/Production Manager for over 75 productions in the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts at the University of Oklahoma. She is currently the VP for Conferences for USITT. A short listing of her professional theatre credits include: SphinxCON, a

conference promoting Diversity in the Arts; Canterbury Choral: *Bernstein's Mass*; Houston Grand Opera: Renée Fleming's premiere *La Traviata* (world premiere); Stages Repertory Theatre (Houston); Houston Shakespeare Festival; Shakespeare Festival at Tulane (New Orleans); Theatre West (Los Angeles). Professional film credits include: *Mystery, Alaska*; *Lost and Found*; *Austin Powers: The Spy who Shagged Me*. She is proud to have served on the USITT Board of Directors as the VP for Conferences, the VP for Education and Training and as a Director. She has served USITT on the Conference Committee chair and member, IDEAS Committee chair and member, on the Awards Committee, Compensation Committee, Grants and Fellowships Committee, and is the co-founder of the Gateway Program and has been the Co-chair of the Women in Theatre Network. Kasey received her MFA in Costume Design and Technology and Lighting Design and Technology from the University of New Orleans and he BA in Theatre Arts from Furman University.



Jack Feivou

Position Statement

As Zig Ziglar says, "You don't build a business. You build people and then people build the business". My career has been spent putting the right teams together, guiding those teams, and supporting their growth. Our most important assets are the people we work with.

As a servant leader it is my job to get the team members what they need and help guide them to success. USITT is made up of a diverse membership with a clear mission, connecting performing arts design and technology communities to ensure a vibrant dialog among practitioners, educators, and students. I have led teams in nonprofit theaters, performing arts centers, theme parks and for-profit businesses for more than three decades and understand how cultural and entertainment institutions work.

USITT has been my home since 1991 when I went to my first conference in Boston. The early years I was mentored by those who wrote the books. I have since grown to be peers with the book writers, whether it is mentoring current students and peers, during my time leading the SMMP, or leading the conference committee as the VP for Conferences, my teams always surpassed even my own expectations. The future of USITT is bright. With a new Executive Director, coming out of a global pandemic and remaining financially strong, and working towards Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the industry, I welcome the call to serve and guide the members of this association to our success.

Bio

Jack Feivou has been a seasoned leader in the entertainment space for more than 30 years. He has worked in non-profits, performing arts centers, and major theme parks throughout the world. Currently he is the Vice President of Production and Executive Producer for Enchant Christmas who produce the **World's Largest Christmas Light Maze** using light, art, and story to create over 10 acres of adventure - and a magical Village featuring ice skating, dining, gift shopping, live entertainment on three stages, and photo visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Jack has worked at Walt Disney World® serving as Production Manager, Producer and General Manager, where he produced over 200 events, including the longest running show at the Magic Kingdom® Park. He also worked as Senior Show Producer at Universal Creative where he produced the land of Hollywood for Universal Studios Beijing, President & CEO of Fox Associates, where he led the Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis, MO, and at the Boston Ballet as the Director of Artistic Operations and the Chief Operating Officer. Jack has been a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology since 1991, serving multiple roles including the Vice President for Conferences, Commissioner for the Management Commission, Vice Commissioner for the Stage Management Mentoring Project (SMMP), and a Director at Large. Jack was a SMMP Mentor for over ten years and has presented at over 17 conferences. Jack's broad experience in different forms of live

entertainment gives him a broad understanding of the membership that will help set the course for USITT.



Rafael Jaen

Position Statement

USITT is at a crucial development stage as we fulfill our mission and values with the continuous pursuit of the best in our profession and industry. As President, I'll continue to lead the Institute in a highly collaborative fashion, balancing operations and governance and promoting prolific output in response to cultural changes that transform our industry. In addition, I'll join our stakeholders in embracing field inclusivity and social justice in our practices, diverse voices in our governance, plus equity in our programming. During my years of service in different roles — in chapters, commissions, and the board — I have gotten a clear sense of our governance structure, the staff's operational savvy, and the contributions of dedicated volunteers steering us in a forward direction. USITT provides a unique setting to grow, build community, and learn. Always ahead of its time, USITT cultivates innovation in education, research, and safety to increase our outreach by offering timely, rich, complex, and diverse programming with the practitioners and companies that create live entertainment in this country and worldwide. For example, while navigating the pandemic-to-endemic transition, we joined the discussion, sponsorship, and celebration of design and technological progress in virtual realities and face-to-face approaches within our communities.

I look forward to connecting with passion and integrity to support diverse programming and relationships within our expansive membership. I want to be part of these experiences, listening to and representing our voices in the decision-making process, celebrating entrepreneurialism, efficient work, and how to embody the exceptional.

Bio

RAFAEL JAEN has more than 30 years of professional, academic, and service experience in the live entertainment field.

His design work has received multiple accolades, and he has also received many teaching awards, including the KCACTF Golden Medallion, the Salem State Life Achievement in The Arts, and the UMass Boston Manning Prize for Excellence in Teaching. He is also the recipient of Joseph P. Healey and Mellon High-Impact Humanities Initiative research grants.

His national USITT service covers 20+ years; he is currently a USITT Fellow and USITT Chair for Communications. He has also served as Portfolio Review Chair, Young Designer & Technicians Award Adjudicator, Vice Chair for Student Initiatives, Vice Commissioner for Diversity & Community Inclusion (Costume Commission), and as leader of multiple PDWs. In addition, he has been a USITT Prague Quadrennial Committee member in past years and a partial curator for PQ23. He has also served on the Board of Directors and the Publications Committee before being elected VP for Communications. Regionally, he has been a USITT SW presenter and project adjudicator for numerous years. In addition, he also served KCACTF as a national Vice-Co-Chair and DTM Chair.

His authorship includes *SHOWCASE* and *Digital Costume Design and Collaboration* by Focal Press/Routledge, two chapters for the book *Fashioning Horror: Dressing to Kill on Screen and Literature* by Bloomsbury, articles for TD&T and TD&T Portfolio, plus editing the USITT/Routledge's *Backstage* series.

Mr. Jaen is also Chair of the Performing Arts Department and Professor of Theatre at UMass Boston.

Secretary

The Secretary shall serve on the Board of Directors and shall record and file in the national office the minutes of all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. In addition, he/she shall have responsibility for and oversight of the operational documents of the Institute. He/she shall perform other duties as may be assigned by these bylaws, the Board of Directors or the President.



Ashley Bellet

Position Statement

This year is my twentieth year as a member of the Institute. In that time I have not only found purpose in serving our industry, but have discovered an incredible network of colleagues and artists who inspire me. I have been incredibly lucky to have served as the Commissioner of Education, after which I was elected to serve as the Vice President of Commissions. These positions, in addition to my role on the Board of Directors, has given me perspective on the past, future, and quickly evolving present

state of the Institute.

My attention to detail, my dedication to mentoring, and my deep interest in how individual parts of USITT work together speak to how I can serve in this position. This service may come in many forms, not least of which may be encouragement, the creation of structure, and maintaining a broad view of the fiscal health of the Institute. The most important roles our USITT Secretary plays, however, focus on transparency and timely communication, and lifting up ideas, voices, and innovation. These are the principles that I can support to make our community stronger together. Presence is important, but a consistent, prepared, and intentional presence will make all the difference. This organization belongs to those who will carry us forward, from every facet of our industry. I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve you in doing that.

Bio

Ashley Bellet is the Assistant Professor of Costume Design at Purdue University and a professional costume designer and crafts artisan. She received her MFA from the University of Memphis, BAs in Theatre and English from Sewanee, and is completing her PhD in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at UW Madison. Ashley currently serves on the Board of Directors for USITT as Vice President for Commissions, following 20 years of attending, presenting, and programming with the Institute. She has presented numerous posters, organized exhibits, served on several working groups, and the Publications, Nominations, and Research Activities Committees for USITT. She is the Associate Editor for Education for TD&T and is active in KCACTF, SETC, ATHA, Critical Costume, and ATCA. She has worked at The Santa Fe Opera, The Utah Festival Opera and Music Theatre, Oklahoma City Repertory, Theatre American Players Theatre, Theatre Memphis, Playhouse on the Square, and Potsdam Music Theatre, among others.



Bryan Huneycutt

Position Statement

In my decade of involvement with USITT leadership, I have had the honor of standing beside some of the giants of our industry. The trait that stands out to me of the greatest leaders in our world, is their willingness to learn, to grow, to share their mistakes with others, and to eliminate the barriers for those who wish to be a part of our craft.

As a Board Member, I have witnessed significant growth in the heart of our organization as we face our own misgivings and biases with the mindset of doing better. As a former Commissioner of Health and Safety, I can point to the example of that growth in a smaller group within USITT. S&H shows how a

group of passionate people can continue to ask themselves the tough questions, be vulnerable, and step aside when the time for growth comes.

It is this mindset that I desire to take into the role of Secretary. Where a knowledge of our past can be used to remove the barriers to a future that looks much different in every way. We grow by asking questions. We grow by opening the door to those who may not yet be in the room. We grow by ensuring that every member not only has a place, but a voice. We grow by hearing, heeding and valuing those voices!

Bio

Bryan Huneycutt has spent over 35 years in the performing arts world in a myriad of performance, and leadership roles where he has managed stage shows, touring productions, music festivals, fireworks and Emmy winning parades. Bryan led the Entertainment Safety division for Disney Parks and Resorts Live Entertainment where he was responsible for all U.S. based entertainment. Bryan's experience in the industry spans the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia, as well as the Middle East. Bryan earned his Master of Tourism Administration Degree from George Washington University focused on Event and Meeting Management and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Performance Psychology at Grand Canyon University. In addition, he is a Co-Founder of the Safety Advisors Forum-Live Entertainment (SAF-LE), a member of the Mental Health and Suicide prevention steering committee for the Behind-the-Scenes Foundation, and a member of the No More 10 of 12s Working group. Bryan has served the United States Institute for Theatre Technology on the Board of Directors, and as a former Commissioner for Safety & Health, where he serves as a Vice- Commissioner. Bryan operates HuneyBadger Entertainment Consulting, with a company focus on authentic, inclusive leadership and "People First, Safety Always" mindset. Bryan is also Safety and Health Manager for Enchant Christmas.



Christine Kaiser

Position Statement

USITT is in the process of major operational changes. This is not the first operational change and is likely not to be the last. Major changes require planning, careful integration into existing operations, and establishment of processes and procedures for assessment.

As a 40+-year member of USITT, I was an active participant or shepherd involved in the planning, achievement, and continuous assessment of several earlier changes. I have a proven success record of bringing forth successful Institute change—as a

Board Member, a Treasurer, and President. My continuing passion for the mission and work of USITT would be reflected in every aspect of the job. Additionally, my institutional memory of policies, planning and the work of the Board of Directors would be invaluable as we move forward.

The skills I would bring to the Board of Directors as Secretary include:

- Significant corporate management and financial background
- In-depth knowledge of NY State Labor and HR laws and requirements
- Familiarity with NY State Not for Profit regulations
- Proven teamwork ability
- Cultural awareness
- Risk management
- Strategy and forecasting experience
- Technical writing and editing

Diversity is essential for any Not For Profit Board of Directors. I identify as a female, boomer, later-stage entrepreneur. My personal passion is to work with the newly changed structure and bylaws to:

- Increase governance and operational transparency with the membership
- Ensure the membership is aware of and is able to celebrate the dynamic and successful history of the Institute and its people,
- And to continue and improve senior and commercial members' participation and services.

I look forward with enthusiasm to the possibility of serving as Secretary of your USITT.

Bio

Professional background:

Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc. 1971 – present

- Vice President 1974 – 1984
- President & Owner 1984 – Present

Syracuse Scenery & Stage Lighting Co., Inc., is a successful small business corporation, operating from its building in suburban Syracuse, NY. Principally engaged in the supply and installation of theatrical equipment in the Northeast USA – rigging, lighting, tracks and curtains, the company fabricates stage and studio curtains, and, also sells theatrical supplies.

USITT Experience

USITT Upstate New York Section

- Founding Member 1980
- Chair 1980-1986

USITT Stage Expo

- Exhibitor 1981 – Present

USITT Board of Directors

- Director At Large 1986 – 1988
- Treasurer 1988 – 1996, 1999 - 2002
- President 1996 – 1998

USITT Committee Work

- USITT Fellows Fund Committee 2013 - 2022
- Many USITT Ad hoc and Standing Committees

USITT Honors

- Fellow - 1992
- Joel E. Rubin Founders Award - 1991
- Honorary Lifetime Member – 2002

ESTA Experience

Technical Standards Program

Rigging Working Group 2005 - Present, Co-Chair 2016 - Present

Task Group Work: Powered Hoist Systems; Electric Chain Hoists; Fire Safety Curtain Systems; Rigging Systems Inspections

- 2012 Stewart Award
- 2013 Above and Beyond Award

ETCP - Creation committee & Council 2003 - 2005

DIRECTORS

The Nominations Committee has nominated 8 individuals for four positions as Directors for the Class of 2023-2026.

Each member of the Board of Directors shall be a member in good standing of the Corporation as well as of a Regional Section. Directors shall determine the institute's strategic objectives and policies and monitor the progress toward achieving the objectives and policies. Directors will develop, maintain, and routinely update planning and strategy for the viability and growth of the institute. In addition, they will approve the institute's mission, vision, values, and goals and review its performance in achieving stated goals. Directors shall be elected by the Corporation's members and may chair such committees as determined by the Board and the bylaws throughout their term(s) in office.



Jeff Baldwin

Position Statement

As a dedicated Technical Director, I believe that collaboration and passion are two critical ingredients in making great theatre. USITT is an amazing organization for bringing all theatre professionals and students together to share ideas, learn, and expand our passion. I am honored to be a USITT member and look forward to creating an impact as a board member. Due to my unconventional career path, I will bring unique ideas and multiple viewpoints to the board, which can feed down to every member. I proudly served in the United States Marine Corps, taught high school theatre, worked in regional theatre, and taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels of higher education. Regardless of the setting, I am always driven by my passion to lead. As a leader, I build professional relationships with my coworkers and students through open, honest, and empathetic dialog. I believe that the COVID pandemic initially left our industry shaken but as the sun rose and we came back to Baltimore, our community came together and proved that the theatre industry is ready to thrive. I would like to play my part in working to build our community stronger and more inclusive and to help shape the next chapter of our story.

Bio

Jeff Baldwin (he/him/his) is an Assistant Professor and Head of Theatre Technology at Indiana University Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance. His research focus is technical direction, motion control systems, and scenery automation. Prior to starting his career as a Technical Director, Jeff served in the United States Marine Corps within an infantry boat unit. Among his military accolades, he received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for his role in Operation Determined Response in Yemen in 2000. After honorable discharge, he received his Bachelor of Science in Education with a Theatre emphasis from Missouri State University. He then enjoyed teaching high school theatre for 4 years. In a pursuit for more knowledge, Jeff later received an MFA in Theatre Technology from Indiana University and began teaching at the collegiate level. Over the last 15 years he has held many production roles in a variety of theatrical settings including filling a niche role as a military advisor for productions. Jeff has served as the Technical Director in many theatres, including several years with the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre and the University of Oklahoma. He has been a proud USITT member. In each environment, Jeff has proven himself to be a trusted and collaborative leader. He is proud of the impact he has made on

the future generations of theatre professionals. Outside of his passion for technical theatre, Jeff is a devoted husband and father.



Derek Epstein

Position Statement

I am pleased to be on the Board of Directors ballot, and to have the opportunity to continue to serve the Institute. I am dedicated to bringing people together. One of my strengths is taking an idea, whether it is my idea or a colleagues, and to make it a reality. Evolving these ideas into action items is one of the elements of committee work I have enjoyed the most. Another strength of mine is my ability to listen. I greatly enjoy meeting USITT Members and hearing their thoughts, hopes and aspirations, both for themselves and for the Institute. Along similar lines I take pride in stopping by as many expo floor booths as possible, to see what new products companies have and to learn about the amazing productions schools have been producing.

As a board member I will work to find leadership opportunities for interested members within the organization. If we build upon the job posting functionality on our website, to post internal volunteer positions, we will open the doors for members to apply to and/or express interest in a committee or commission, and therefore improve member involvement. Through my experience, I have found that it is hard for members to find ways to contribute to USITT and become involved. If we can change this we will allow our membership to help the organization grow. Further, it is important that we continue to support retired members, as they have the potential to give back to USITT if we help them too.

Bio

Derek Epstein is a Rigging Manager for Encore (not the Casino). He grew up in Thornton, Colorado where he found a passion for lighting during high school. He attended the University of Wyoming and graduated with a BFA in Theater and Dance with an emphasis on Scenic Design.

Derek spent his college summers working at theaters including the Contemporary American Theater Festival (CATF) in West Virginia and Connecticut Repertory Theater. After graduating, he became a scenic carpenter at the Tony Award winning South Coast Repertory Regional theater in Costa Mesa, California. After three years in California, Derek moved to Boston where he taught Technical Theater and Carpentry at Emerson College for two years. Most recently, Derek worked as the Project Manager for a Boston-area entertainment production company that partnered with theaters, event venues, escape rooms and dance companies throughout the New England region. His collaborations include: The Lyric Stage Company of Boston, Boston Lyric, Speakeasy Stage Company, Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre and Trapology. Derek is a proud member of the United States Institute of Theater Technology (USITT) where he is a Co-Chair of the Membership Committee. In his free time, you can find Derek playing board games with friends, attending local theater events, and hanging out with his wife Linda and cats, Lego and Ami.



Pinky Estell

Position Statement

As a passionate artist, I have always sought to improve my community by contributing my time and knowledge to progress forward. I have demonstrated my commitment through service on committees, regional sections, and commissions. I believe that as a member of the board I will have the opportunity to give back to the organization that has solidified my success. Leadership in any organization must take an active role in redesigning historical approaches and processes to

advance racial equity, and thereby, bring the BIPOC community forward. The USITT Board has a unique opportunity to lead our industry in making critical changes towards this progress. As a Director at Cornish College of the Arts, and my roles on other boards, I'm familiar with what it takes to successfully lead a non-profit. I have worked towards building several programs that help artists and students develop their knowledge and skills. I have also been an advisor of the USITT student chapter at Cornish since its inception. I first joined USITT 20 years ago as an undergrad student serving in several student chapter officer roles and have been an active member ever since. I was the first USITT Board Mentee under Sherry Wagner-Henry. Currently, I serve on the Membership, Awards and Resolution, Tech Expo, and the Sherry Wagner-Henry Board Mentorship Program committees. Previously, I was the Programming Chair for the NW Regional Section. I look forward to the opportunity to serve our community and industry at a national level, where I can help advance positive change and growth.

Bio

Pinky Estell graduated from Cornish College of the Arts (BFA) and from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (MFA), in Technical Direction (TD). He has worked as TD for ACT San Francisco, San Francisco Opera Company Merola Opera, The National Black Theater Festival, Intiman Theatre, and the Cornish Playhouse to list a few. Pinky has worked as a freelance stage manager and production manager for festivals and corporate events for the last 16 years. Pinky is currently the founding Director of Creative Spaces and Event Services at Cornish and co-founder of Otter & Penguin Makerspaces. In the community he serves as the President on the UpTown Arts & Culture Coalition District Board in Seattle Washington, Advisory Board Seattle Arts & Culture for Antiracism and as a Tukwila Arts Commissioner Position 3. He first joined USITT in his undergrad program serving in several student chapter officer roles and has been an active member ever since. Pinky was the first USITT Board Mentee under Sherry Wagner-Henry. He currently serves on the Membership, Awards and Resolution, Tech Expo, and the Sherry Wagner-Henry Board Mentorship Program committees. Previously he was the Programming Chair for the NW Regional Section. Outside of his work in the performing arts, Pinky creates public installations designed to engage the community in local parks and festivals. He is also very active with the regional Burning Man nonprofits of Precipitation Northwest (Oregon) and Ignition Northwest (Washington).



Cary Gillett

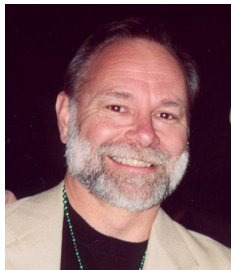
Position Statement

I know I am not alone when I say that my affiliation with USITT has changed my life. The relationships I have formed because of USITT over the last 13 years have provided enumerable personal and professional growth opportunities. It has been my pleasure to give back to the Institute through my work with the Stage Management Mentor Project and with the various committees on which I currently serve and through my first term on the board. To be given the chance to serve as a Director on USITT's board for a second term would allow me to not only take this service to the next level but ensure that others can benefit from all the amazing offerings that USITT encompasses.

I recently became the chair of USITT's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice (IDEAS) committee. The Institute is at a critical juncture with not only a new Executive Director coming on board in the near future, but also a new staff IDEAS Director position. My opportunity to serve as both chair of the committee and as a board member simultaneously provides assurance that the USITT values of Inclusion, Excellence and Responsibility will be upheld in this time of transition.

Bio

Cary Gillett (she/her) has worked as a production manager and stage manager in the Maryland/Washington DC area for over two decades. She was recently appointed as the General Manager of the MD/DC branch of the AV and events company CMI. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, Howard Community College, and an annual visiting professor at the National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts in Beijing. She is the co-author of *The Production Manager's Toolkit* with Jay Sheehan from San Diego State University. The book was published by Routledge/Focal Press in 2016 and the second edition is due out in 2023. She is a proud member of the Actors' Equity Association and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT). Cary has spent 6 years with USITT's Stage Management Mentor Project, including three years as head of the program. She has served USITT on the Awards, Publications and Conference committees and currently sits on the Finance Committee and recently stepped into the role of chair for USITT's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and Social Justice (IDEAS) committee. Cary is finishing her first term as a board member with USITT this year and excited to serve for a second term if elected.



David Krajec

Position Statement

It has been my extreme pleasure to have served the Institute in a variety of ways over the years. It has always been my belief that we are our most effective when we strive to serve others for the greater good of the Institute and its members. Through my work with the Institute (as Co-commissioner for Education, Board member and VP-Commission), I have had the opportunity to meet many wonderful and creative people who I'm proud to call my friends.

These friendships have always been the bedrock of my participation in the organization. Moreover, exposure to new technology and the discovery of new paradigms in teaching and design through the Annual Conference and Stage Expo has been crucial in my personal development as a theatre artist and practitioner.

My background as a theatre educator as well as my work in theatrical equipment sales and project management makes me uniquely qualified to serve on the board.

If elected, I will work to support the leadership to see that we reach the following goals. We must continue:

- to meet the goals of the Institute through outreach to our community of theatrical practitioners by being a truly inclusive organization.
- to embrace excellence and celebrate the best of our profession.
- to support our colleagues across the country through support of the regional sections and their activities.
- to work with ESTA to continue to develop the Technical Standards Program, the International Code of Practice for Entertainment Rigging and the Entertainment Technician Certification Program.

Bio

David has been active member of the Institute for many years in a variety of positions of responsibility. He has served as the Vice-President for Commissions and has been the Co-commissioner for Education as well as holding a variety of positions within the Education Commission. He has also been a past Director of USITT. He has also been active in the Midwest Section serving as the Membership chair and Section chair, and currently the Treasurer for the Section.

David holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Kent State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Western Illinois University. He got his start in academia as the Technical Director and Lighting Designer at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth, TX. He then moved to Milwaukee and began working at Cardinal Stritch University as the resident designer and Technical Director. He was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1995, was granted tenure in 1996, and promoted to Associate Professor in 2003.

In 2007, David left academia to pursue other opportunities working for MainStage Theatrical Supply, Inc. in Milwaukee as a System Sales Specialist, then promoted to Project Manager in 2009. He retired from full-time work at MainStage in 2021 and currently works part-time.

Since retiring, David has joined the faculty at Marquette University to teach a technical production class on a part-time basis. He is excited about getting back into the classroom and helping the future theatre practitioners develop their skills.



Scott Parker

Position Statement

I believe my eclectic background and wide-ranging experiences will be a real asset to the USITT Board of Directors. In my early career stages, like many technical theater graduates, I held down many different jobs to support myself before landing steady employment in high school and university theatre programs. After leaving academia in 2014, I worked on a corporate event at the local convention center, which was a true revelation. I continued in corporate events and entertainment until COVID sidelined us all.

After working on several corporate events, the 2016 USITT national conference took on a new meaning. I observed a shortage of workshops that applied to the corporate theater world. In response, I created and chaired sessions in 2017 and 2019 geared for corporate theatre technical work. All were well attended and highly praised.

Over the next few years, I spent time researching the paths taken by corporate event technicians as they entered our field. Most corporate events and arena concert crews derive from labor pools and union hiring halls, not collegiate theatre programs. To support these technicians, I founded the Event Technicians Resource Group, eventtrg.com.

I wish to contribute to the USITT team by expanding our offerings for technicians who come from non-traditional theater programs. High schools, community theaters, CTE (career technology education) programs, union training programs, and more could benefit from USITT's ongoing mission.

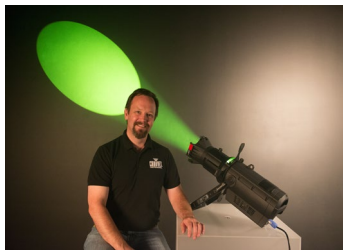
Bio

Scott C. Parker spent his first years of professional life as a freelance lighting designer and technical director and earned his AEA card stage managing in NYC, <https://scpld.com/>. Along the way, Scott supported himself between shows by driving a taxi, working as a TV News Cameraman, using his USCG license to captain large charter yachts, teaching SCUBA diving, and working as a sign maker. Scott then returned to university to earn his MFA so that he could share his love of theater and teaching with others. Over the subsequent 20 years, Rutgers, Temple, Columbus State, Johnny Carson School of

Theatre and Film, Pace, City Tech, City College, Edward R. Murrow School, and Berkeley Carroll School all enjoyed, or put up with, his teaching.

Scott is honored that the USITT Education Commission recognized his outreach and service to teaching by presenting him with the 2020 Distinguished Achievement Award. Scott first joined USITT in 1985 and began presenting annually in 2005. He was chair of the NY Area Regional Section for two years and is currently the lighting Vice Commissioner for the Professional Practice.

After leaving academia due to a family move, Scott earned his membership to USA829, became ETCP Certified for rigging and electrics, and entered the corporate theater world. His lighting and rigging work for events has spanned hotel ballrooms, event centers (USITT Hall A in 2022) and stadiums. Currently, he works at Vectorworks as their spotlight product planner. Scott continues to produce the annual Stage Lighting Super Saturday: www.stageseminars.com.



Ford Sellers

Position Statement

For the Institute to thrive, I believe it needs more active professional members who can help mentor our younger membership. We must find ways to incentivize both continued membership, and participation of members throughout their professional careers in order to offer the best benefit to the entire Institute.

The institute must become more relevant to working professionals. Theatre is the crucial backbone to the development of technically focused entertainment professionals, but it is not the only career path. It's far more likely that our members will move into adjacent technical fields. We should work harder to assist them in those endeavors, and bring the commercial, academic and professional sides of our industry together under the USITT banner. This will increase the relevance of the Institute, provides more career development opportunities for our members, and help us serve our existing and future membership better.

We've made positive steps in this direction already with closer coordination with ESTA (and it's acquisition of NATEAC). However, there is a long way to go for us to deliver true value to professional designers and technicians in the broader entertainment industry(s).

We need to expand our outreach, develop tools and services to assist working professionals, and keep them engaged in the Institute so that as they continue in their careers, they will give back to the Institute and its student members.

With my professional background (Production, Educational Theatre, and Manufacturing), and my relationships with other industry professionals and organizations, I'm particularly well situated to help the institute in this regard.

Bio

I began my professional career in Las Vegas, working as an electrician, spot-op, and (eventually) board-op on large production shows, and transitioned to Corporate A/V. It wasn't until I returned to academic theatre in 2001 as the Master Electrician for Cornell University's School of Theatre, Film, and Dance that I reconnected with USITT. When I left Cornell to become the Sr Product Manager for Chauvet and Iluminarc, I held-on to the idea that USITT can have a greater role for its members beyond academia. And when given the opportunity, I pressed Chauvet to engage with the institute, and its mission to actively promote the advancement of the knowledge and skills of its members and to facilitate communication among performing arts practitioners, entertainment industry professionals, educators, and students.

While at Chauvet, my volunteer work with USITT has consisted of:

- Serving on the Lighting Commission (under Todd Proffitt, Autum Casey, and Jesse Portillo).
- Hosting sessions at the Louisville Expo.
- Being a reviewer for the Young Designers Managers & Technician Awards
- Presenting a 90min Webinar for USITT's FORUM@4: "Mixing different LED color systems in a single lighting rig"
- Presenting a Session at 2022 Expo on "LED System and Fixture Maintenance."
- And generally making myself useful both on the Lighting Commission, and at the Expos

Throughout my career, I've strived to educate & elevate my peers. Whether by mentoring, developing training courses, teaching, pushing for inclusion on my teams, pressing for expanded use of new technology, or by presenting at the USITT and PLASA Expos, my goal has always been to educate, and invigorate the teams on which I had the opportunity to serve.



Kimb Williamson

Position Statement

Vision and Purpose are key elements which will continue to move USITT forward to fully implement the recently adopted Governance model. As a long-time member and having served in numerous elected offices, I believe that Leadership through Service is a critical component to engage members at all levels and to successfully communicate the effectiveness of a Governance model to the many who have not yet seen themselves fully represented throughout USITT. The importance of the Board as a unified body which envisions the scope of USITT's reach and will not shy away from future growth and opportunities to bring innovative and fresh solutions to myriad challenges can not be understated. The greatest first step to identify the challenges in a critical period of transition and change is, I believe, the greatest opportunity for a successful future for USITT.

The foundation of change and transition has been set by the Board and it is the Board that will envision the future, but it is the membership through their volunteerism which will fundamentally move USITT onward. If elected, I see my particular strengths at the level of engagement with volunteers, enlightened by my ongoing service to USITT and my unwavering commitment to the critical role of Governance.

Bio

As a member of USITT since 1977, I have served appointed and elected positions including Director-at-large and Vice President for Commissions; Scene Design Commissioner, Rising Star Adjudicator, YD & T Adjudicator, and as a member of the Strategic Initiatives Task Force, Awards & Resolutions, Membership, Grants & Fellowships, Development, Nominations and most recently Bylaws committees.

I have presented on numerous panels and Professional Development Workshops and authored several articles for TD & T. As a member of Desert State Section since it's inception, I have presented workshops including *What Can USITT do for Students* which became the first exposure for many students to the availability of YD & T awards, Student Portfolio Reviews and potential training and employment opportunities through USITT. Beyond USITT, I teach and paint at Cobalt Studios; have designed sets for Actors Theatre of Phoenix, Childsplay, Southwest Shakespeare Company and Phoenix Theatre; design and teach Master Classes in scenic art; served on the editorial board of *The Painter's Journal*, contributing author for several textbooks on the topic of Scenic Art and am Professor Emerita following a 34 year career in academia.

It is the range of experiences in the Institute and in industry, academia and professional theatre which provides the background and service for the USITT Board of Directors.