

STATEMENT OF SERVICE PHILOSOPHY

In today's performing arts world there can be no understanding of the art and craft of theatre without fully embracing the national (international) discussion of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (DEISJ). Service is the arena in which the conceptualization and academic practices of DEISJ in my work connect with the community around me. The workshops I offer are informed by (and often modeled directly from) the rubrics I have created in my classes, I try to initiate a condensed version of their structure into my intensives and workshops. Seeing a performance as a collaboration between the performer and the audience insists on the performer being aware of the breadth of identities and experiences an audience can contain.

I focus my service for Colorado State University's Musical Theatre program into two distinct but interconnected initiatives: Recruitment & Retention and Community Engagement/Development. Through these Service initiatives I am effectively putting our CSU Musical Theatre Program on the map. I strive to incorporate the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice (DEISJ) into every aspect of my service efforts, recognizing their integral importance.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

2019—Present – Recruitment and Retention Committee

As the Co-chair of the Recruitment and Retention Committee, I have actively sought to enhance the visibility and presence of CSU Theatre by way of our burgeoning Musical Theatre program. By establishing direct connections through face-to-face interactions, I have created a welcoming and inclusive environment that encourages prospective students to explore the opportunities offered by our program.

Working with our admissions office, we have streamlined our recruiting efforts to focus on the areas we historically attract most prolifically from:

- Here in Colorado at the **Colorado Thespians** Conference in Denver, where our entire faculty take part in giving workshops and meeting with prospective students to discuss our program in person.
- **Texas Thespians**, from which we have an established high success rate.
- We added the **California Thespians** Conference to our list of recruitment engagements because we have managed to attract quite a few students from California without making any recruitment efforts.

My extensive recruitment efforts include conducting workshops at high schools and theater conferences both local and national, such as Poudre and Windsor High Schools, Colorado Thescon, Texas Thespians and the Texas Educational Theatre Association. Workshops include Song Interpretation, Intense Writing!, Theatre Dance, Scripted Storytelling, and succeeding in a *New York Audition*. I have also played an active role in virtual recruiting initiatives during our recent challenging times, such as the Colorado Thescon and Texas Thespians virtual events. In addition to offering feedback and guidance to all prospective students, throughout these efforts I have collaborated with my colleagues to specifically focus on connecting with underrepresented young actors, such as BIPOC and LGBTQIA students.

Nothing is more effective at raising the awareness of our program in local schools than visiting in person to work with students, especially in these tenuous times as we pull ourselves out of the Pandemic. This face-to-face interaction creates a level of comfort in students that encourages their investigation of what our program is about.

In the time I have been co-chair of our Recruitment & Retention committee, we have seen a **39% increase in recruitment**, necessitating capping both our Performance and Musical Theatre concentrations due to their high demand.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/DEVELOPMENT

Through my work with the local arts community - directing shows with both local Theatre companies and developing relationships with the actors, tech, and design crafts people in the area – I attracted a **\$1,000,000.00 Endowment** from a well-respected member of the local community. These funds will make a huge difference in our efforts to attract a more diverse populations of students to our program.

Elizabeth Hotel Partnership (2023)

Magic Rat – Performance/Presentation venue for readings, concerts, and highlighted (exceptional) course work.

Guest Artist Housing – Rooms available for artists coming to CSU to work with our students

COMMUNITY DANCE (2023)

I collaborated with CSU's Dance Division and taught an excerpt of the Original Broadway Choreography to *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

“In addition to his exceptional instruction, Noah actively promoted the class to his students and across his social media platforms. The inclusive teaching style and positive energy he brought to the class left a lasting impact, evident in students' enthusiastic comments such as, "that was so much fun," and “the overall radiant energy that filled the room.” – Grace Gallagher, Assistant Professor of Dance, [Service Letter](#)



BAS BLEU THEATRE

A WALK IN THE WOODS – DIRECTOR (2022)

I used this production as a Service opportunity to showcase the talents of CSU's Division of Theatre by collaborating with my colleagues. I cast our Head of Performance, Saffron Henke, in the role of the diplomat and American negotiator Joanne Honeyman, and CSU's Head of Design, Erin Carignan, designed the costumes.

My efforts in engaging with this company and its Artistic Director, Wendy Ishii, has led to our discussions and collaboration on the NoCo Theatre Group.

OnStage Colorado Review – [Bas Bleu closes out season with 'A Walk In The Woods'](#)

OPENSTAGE THEATRE & COMPANY

SENSE & SENSIBILITY (2021)

I used this production at OpenStage Theatre & Company to give CSU student designers and performers opportunities to work professionally, engaging three student stage managers, (Whitney Roy, Katie Winslow, Lauren Boesch), two sound technicians, one to design (Mason Dill) and the other to run the board in performances (David Walters), and I cast one of my senior actors (Kelby Jakober) as one of the three sisters in the play. I also felt the show needed an instrumental accompaniment, so I engaged my colleague Aaron Gandy from New York to compose an original score, giving the company the experience of working with a composer and Music Director of that caliber. We had a huge challenge in getting the show open, Covid protocols demanded we postpone the opening for two months, trading places with another production that OpenStage canceled due to the pressures of the pandemic. However, the production came off extremely well, receiving great praise and recognition within the Fort Collins theatre community and winning me the Opus Award for Outstanding Direction.

OnStage Colorado Review: [Plenty of laughs in OpenStage's 'Sense and Sensibility'](#) by Kari Redmond

BIG FISH (2024)

For the production of *Big Fish* I am directing at OpenStage Theatre & Company this Spring, I am continuing to bring CSU students into positions both on and off stage. Musical Theatre student Ruby Duka will have a role in the ensemble as well as the position of Assistant Choreographer, and stage management student Anna Cordova will join the production team as an Assistant Stage Manager. I am proud to have our students stepping into professional roles in productions where I can continue to advise and counsel them. (More details to come).

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Due to the projected growth of CSU's Musical Theatre program, I recognized there will be a shortage of performance opportunities at CSU. I resolved to make a more direct connection to theaters that could offer our students chances to work in and on full sized productions here in Fort Collins. In 2021 I accepted the position of Associate Artistic Director at OpenStage Theatre & Company In accepting this position my Creative/Research efforts run parallel with my Service initiatives of bringing opportunities to our Students, deepening the connection between CSU and the Northern Colorado arts community while continuing to develop my skills as a Musical Theatre creator. Not only am I able to bring my expertise in Directing and Choreographing directly to our community, but I am also offering my insight and guidance to other OpenStage productions as Production Manager. Because of my national reputation, accepting the position brought attention to OpenStage as an up-and-coming regional producing entity, and through the

projects I have been involved with, brought a new level of choreographic staging (Musical and otherwise) to the company. I have been able to offer students in both acting, and production and design their first professional experience.

OST&C's Producing Artistic Director Sydney Parks Smith has expressed her excitement and gratitude for the energy, work ethic and attitude I bring to the company in her [letter](#):

"Regardless in what capacity he is acting, be it Director, Choreographer or Production Manager overseeing productions, his insistence on and dedication to following DEISJ principles is perfectly in line with all the standards and practices OST&C has developed. Noah works hard to create an inclusive creative environment where everyone involved has a voice and feels valued." – Sydney Parks Smith, Producing Artistic Director, OpenStage Theatre & Company

THE NOCO THEATRE GROUP (NTG)

In addition to my current recruitment and retention endeavors, I spearheaded the development of The NoCo Theatre Group, an umbrella organization that brings together three Fort Collins-based arts organizations -- CSU Theatre, Bas Bleu Theatre, and OpenStage Theatre & Company -- to foster collaboration, resource sharing, and mutual support. Community engagement and engaged scholarship are at the core of this organization, offering developing artists real-life experiences working with professional artists established in their field, as well as bolstering a vibrant and connected theater community in Fort Collins and our surrounding region.

Mission

NTG's mission is to engage and inspire the Fort Collins community through excellence in live theater. Through this consortium, we aim to provide blossoming student talent with firsthand opportunities to work alongside professional artists, creating an environment of mentorship that encourages excellence in community arts. Moreover, we aspire to curate a national interest and appreciation for our local arts community by leveraging our extensive contacts in the Theatre/Entertainment industry to magnify Fort Collins' gravitational point within the national theater scene.

Goals

- Establish an official collaboration between CSU, Bas Bleu and OpenStage which will add an attractive number of opportunities for CSU Students in both tech/design as well as performance. These institutional relationships will offer prospective CSU students even more incentive to study here.
- Collaborate with CSU's Arts Management Program giving them firsthand, real-life experience running an arts organization, presenting and carrying out initiatives, as well researching new avenues for funding through national non-profit grant writing.
- Complete the second phase of renovation and construction for Bas Bleu Theatre's performance and office spaces.
- Support the establishment of a physical, brick-and-mortar residence for OpenStage Theatre & Company. As the oldest theatre company in Fort Collins, OSTC needs to put permanent roots down in order to continue to serve the community and region in the fullest way it can.

These goals align with our land-grant mission to connect with and benefit our communities while attracting and supporting a more diverse student body. They also align with CSU's [Courageous Strategic Transformation](#), its [Gold purposes of Scholarly and Artistic Creation, Individual and Community Strength, and Equity and Social Justice](#), and the [Green purpose of Lifelong Learning](#). (University Planning Framework – Pg 7).

FUTURE SERVICE INITIATIVES

I am looking forward to continuing my service efforts with these exciting initiatives:

CONCERT FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE

As part of our \$1,000,000.00 endowment, I arranged with the donor to earmark \$4,000.00 in funds to pay for a Fund-Raising Gala Performance. Building on my successes directing the Lyrics & Lyricists series at the world-renowned 92nd Street Y in New York, I am proposing a similar Concert Performance that features the works of a specific artist or artists.

1. In order for students to be able to satisfy our curricular performance requirements (TH400-Performance Workshop), we must build more performance opportunities into our season. A second Musical Theatre experience will do just that, as well as allow incoming first-year students a chance to perform (an echoing complaint from students dissatisfied with the lack of ways for them to “shine” in their first year at CSU).
2. Community Engagement. This concert will be a way for us to acknowledge and encourage the support the CSU Theatre Program needs from our Fort Collins community. This could easily become a “Gala Performance” to raise additional scholarship funds for our students.

BROADWAY BOOTCAMP

A 2-week musical theater intensive in Fort Collins that sharpens the skills of high school students interested in studying musical theater at the university level. This program will further strengthen our engagement with the Fort Collins community and promote lifelong learning among aspiring young performers.

CSU SUMMER THEATRE

Through the efforts of NoCo Theatre Group, my colleagues and I hope to develop a professional arm for CSU's theatre program, offering a summer production that increases opportunities for our students as well as viable research/creative projects for our esteemed teaching-artist faculty and staff.

All of my service contributions in Recruitment & Retention and the Community Engagement through NTG have been guided by principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. By actively engaging with area schools, and organizations, I have sought to connect with as many different local communities as I can, to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for aspiring theater artists that is firmly rooted in the land we inhabit. Through the establishment of the NoCo Theatre Group, I have worked towards the overall betterment of the Fort Collins theater community. I am committed to continuing these efforts, driven by a desire to uplift and inspire both our local community and the broader regional theater landscape.