



LITERARY MANAGERS
& DRAMATURGS
OF THE AMERICAS
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Annual General Meeting – Sunday, June 14, 2026

This year's conference was made possible in part by
generous support from:

PLAY ON
● **SHAKESPEARE**

CCAM
Yale Center for Collaborative Arts and Media

DAVID
GEFFEN
SCHOOL OF
DRAMA
AT YALE

THE LAW OFFICES OF
Diane Krausz

IOWA



Theatre Arts



THE NEW
HARMONY
PROJECT



National New
Play Network
New Play Exchange®



NO
WRONG
ANSWERS



TRW THEATRICAL
RIGHTS
WORLDWIDE

HUNTER
COLLEGE
MFA in
PLAYWRITING



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**LITERARY MANAGERS
& DRAMATURGS
OF THE AMERICAS**
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

FY25 Annual Report

Letter from the President & Board Co-Chairs

Can you feel it? It seems like we are in a different micro-era than we were in the immediate aftermath of 2020. We feel it. The half decade between 2020-2025 was a period where we held together through countless upheavals, organizational and personal pivots, technology shifts, and national and international crises in and across our three member countries. In 2026, we are resolutely looking forward and that feels good. But our annual report is always a "look back." LMDA in 2025 marked a significant anniversary and showed our perseverance. The 2025 annual report records how we survived some very high stakes changes, amplified our status as a truly North American international organization, began to strengthen our internal fundraising apparatus despite needing and choosing to live without an NEA grant, and continued to recruit and mentor leadership for the organization and the field. In 2025, we invited many people to re-engage with LMDA at the same time that we continued to reach out to new and emerging members of our field. We are a vital organization and we have vital work to do, looking back, going forward, together in dramaturgical reflection all the way.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Freeman'.

Sara Freeman
President



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth Cerniglia'.

Ken Cerniglia
Board Co-Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Orr'.

Shelley Orr
Board Co-Chair

2025 Highlights

465

Members

191

Conference attendees*

\$5,446

Grant funds issued

51

Total events

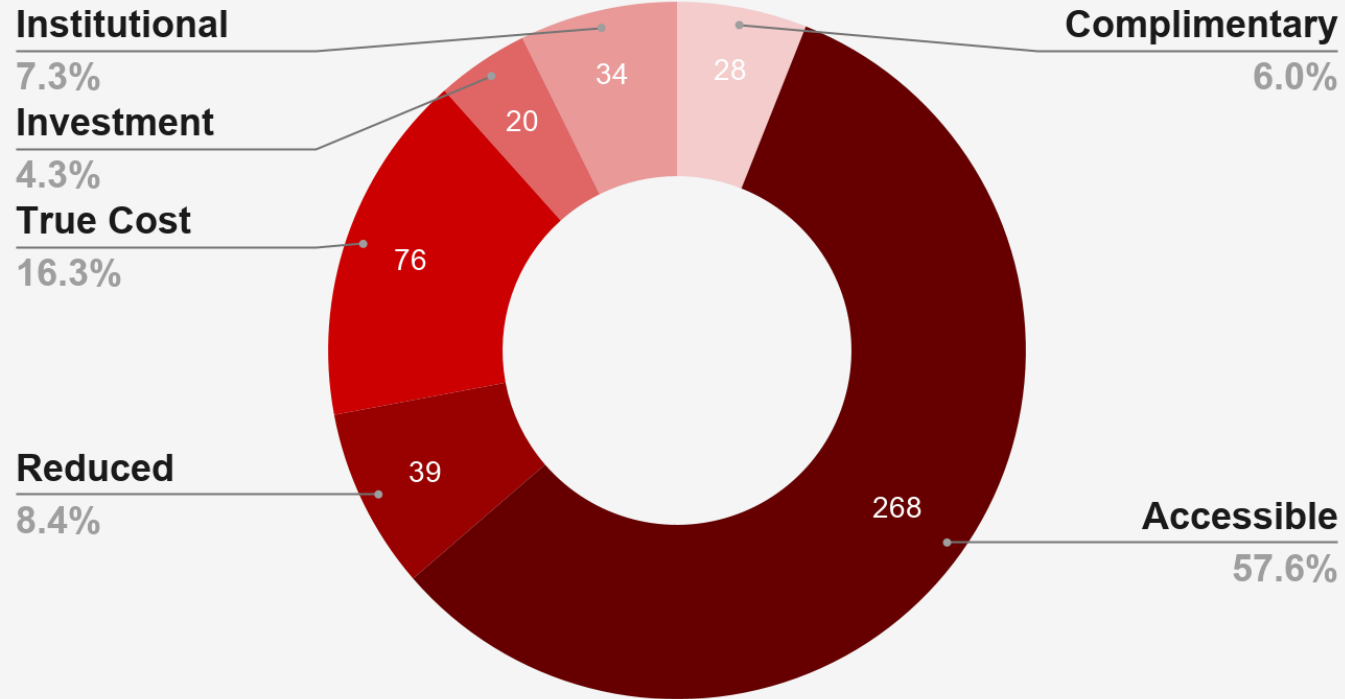
*includes both virtual and in-person conference attendees



01

MEMBERSHIP

2025 Membership by the Numbers



2025 Membership by the Numbers

10

countries represented
including:

5

Canadian provinces

3

Mexican states

41

U.S. American states

2025 Conference Activity

(Virtual & San Diego / Tijuana)

Programming

3 venues in two
countries

38 in-person
conference
sessions

3 simultaneous
sessions cross-
borders

Participation

72 virtual
participants

123 in-person
conference
attendees

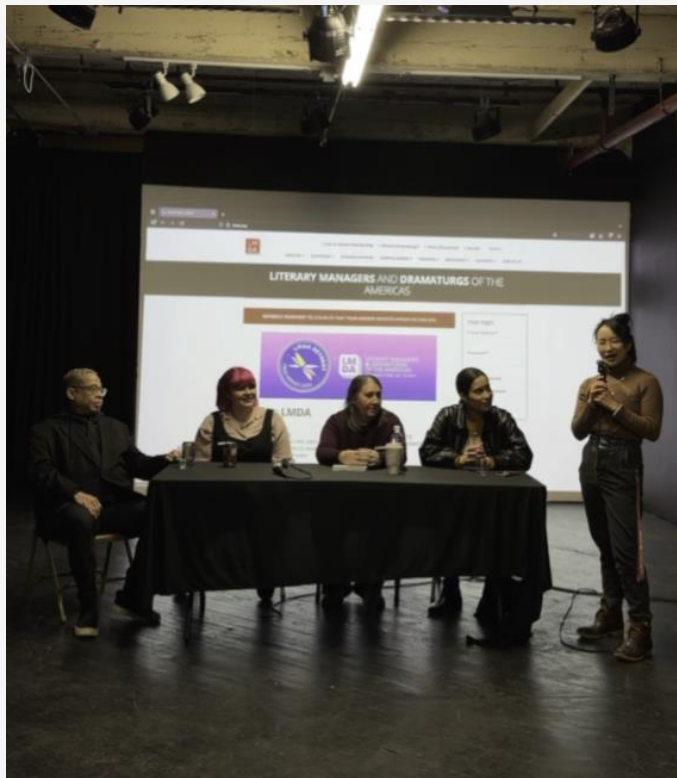
Accessibility

Full visual and
accessibility guide

Simultaneous
translation of
sessions

Screen reader
friendly
documents and
web guide





2025 Regional Activity

The 2025 Regional Activities Officers offered space for communal gathering, building shared resources, and creating networking opportunities. Regional and international dramaturgs, and dramaturg-adjacent folk convened to develop new channels for dramaturgical connectivity! We are now entering an era of the Discord platform and pop-up events!

2025 regional activity highlights include:

- *Afternoon Tea in Tiburon* with Bay Area Dramaturgs
- *Dramaturgy Mixer* with LMDA at Chicago's The Understudy
- *Love, NYC Dramaturgs*



02

GRANTS & AWARDS

Grants & Awards

Due to a robust fundraising campaign, we were able to support **ELEVEN** early career dramaturgs and their travel to the annual conference in San Diego / Tijuana.

The recipients were:

- Aika Tsuda
- Alana Victoria Murillo Arriaga
- Alexis Iker García Jiménez
- Arushi Grover
- Jacey Cassandra Lozada
- Jazmin Cato Sosa
- Kelsie Ramos
- Kemi King
- Ransom Allen
- Sid Jepsen
- Thomas Underdal



Grants & Awards

The **2025 Elliott Hayes Award for Excellence in Dramaturgy** was presented to Gabriela Aparicio for her book ***Panorama de dramaturgistas***, one of the first studies in Spanish about Dramaturgical practices from a Mexican perspective. The book presents an overview of the profession's development including a general introduction to the history and evolution of the role of the Dramaturg, the history and adaptation of Dramaturgs in Mexico and concluding reflections about this figure in Mexican theatre.





03

BUDGET

Budget Update

In 2025, LMDA ended the fiscal year with an accumulated operating surplus of \$10,986, which included the release of restricted funds for infrastructure upgrades (e.g., website), but still depleted some of the the accumulated surplus from FY24.

There were a combination of factors that led to this financial reality including loss of our National Endowment for the Arts Grant, a more resource-heavy 2025 conference, and a series of contracts for the conference that could not fully be cancelled (though many were re-negotiated to minimize financial impact).

LMDA Leadership is currently working on a series of fundraising and development proposals with an eye toward long-term sustainability for the organization.

Budget Update

Budget transparency is a priority at LMDA, and as dues-paying members, you have a right to know how funds are spent.

After LMDA's FY25 concluded, this budget was presented to LMDA's Audit Committee who reviewed it and confirmed that the organization's financial processes are sound, transparent, and avoided any Conflicts of Interest as outlined in the Bylaws.

After review by the Audit Committee, the final budget was then shared with LMDA's Board. And now we share it with you.

Please direct any questions to admin@lmda.org.

[FY25 Budget](#)

The Lessing Circle

The Lessing Circle is a financial sustainability initiative established in 2017. To date, 27 Patrons from about the LMDA membership have donated or pledged \$2,500 each. Funds are kept in reserve to buffer operational cash flow, with \$5000 earmarked for release each year to invest in and strengthen the organization through opportunities outside of the normal operating budget, for example:

- 2025: Critical website security updates and platform transition to WordPress
- 2021: Language accessibility accommodations for our first conference in Mexico
- 2020: Translation and closed captioning support for the all-virtual 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 in Berkeley



President's Discretionary Fund

This fund, contributed by a donor to support annual projects that LMDA would otherwise be unable to undertake. In the past, it was utilized to hire a Grants Coordinator. However, we've been able to cover that cost in our annual budget.

No monies from this restricted fund were utilized in 2025.



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:

Lessing Week – **\$1,150**

Conference sponsorships & donations (inc. Pass the Hat) – **\$6,065**

40th Anniversary Memorabilia Fall Fundraiser – **\$5,420**

General/misc. donations (made throughout the fiscal year) – **\$5,435**

The Radiating Change campaign has raised \$14,725 in pledges since its inception.



04

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, 36 of 40 discounted memberships have been used

To access this benefit, please email LMDA Executive Director, Lindsey R. Barr at admin@lmda.org.





BOARD CO-CHAIRS REPORT

BOARD CO-CHAIRS REPORT

→ Governance Committee

- ◆ Purpose, Mission and Goals
- ◆ Memoranda of Understanding with LMDA Canada, LMDA Mx

→ Finance Committee

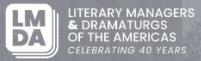
- ◆ Financial Policy

→ Development Committee

- ◆ Grant-seeking in uncertain times
- ◆ Radiating Change Endowment Campaign (2026-2030)

Looking Ahead...

Radiating Change Endowment Fund



LMDA ENDOWMENT

RADIATING CHANGE

GOAL: \$1MILLION LMDA FOUNDED IN 1985

Love a Dramaturg?

Donate to the Radiating Change Endowment today to support the next generation of dramaturgs and dramaturgy

1 GOAL

Our goal with this campaign is to raise a \$1M endowment within five years, which would generate at least \$20,000 annually to fund LMDA's Grants and Awards at a significant level for the foreseeable future.

When reached, the \$1M endowment will generate enough annual income to fund a **tenfold expansion** of LMDA's grants budget, so that we can increase the size, number, significance, and impact of our grants on both members and the field at large.

Dramaturgs are CHANGEMAKERS...

- The Radiating Change campaign started as a matching donation program, led by an anonymous donor and generously matched by then-outgoing LMDA Board Chair Brian Quirt and his partner Nancy Webster
- With our **first-ever endowment** fundraiser, we are aiming to raise \$1,000,000 to **give grants to Dramaturgs in perpetuity**

Contact

LMDA
PO Box 586 New York, NY 10108
(917) 740-8701
admin@lmda.org
www.lmda.org

LMDA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit,
so your contribution
may be tax-deductible
Tax ID: 13-3301001





EXECUTIVE UPDATES



OTHER BUSINESS

CONFERENCE 2027

We are heading to Vancouver, CA for our annual International LMDA Conference, with LMDA CA President Stephen Drover acting as the Conference Host!

Make plans now to join us next JULY 9-11, 2027!



Digital Symposium 2026

Join us on August 15, 2026 for a one-day free for members Digital Symposium, where we'll discuss this year's theme:

Dramaturgy As...

Expect a day of panels, workshops, and lively conversation about dramaturgs as artists, dramaturgs as educators, dramaturgs as collaborators, and above all, dramaturgs as workers.

Margo Ascher, 2025-2026 Digital Conference Coordinator, will be organizing this year's digital event.

We look forward to seeing you!

Pass the Hat!



CashApp



Website



PayPal





QUESTIONS?

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

