

# **Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas**

Annual Report

FY 2022

(Jan 1, 2022 - Dec 31, 2022)

# Letter from the President & Board Co-Chairs

This past year saw the return of a robust in-person conference, while maintaining virtual connectivity. Our learnings from the pandemic years have come into play with a decoupled set of conferences(!). We've been working hard to honor feedback we've received from membership, and to balance our accessibility initiatives with international commitments and our long-standing tradition of an annual gathering. The journey of LMDA's past few years of conferencing feels very dramaturgical, asking questions about how things work, how our members are served, and looking for innovative ways to build upon our existing strengths.

Thank you to everyone who helps make LMDA the force that it is. To the Board and Executive for your time, energy, and thoughtfulness. And from the Board and Executive to our membership: thank you for holding us accountable and keeping us inspired.



*Lynde Rosario*

Lynde Rosario  
President



*Anne G. Morgan*

Anne G. Morgan  
Board Co-Chair



*Jenna K. Rodgers*

Jenna K. Rodgers  
Board Co-Chair

# Highlights

**518**

**Members**

**239**

**Virtual & In-person  
conference attendees**

**\$7,652**

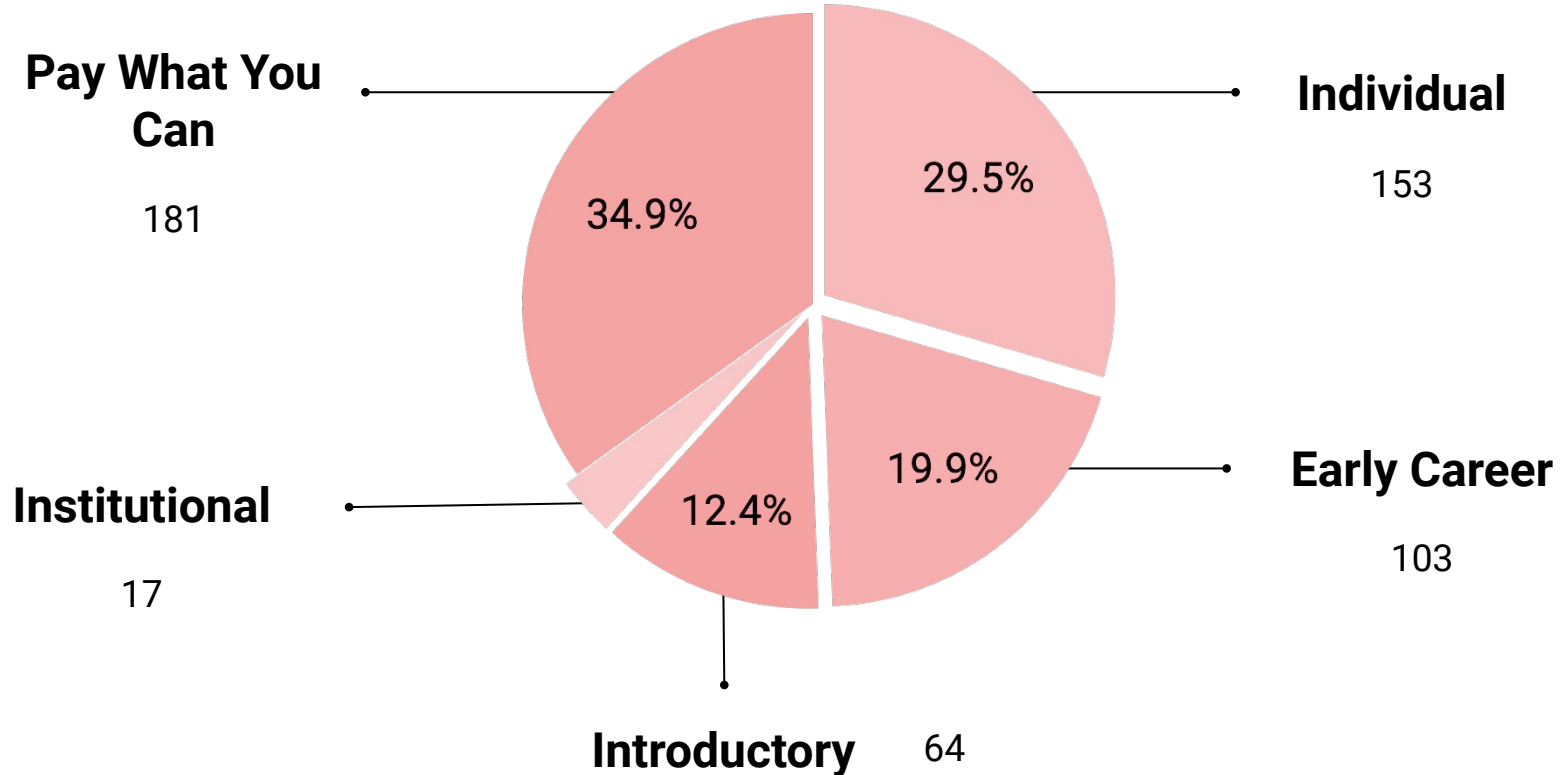
**Grant funds  
issued**

**66**

**Total events**

# **1. Membership**

# Membership by the Numbers



# Membership by the Numbers

**14**

**Countries  
represented**

**40**

**US states  
represented**

**7**

**Canadian provinces  
represented**

**3**

**Mexican States  
represented**

# 2022 Conference Activity

## Programming

5 asynchronous virtual sessions

7 synchronous virtual sessions

39 in-person sessions

## Participation

78 virtual participants

161 in-person participants

## Accessibility

ASL interpretation on-site

Closed captioning on all virtual content (synchronous and asynchronous)

# 2022 Regional Activity

The 2022 Regional Activities Officers offered space for communal gathering, building shared resources, and creating networking opportunities. Regional and international dramaturgs, and dramaturg-adjacent folx convened to develop new channels for dramaturgical connectivity! We are now entering an era of the discord platform and pop-up events!

## 2022 Activities:

- Launch of Dramaturgy Affinity Spaces with the Anti-Oppression Task Force
  - Early Career dramaturgs; BIPOC dramaturgs; Dramaturgs with Disabilities
- Metro NYC Happy Hour (Katie Walker)
- Southwest Speed Dating Event (Robert Mena)
- Florida Event (Meredith Barton)



## **2.Grants & Awards**

# Grants & Awards

## **Early Career Dramaturgy Travel Grant**

Due to a robust sponsorship and fundraising campaign, we were able to support 8 early career dramaturgs and their travel to the annual conference in Philadelphia.

The recipients were:

- Andrew Agress
- Emma Bilderback
- Emily Dzioba
- Coco Huang
- Gabby Lawlor
- Corryn Kennedy
- David Pham
- Shawn Sprankle

# Grants & Awards

The 2022 Elliott Hayes Award for Excellence in Dramaturgy was presented to **Duska Radosavljevic**, in recognition of her work on “Aural/Oral Dramaturgies: Post-Verbatim, Amplified Storytelling and Gig Theatre in the Digital Age.”

The Innovation Grant, designed to recognize a project that pushes the boundaries of how dramaturgical work looks, sounds and functions was awarded to **Kristin Johnsen-Neshati** for their project, 1,001 Plays.

# Grants & Awards

The Field Grant, which is designed to support dramaturg-led projects towards an expansion of the field in geographic space throughout the Americas, was awarded to **Nahuel Telleria** for their project, Staging Research: Theater and Politics in Contemporary Argentina.

The ECD Residency Grant is an opportunity for an artist or dramaturg, who self-identifies as being early in their career, to assist a mentor dramaturg in a professional setting. In 2022, **Dalya McGhee** worked with dramaturg Jordan Ealey at Mosaic Theatre Company in Washington, DC to produce “The H Street Oral History Project.”

# **3. Budget**

# Budget Update

In 2022, LMDA ended the fiscal year with an accumulated operating surplus of \$15,875. The surplus was maintained by offering dual modality for the conference, by generous donors, extensive sponsorships for conference expenses, and continued cost-cutting measures.

Thanks to our conference team and Grants Coordinator, the conference was subsidized through a series of grants, the largest being from the National Endowment for the Arts for \$15,000.

# The Lessing Circle

The Lessing Circle is a fundraising initiative established in 2017 with that goal in mind. To date, 25 patrons have donated or pledged \$2,500. Funds are directed each year to innovative programming and a reserve fund.

## Funds Utilized:

- 2021: Accessibility accommodations for the conference
- 2020: Translation and closed captioning support for the conference
- 2019: Outreach to Mexican and Latinx artists in support of the 2020 conference
- 2018: Critical access upgrades to LMDA's website and online server
- 2017: ArtEquity pre-conference workshop

# President's Discretionary Fund

\$3,000 from this fund, contributed by a donor to support annual projects that LMDA would otherwise be unable to undertake, was used to hire Jolene Noelle as our Grants Coordinator to support LMDA's process of applying for public and foundation funding.

- \$3,000 was released to support Jolene's work and was a slight decrease from the year prior due to a prorated contract
  - Jolene did not join us until April



# Annual Fundraising

A huge thank you to all who donated to LMDA in support of our initiatives, programs and member services, including The Lessing Circle and our annual fundraising campaigns:

- \$2,908 was raised during Lessing Week
- \$4,568 was raised through conference donations
- \$630 in general donations were made throughout the fiscal year
- The Radiating Change campaign is ongoing and has raised \$14,725 in pledges and donations to date.

# Budget Overview

2022 BUDGET		FY2021	FY2022	FY2022
		Final	Projected	YTD
	<b>Revenue</b>			
	<b>Government Grants</b>			
4010	National Endowment for the Arts	\$15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
4020	Canada Council for the Arts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4030	NY State Council for the Arts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4040	Local Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4050	Other Government Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Total Government Grants</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>
	<b>Contributed Income</b>			
4210	Co-Presentation Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4220	Conference Donations	\$ 930.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,568.00
4230	Fall Fundraiser	\$ 2,220.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,275.00
4240	In Kind Contributions	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
4250	Lessing Week	\$ 1,839.13	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,908.32
4270	Conference Sponsorships	\$ 100.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
4275	Foundation	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00

# **4. Initiatives**

# New Play Exchange

In an ongoing partnership with the National New Play Network, LMDA members are eligible to receive a discounted reader membership on NPX.

This is made possible through the generous support of an anonymous donor.

- To date, 20 of 40 discounted memberships have been used

To access this benefit, please email LMDA Executive Director, Lindsey R. Barr at [admin@lmda.org](mailto:admin@lmda.org).



# Anti-Oppression Task Force

The LMDA Anti-Oppression Task Force is dedicated to implementing anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and accessible practices within LMDA, the dramaturgy community, and the larger field of theatre. As such, meetings focus on self-education through a media discussion group, finding and coordinating educational opportunities for LMDA members, and considering questions for those who hire and train dramaturgs and literary managers.

Anti-Oppression Media Discussion Club; works considered in 2022:

- Taika Waititi, “Give Nothing to Racism”
- Quiara Alegría Hudes and Gabriela Serena Sanchez, “Pausing and Breathing: Two Sisters Deliver the ATHE 2018 Conference Keynote Address”
- NPR Code Switch, “Who Belongs in the Cherokee Nation?”

Advocacy

- Discussion of current events in the field and potential solutions

# Employment & Compensation Task Force

As the performing arts continue to climb out of pandemic shutdown with more regular and robust activity, we still face challenges creating and sustaining fair labor practices and equitable compensation. The work continues...

## Accomplishments:

- Amrita Ramanan and Sarah Lunnie hosted a well-attended in-person dramaturgy employment & compensation “salon” at the Public Theater in November. We are following up in small groups with many productive suggestions that came out of the discussion.
- We held an Employment & Compensation Q&A session during February’s virtual LMDA conference that has been archived on the website.
- After a hiatus last year, the Task Force rebooted monthly Zoom meetings and continues to welcome any interested LMDA members.

# **5. Transitions**

# Outgoing Executive Committee

LMDA would like to thank our outgoing executive committee members for volunteering their time and service to LMDA.

**Jacqueline Goldfinger**

VP of Communications and 2022 Conference Chair

**Natasha Hawkins**

Co-VP of Freelance

**Evan Medd**

Co-VP of Memberships

**Linnea Valdivia**

Co-VP of Programs

**Deanie Vallone**

VP of Institutions



# Incoming Executive Committee

LMDA would like to thank all of our incoming and continuing executive committee and board members for the extensive volunteer time they commit to this organization, its activities and membership. In 2022, we welcomed new Executive Committee members:

**Jenna Clark Embrey**

VP of Institutions

**Suzi Elnaggar**

VP of Communications

# Outgoing Board Members

LMDA would like to thank our outgoing board members for their support throughout the past few years, taking part in critical conversations that influenced organizational priorities and direction.

**Natasha Sinha**

Playwrights Horizons

**Marie Barlizo**

National Theatre School

# Incoming Board Members

In 2022, LMDA welcomed Ariane van Buren to our Board of Directors.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for her service to date, and for her commitment to helping guide the organization, advance our mission, and support the vital work of our profession.

**Ariane van Buren**

**Thank you to all LMDA  
members and conference  
participants who help make  
our organization a pivotal  
point of connection between  
disciplines, countries, and  
artists!**

