

March 21, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Heller An Shapiro

RE: Teaching Artist Liaison Nomination Process

Background:

At the request of Teaching Artists, a Teaching Artist Liaison to the Board of Directors was created and Delia Zielinski joined the Board on January 13, 2020. She completed two terms as of January 18, 2022. As noted in the minutes of the January 18, 2022, Board meeting, *“Delia Zielinski is also ending her term as Teaching Liaison, where she served an extended term from January 2020 to January 2022, assisting the organization during the pandemic. Mike remarked that Delia has always been thoughtful and weighed in on important decisions.”*

At the November 17, 2021, Teaching Artist Town Hall, a Teaching Artist requested that Teaching Artists be given an opportunity to nominate their representative to the board. In response, a nomination process was developed and shared with the Teaching Artists

As with all board members and liaisons, the candidate must be *elected by a quorum of the Board.*

The nomination process took place between February 15-25, 2022. The two candidates received a total of 17 votes split between them, with 39 abstaining.

The following was sent to the Teaching Artists in their 3/7/22 newsletter:

Thank you to the 17 Teaching Artists who voted for a Teaching Artist Liaison to the Board of Directors. The election ended in a virtual tie, with the votes divided almost evenly (8/9). The remaining 39 possible votes were counted as “abstain.” With only 30% of Teaching Artists casting a ballot, there was no strong mandate for either Liaison.

According to the Teaching Artist Liaison job description, *“Liaisons are self-nominated or nominated by peers and are elected by a quorum of the Board.”* The selection of the Teaching Artist Liaison has been placed on the agenda to be decided at the next Board meeting.

Proposal:

With only 30% of the Teaching Artists interested in casting a ballot, the Board should determine:

- A. Do we still need a Teaching Artist Liaison?
- B. If an Artistic Director is approved, is a Teaching Artist Liaison needed?
- C. If an Artistic Director is not approved, is one of the two candidates eligible for Board approval?

Self-nominations for Teaching Artist Liaison 3/2022
Rye Ellis and Patricia Krauss

Rye Ellis (He,Him, His)

Professional qualifications:

- ArtStream Inc. 2014- present
- 2014-2015 Safeway, Cashier & Barista
- 2016-2018 Weis Markets, Front End Monitor and Customer Service
- 2017-2019 Freelance life coach, provided on campus support to students with IDD's at McDaniel College.
- 2019-present Rev.Com Remote Transcriber (transcribing audio and video files)
- 2019-2020 I worked as a behavior technician for Spectrum and Beyond, which provides individual support services, family consulting, and respite care for young adults on the Autism Waiver Program.
- 2021-present I offer direct support in life skills and social skills to adults transitioning to independent living, while continuing my work as a teaching artist and creative writer.

Board Experience:

I have never served on a board, but believe my leadership, passion, community experience and growth within ArtStream will be a valuable asset.

Volunteer Experience:

- I have volunteered for shows, ArtStream galas, and numerous ArtStream classes, and served as a volunteer mentor for three years in Silver Spring B.
- Volunteered with Barrier Free Theater as a mentor for adults with IDD's.
- Growing up a military child, I volunteered in many on-base youth programs, including Boys and Girls Clubs of America.
- I have volunteered as a member of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, including environmental cleanups of Rock Creek.

ArtStream Involvement:

- Became involved in 2014, volunteering in classes at Casey Community Center.
- Started teaching and assisting in classes in 2017.
- Have taught in programs with ArtStream's partnerships including JFGH, CSAAC, Bender JCC, UCR, KEEN, The Frost School, and the Arc of Prince George's County.

- I have taught for various ArtStream curriculums including ArtStream's Summer Social Club, Super Social Saturdays, and Take Fives.
- Volunteer mentor for three seasons in Silver Spring company B
- Assistant director for two seasons in Silver Spring company B
- Currently in third season as Co-Director for Silver Spring company B, writing the script for A Tempest Tale and Once Upon a Time in Egypt.
- I most recently volunteered to edit scripts for other Inclusive Theater Companies.

I want to be a Teaching Artist Liaison because...

I feel a representative for all teaching artists on the board is imperative, and that someone with multi-faceted experience could provide a helpful perspective to the board. I feel I am someone who matches that description. I did not start my journey with ArtStream as a teaching artist. I started as a volunteer with a passion for the arts and a love for the community we serve. As well as being a teaching artist, I can offer my perspective as a volunteer, as a service provider, and as a sibling to a young adult with ASD. During the eight years I have been with ArtStream, I have risen up as a leader and have learned from the best on how to carry out ArtStream's mission. I understand ArtStream's mission, its values, and the vision to my core, as I carry those core values into all of the work I do. I am committed to continuing to learn and grow within ArtStream in whatever capacity I can.

How I would like to participate in moving ArtStream forward:

- I feel having an Artistic Director is crucial in ensuring ArtStream moves forward. I would like to be involved in the process of finding an Artistic Director by ensuring candidates meet the standards developed by the Teaching Artist Task Force, and that the needs of teaching artists are treated with urgency, regardless of whose responsibility it is to address them.
- In addition to Town Halls and Board Meetings, I would like to work with the teaching artists, Executive Director, management, and the board to develop a better line of communication between all involved.
- I would like to help develop guidelines for future nominations, to ensure the Teaching Artist Liaison to the Board nomination and voting process is run fairly and smoothly.

What will be different because I am on the Board:

I have the time and dedication to commit to strengthening bonds within the ArtStream community, and feel I can offer a different perspective as someone who has matured with ArtStream.

Patricia (Patty) Krauss

Professional Qualifications

BA dance; MA special education; MA Divinity; Board certified chaplain; Certified Life Coach, Actor, dancer, choreographer, director, producer, teaching artist, healer specializing in end-of-life care.

Co-Founder of ArtStream, inc

Board experience:

The Pittsburgh Dance Alloy 1980-81; Krauss & Co, inc (doing business as Seize the Day Mixed-Abilities Performance:) Founder, Executive Director 1994-2004

ArtStream Advisory Board 2005-2010

Volunteer Experience:

ArtStream events over several years, Hospice of the Chesapeake Camp Nabi Grief Camp for children; Joe's Movement Emporium events, Obama campaign. Within my spiritual community.

Why I want to be the TA Liaison

I am still deeply inspired by ArtStream's core values of open-ness and collaboration. However, I detect a moving away from these core values and hope to aid in steering us back to that purpose. A much-needed return to the original vision is greatly needed at this time, in particular as we address and repair the teaching corps loss of morale loss. We must rebuild with an eye on the strong foundation that ArtStream once had. There is no sustainable growth without this view.

Why I would like to participate in moving ArtStream forward:

As a Co-Founder, I feel I can help restore the essence and true purpose of ArtStream, as I was present in its infancy. I'm excited at the prospect of being a catalyst in refreshing the original message as well as moving ArtStream forward in an environment that is open, caring, transparent and progressive. I'm eager to help usher in our new Artistic Director. I would like to be on a committee that develops this job description. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patty

Remember this when you wake up every day: Your Life is not about you. Rather, it's about the lives of every single person you touch.

Neale Donald Walsch



Teaching Artist Volunteer Liaison to the Board of Directors

Overview:

The ArtStream Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring ArtStream's long-term financial stability and integrity. The Teaching Artist Liaison volunteers on an ex officio basis to assist the Board in understanding the needs and concerns of Artstreamers and Teaching Artists as the Board makes decisions that will impact the ArtStream community. Members and Liaisons of the ArtStream Board of Directors are responsible for ensuring ArtStream's long-term financial stability and integrity. Directors and Liaisons ensure that ArtStream fulfills its mission by doing quality work.

Responsibilities:

1. Support the mission of ArtStream
2. Attend board meetings and actively participate in discussions
3. Share your area of expertise with the board and staff
4. Be an advocate for ArtStream; promote ArtStream in ways appropriate to your profession and contacts
5. Fulfill the duties of care, obedience and loyalty
6. Participate in regular assessments to improve board performance
7. Participate in strategic planning activities
8. Prioritize and monitor ArtStream's programs and services, consistent with ArtStream's mission, goals, and financial means.
9. Partner with the Executive Director to accomplish the mission
10. Serve on at least one committee or task force each year
11. Assist ArtStream in interpreting the needs of the community and operating environment
12. Assist ArtStream in communicating with Artstreamers and Teaching Artists

Desired Skills and Experience:

1. Knowledge of ArtStream's history, mission and goals and commitment to maintaining a strong organization that is responsive to the needs of Artstreamers, families and Teaching Artists
2. Leadership in his/her field, knowledge of nonprofit arts organizations
3. A commitment to and understanding of ArtStream's Teaching Artists and Artstreamers
4. Ability to handle all ArtStream business with tact, enthusiasm and commitment
5. Ability to take responsibility and follow through on assignments
6. Ability to work well with people individually and in a group

7. Ability to communicate effectively and in a timely manner
8. Ability to review Board meeting materials and maintain the confidentiality of those materials
9. A natural affinity for cultivating relationships and facilitating and building consensus among diverse individuals

Term of Service:

Teaching Artist Liaisons to the Board of Directors are elected for a one-year term. Liaisons are self-nominated or nominated by peers and are elected by a quorum of the Board. Teaching Artist Liaisons may be re-elected for one additional one-year term, based on their ability to continue to fulfill board responsibilities.

Time Commitment:

Board meetings are held five-six times per year from 7-9 p.m. There will be up to 2 hours of prep time in advance of each meeting. One-two hours per month for a committee or Task Force assignment. Five hours for a bi-annual Strategic Planning Retreat

Benefits:

1. Opportunity to make a difference in the ArtStream community
2. Opportunity to measurably support ArtStream’s goals
3. Gain or enhance experience in building or working with teams
4. Increase knowledge of ArtStream activities and resources
5. Develop leadership skills
6. Help to shape ArtStream’s direction and goals
7. Get more involved with ArtStream

ArtStream’s Commitment:

ArtStream provides an orientation, mentoring, and one week to review board materials in advance of each meeting.

Personal Commitment:

I (*print name*) _____, am willing to make every effort to fulfill the ArtStream Teaching Artist Liaison responsibilities as outlined above.

Signature

Date

2022 Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, January 18, 7-9 p.m.
- Monday, March 21, 7-9 p.m.
- Monday, May 9, 7-9 p.m.
- Monday, June 27, 7-9 p.m.
- Monday, September 12, 7-9 p.m.
- Monday, November 14, 7-9 p.m.