ASTC Committee Reports Annual Meeting 9 April 2021

Codes Committee:

The code committee met on November 6, 2020; December 11, 2020 and January 7, 2021 to discuss code issues that members wanted to be addressed based on Peter Rosenbaum's survey summary from 2015 (see attached). Using this survey as a guide, the code committee reviewed the ICC and IFC regulations and worked to update the language of these code issues found by members. The code committee submitted code change proposals to IBC and IFC in January 2021 (see attached). The code committee has started a review of the NFPA regulations for stages and auditoriums (see attached); to continue and update the changes based on the 1992 BCMC report. Proposed updates have been organized and will be submitted in a few months. If members have issues they feel should be addressed, please send them to the code committee.

Code Committee Members:

Names in **bold** represents ASTC. (M)=Member (P)=Principal (A)=Alternate (X)=Participant (C)=Chair (O)=Observer

Bill ConnerSAF-AXE (P), FDW-AAA (P), ICC (X), ANSI A117.1 (A), ADA-AG (X)R. Duane WilsonESTA/TSC-Stage Machinery WG (A), Rigging WG (P), FollowspotWG (O), ANSI A117.1 (P), TSC-Technical Standards Council (A)ESTA/TSC-Technical Standards Council (P)Andrew GibbsESTA/TSC-Stage Machinery Working Group (P)Peter ScheuESTA/TSC-Stage Machinery Working Group (P)Group (O)Co-share with Bill Connor on IBC.Andrew SmullingCo-share with Bill Connor on IBC.

Proposed changes to NFPA 101 and 5000

1. 3.3.276.1 Legitimate Stage.

A stage with a height greater than 50 ft (15 m) measured from the lowest point on the stage floor to the highest point of the underside of the roof or floor deck above. (SAF-AXM)

3.3.276.2 Regular Stage.

A stage with a height of 50 ft (15 m) or less measured from the lowest point on the stage floor to the highest point of the underside of the roof or floor deck above. Clarify to what point of roof the measuring is to, which relates to fire sprinklers and their general acceptance as sufficient based on height. 2. 12.4.7.8 Gridiron, Fly Galleries, and Catwalks Pinrails.

12.4.7.8.1

Structural framing designed only for the attachment of portable or fixed theater equipment, gridirons, galleries, and catwalks shall be constructed of materials consistent with the building construction type, and a fire resistance rating shall not be required.

12.4.7.8.2

Fire-retardant-treated wood shall be permitted for fly galleries and pinrails of all types of construction.

12.4.7.8.3

Combustible materials shall be permitted to be used for the floors of galleries, and catwalks , and similar limited access technical production areas of all construction types. This is updating and clarifying.

12.4.7.8.2 Fire retardant wood has rarely if ever been used for structural framing for either galleries or pin rails.

12.4.7.8.3 This simply recognizes the variety of names used to lable these areas and would allow combustible materials (wood) for control rooms, follow spot booths, and related areas

Proposed IBC Change

Platform definition (7061) IBC: SECTION 202 Proponent s: William Conner, American Society of Theatre Consultants, representing American Society of TheatreConsultants (<u>bill@bcaworld.com</u>)

2021 International Building Code Revise as f ollows:

[BG] PLATFORM. A raised area within a building used for worship, the presentation of music, plays or other entertainment; the head table for special guests; the raised area for lecturers and speakers; boxing and wrestling rings; theater-in-the-round stages; and similar purposes wherein, other than horizontal sliding curtains, there are no overhead hanging curtains, drops, scenery or stage effects other than lighting and sound audio audio visual equipment. A temporary platform is one installed for not more than 30 days.

Reason: The deletion of "theatre-in-the-round stages" omits exempting spaces from stage requirements where combustible scenery is possible or likely to be used. The change of "sound" to "audio/visual equipment" recognizes the prevalence of projection screens, projectors, and similar video display equipment in addition to sound equipment found in many spaces these days.

Cost Impact : The code change proposal will not increase or decrease the cost of construction

It could be argued that this will increase the cost of a theatre in the round, but they should never have been exempted from the stage requirements originally. I believe that few have been built that have not complied with most stage requirements

Please see contents of the 150925 Survey Summary.xls Excell file for the Survey.

End of Code Committee Report

Conference Committee:

FORUM 2021: NATEAC will be virtual, so there is no longer a reason to co-locate our Forum with NATEAC. Due to continuing uncertainty, the Committee recommends that we again hold a virtual Forum for 2021. Peter Scheu will be the chair of this Forum and will be asking members to present on a series of topics, as we did in 2020. Suggested date for the Forum: Friday, October 1, 2021.

ANNUAL 2022: USITT will be in Baltimore in 2022. This will not be a Renovation Challenge year. Since we will have been unable to meet in person at USITT for 2 years, the Committee recommends that we support USITT and plan a hybrid in person/virtual meeting in Baltimore on March 5, 2022.

FORUM 2022: World Stage Design will be held August 6-16, 2022 in Calgary, along with the CITT/ICTS annual conference and trade show, Rendez-vous 2022. World Stage Design is an OISTAT event held every 4-years and was last held in 2017 in Taipei (2021 show was rescheduled to 2022.) We have never met in Calgary and we have not met in Canada since 2007. Detailed information about WSD is attached to this memo.

The Committee identified Nashville or Boston as alternatives. Other locations previously discussed include Richmond, VA (too close to Baltimore for 2022) Charleston, Montréal, South Padre Island, TX, and Mexico City. We actively seek input on topics and sites from members and we would also like to identify a chairperson or chairpersons to be the organizer(s) of this Forum.

Conference Committee Members are: Heather McAvoy, Chair, Michael DiBlasi, Don Hirsch, Chris Purpura, Peter Scheu, Duane Wilson

We invite interested members to join this committee and/or to be chairperson for FORUM 2022. Chairperson(s) do not have to be members of the Conference Committee. We are preparing a guidance document for Forum organizers.

Guidance for ASTC Forum Chairpersons:

Theme: Many of the most successful ASTC Forums have been centered around a theme. Past examples include: New technologies, sustainability, music spaces, theatre automation, acousticians, large venues, etc. If no theme is established, the members-on-members format in which members are invited to present to the group on a topic of their choice has also been successful.

Timing: Most Forums have been held in September or October. When scheduling the Forum in September, avoid dates that might exclude some of our members, such as High Holy Days.

Format: Many ASTC Forums have included venue tours, invited speakers. consultant roundtables, and organized attendance of cultural events. But there is no requirement that a particular format be followed, as long as there are meaningful opportunities for continuing education, member collaboration, social interaction, and some time set aside for a business meeting of the Society. Some earlier Forums used a retreat format. And our 2019 Forum in Cuba was a unique example of a special program organized by professional tour guides.

Location: Theme, format, and location are often intertwined. Typically, the Conference Committee recommends a location to the Board of Directors, based on Committee discussions and member input. Any ASTC member is welcome to suggest a location, theme, or format to the Conference Committee. In general, we try to move the Forum location around the continent so that all members have an opportunity to participate in person. Some Forums have been co located with other conferences when the opportunity has arisen (e.g., OISTAT Architecture Commission Meeting, NATEAC), but most of our Forums have been stand-alone events solely for our members.

Accommodations: Once a theme, time, format, and location for the Forum have been established, the Chairperson(s) should explore:

Hotel: This may include visiting potential hotel sites and reviewing the meeting rooms, typical hotel rooms, and catering options. This process should begin 6-9 months in advance, and contracts should be completed 4-6 months in advance.

Restaurant for the Forum dinner: Traditionally the ASTC members meet for a special meal on one night of the Forum. Other nights of the Forum can be left free for members to explore the location, or scheduled events (e.g., organized attendance of performances.)

Tours: If the Forum will include venue tours, make arrangements with the venue, or solicit the assistance of the ASTC consultant most closely involved with the venue to be the point-of-contact for making the arrangements.

Transportation: If tours, Forum events, or the Forum dinner restaurant are not within reasonable walking distance of the hotel, arrangements should be made for transportation of members. This usually involves arranging for a bus service. In all cases, plans should 3/25/2021 be made to provide transportation for members with limited mobility. Consideration should also be given to the climate and anticipated weather. A "walkable" location may become unwalkable depending on the weather.

Contracts: While the research is typically accomplished by the Forum chairperson(s)/committee, the contracts are executed, and payments made by the ASTC Secretary.

Audio-Visual Services: In order to make the ASTC Forums as accessible as possible to all members, we are committed to an in-person/hybrid model insofar as is practical. Typically, this means that presentations, roundtables, and the business meeting are made accessible to all members, even those who are not present, electronically. This is a relatively new effort, and our goal is to create an AV committee for each Forum. The ASTC owns some AV equipment (currently stored at the home of the ASTC Secretary) and we also contract with the meeting facility for AV equipment. The ASTC Secretary executes the AV equipment contracts but has other significant responsibilities during ASTC meetings and should not be expected to manage the AV equipment.

Final thoughts: The goals of our Forums are to enhance our collective practices, learn from

each other, and from our guests, discuss issues related to our work and to provide us with an opportunity to interact socially. Creativity and new ways to make Forums more accessible, inviting, and engaging are always welcome. If you have an idea, propose it!

While there are advantages to having the Forum Chairperson live near the location of the forum or have an ongoing project at that location which requires frequent visits, it is not a requirement. The Chairperson can enlist the aid of others within or outside the Society as proxies for hotel and restaurant visits.

Thank you for your service to the ASTC!

The ASTC Conference Committee

World Stage Design

MEMORANDUM Date: 18 March 2021 To: ASTC Conference Committee From: Heather McAvoy, ASTC RE: World Stage Design 2022 USITT Session Notes

Presenters: Patrick Risotti Lisa Russell April Viczko (Project Lead)

Dates: August 6 - 16, 2022

Website: https://wsd2021.ca/ (eventually they will update to wsd2022.ca)

Components of the Event:

World Stage Design: Professional and emerging exhibition of theatre design at Univ. of Calgary Reeve Theatre. Deadline for submissions: Professional: June 15, 2021, Student: July 30, 2021

TAC - Theatre Architecture Competition: Challenge has not yet been announced will come out later this spring. Jury has not yet been finalized but will soon be announced. Nothing will be built - it will be a challenge given to emerging and student architects to consider at a given location with given parameters. It's an ideas competition.

TIP - Technical Innovation Prize: Exhibition of things technicians worldwide have created to solve a problem (unpatented - must be willing to share.) Deadline for submissions: November 30, 2021

Scenofest: Locations: University Theatre, ContainR Space, F.R. Matthews Theatre. 100 different events presented (workshops, master classes, performances, seminars, panels, key-note speakers). Can propose a session for Scenofest. Deadline for submissions: June 1, 2021

Scenofest (3 themes/"sisters")

• Indigenous Ways of Knowing (encouraging activities that help understanding of indigenous lands around Calgary.) Workshop Trip to a place called Writing on Stone (storytelling carved into the landscape.) Blackfoot elder will take them on this excursion, 3 days, hiking ASTC Conference Committee 18 March 2021

• EcoScenography: The Cardboard Theater and Temporary Sustainable Theatre competition - there will be a budget for the construction of the entries - they are looking for a sponsor for this event

• Multiple Realities: The Blue Room:

CITT/ICTS - RENDEZ-VOUS & Trade Show 2022 - Canadian version of USITT trade show.

OISTAT Commission Meetings: Everyone who is a member of USITT is also an OISTAT member

There will also be some trips to Banff/activities there.

Housing options during the event: Acquiring special deals with a variety of housing options

(including the University campus housing dorm style rooms for students.) Small apartments (2-4 people), 2 hotels (one walking distance/one C-train stop -Aloft 119 CAD per night) Other is the Westin Downtown, 149 CAD per night, which is a great deal.

Registration will open August 5, 2021.

It is too late to become a jury member for this World Stage Design

They are still open for proposals for master classes and workshops. They will be having interns/volunteers and will be asking for students to come from around the world to help mount the exhibitions and run the performances. Target to accept volunteer applications will be Sept. 2021 (particularly targeted to students.)

Stay tuned (on website). They will also be communicating the education commissions for

OISTAT and USITT.

Submissions to the WSD2022 exhibitions must be realized performances, installations, site specific events, etc. produced between September 2016 and September 2020. The Emerging Designer category is defined for designers who were a student at some time between September 2016 and September 2020.

https://www.visitcalgary.com/

https://springboardperformance.com/containr

info.wsd2021@ucalgary.ca

End of Conference Committee Report.

Outreach and Education Committee:

The purpose of the ASTC Outreach and Education Committee is to serve as a valuable resource to students and early-career professionals who may be interested in pursuing a career in theatre consulting, and to create an environment in our industry for equity, diversity, and inclusion. We firmly believe that achieving these goals requires the participation of a wide spectrum of individuals, inclusive of a diverse combination of gender, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, and life experiences.

The specific objectives of the Education and Outreach Committee are to develop and implement plans to:

- Educate the public about the ASTC and theatre consulting profession, with a specific focus on diverse young professionals and students
- Identify potential opportunities for the ASTC to develop and expand new outreach services or activities, such as collaborating with related programs in allied organizations (e.g., USITT, AIA, Women+ in Theatre Consulting, theatre technology educational programs, etc.)
- Promote and administer existing education and outreach programs such as internships and the Renovation Challenge
- Develop a new high-school mentorship program focusing on diversity and inclusion, with the goal of implementing this program at a performing-arts-high-school within one year
- Build strategies for the recruitment of women, Black, indigenous, and people of color to our industry
- Create accountability for the implementation of our diversity and inclusivity goals

It should be noted that the Committee voted to change the name from Education and Outreach to Outreach and Education. It was felt that the shorthand E&O might be confused with the commonly used acronym for Errors and Omissions.

During the past year, the committee has focused on four main objectives:

- 1. Creation of an information packet and presentation to be made available for ASTC members to utilize for presentations to high school and college classes.
- 2. Outreach to other related programs for collaborating and building strategies for recruitment of underrepresented communities to raise awareness of theatre consulting in these communities.
- 3. Support of existing initiatives such as the Student Renovation Challenge.
- 4. Creation of a mentorship program for High School students.

Creation of an information packet and presentation for presentations to high and college classes.

The Committee has begun working on an initiative called "What is a Theatre Consultant?" This goal of this project is to create an information packet and

presentation which ASTC members can use to engage with local/regional educational and cultural organizations who cater to young people to introduce them to career pathways and educational opportunities in theatre design consultancy. This package of materials will assist members who want to do this outreach by providing them with a framework of ready-made documentation which they can adapt to their personal experience. One part of this project has been creating an outline that will hopefully evolve into the rough framework of a 20–30-minute presentation with a stock PowerPoint presentation that members can use as-is or customize to their liking and audience.

As part of this effort, we created a Member survey on path to Consulting which everyone should have received by now. We hope to be able to look at how our members found our profession and provide members with knowledge of pathways that might be different from their own to use as examples. These resources will also help prepare our members for outreach to people who are different than ourselves.

Support of existing initiatives such as the Student Renovation Challenge.

The Renovation Challenge has moved Online for 2021. We have a smaller group of participants than past few years due to COVID. We started with 5 entries but are down to 3. There is still a very interesting variety of projects this year, no two are alike. We hope for increased online viewership compared to in-person attendance, in line with anecdotal increased attendance at USITT sessions and commission/committee meetings.

As an additional part of the Committees' outreach efforts to early career professionals, we will be creating a database of past Renovation Challenge participants to allow us to follow-up with them and see where they are in their careers. We would like to find out if and how participating in the Challenge had affected their careers or career paths in any way. This information could be used to enhance and encourage future participants. To date, the lists of past participants have been found. The creation of the database has been delayed due to effort to move renovation challenge online.

Outreach to other related programs for collaborating and building strategies for recruitment of underrepresented communities.

In addition to internal programs, the Committee is also exploring ways to build on other related programs that members may be a part of.

Members of the O&E committee also participate in a Women+ in Theatre Consulting group outside of the ASTC. This group is recently established, with similar goals to the O&E committee, focusing on the increased participation of women+ in the industry. A few of the ongoing initiatives in conjunction with this group are:

- A "What is ASTC?" presentation was given by ASTC members
- ASTC members are participating in a mentorship program within the Women+ in Theatre group. Mentees were invited to attend the ASTC forum.

• The Women+ in Theatre group is also exploring Outreach and Education initiatives. A member of the ASTC O&E committee participates in those meetings, and agreements have been made to share resources where appropriate.

Creation of a Mentorship Program for High School Students.

Given the newness of the Committee, and the overall difficulties experienced by all schools in 2020, the committee is starting slowly on the development of an Internship program. However, we are committed to centering this program on an effort to increase equity and diversity within the Theatre Consulting community and will focus the new mentorship program on providing opportunities to students from diverse backgrounds.

Starting with LaGuardia High School in New York – a performing arts specialized high school, this program will initially pair a single student with a single ASTC member to engage in direct mentorship. The committee has worked to develop the outlines of a program to provide a quality educational experience to selected students, while broadening the visibility of Theatre Consulting. We are working towards opening applications to this program in April 2021 and making our first mentor pairing this Spring/Summer. The first mentorship will span one semester this fall, and the application period will repeat each spring.

Once completed, the committee will have documents both for interested schools describing the program, the requirements for potential applicants and the application process. We will also have a document for potential ASTC Mentors describing the requirements and commitments for potential Mentors.

The Committee will ask the ASTC board to allocate an annual budget to the program, based on a proposal from the Outreach and Education Committee. We expect that this budget will initially fund a single mentee per school year (one semester duration), ramping up to at least 4 mentees by year 5. The budget should be sufficient to cover items in the following categories:

- Technology and materials to aid the educational experience
- Travel expenses to ASTC Forum or USITT for the student
- Entertaining expenses for the mentor (theatre tickets, meals)
- Appropriate PPE for construction site visits

Respectfully Submitted on March 25, 2021:

Outreach and Education Committee Howard Glickman – Chairperson Emily Brainerd – Vice Chairperson Alex Robertson Andrew Gibbs Clemeth Abercrombie Grace Gavin Rhodes Heather McAvoy Jerad Schomer Kent Conrad Peter Rosenbaum Van Phillips

Membership Committee:

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Stephen Placido, ASTC – Membership Committee Chairman March 26, 2021 via E-mail

- 1. New member inquiries:
 - a. On September 23, 2020 an inquiry from Topher Skulley, AIA, LEED AP Senior Associate at HORD COPLAN MACHT came in through the <u>applicants@theatreconsultants.org</u> e-mail address. He requested consideration for Associate Membership and asked if an Architect can be considered for membership. There was a discussion in the committee around the reasons why he can or cannot be considered for membership. The exclusions discussed were centered on the income requirement in the By-Laws and how that can be proven or enforced, and his project qualifications. Although there was unanimous concern that he did not meet the membership requirements, it was decided not to disqualify without an application. He was sent an application.
 - b. On December 19, 2020 an inquiry from Richard Schick, Schick Shiner and Associates, Theatre Planning, Design and Management Consultants came in through the <u>applicants@theatreconsultants.org</u> e-mail address. R Duane Wilson sent application files to Richard and corresponded with him briefly before Christmas. To date, a completed application has not been received.
 - c. On January 27, 2021 an inquiry from Erik Lund, AIA, LEED AP an Architect at HASTINGS came in through the <u>applicants@theatreconsultants.org</u> e-mail address. He expressed interest in becoming an Associate Member and asked if an Architect can be considered for membership. He clearly stated that he was NOT a Theatre Consultant. There was unanimous agreement that he did not meet the membership requirements. The ASTC Board discussed Erik Lund with

over all consensus was that he was not qualified to be a member. Peter Rosenbaum was to have prepared a letter to Erik Lund explaining why he could not be considered for membership. He was not sent an application.

- d. On February 15, 2021 an inquiry from Ted Ohl, Principal, Schuler Shook, THEATRE PLANNERS / LIGHTING DESIGNERS came in through the <u>applicants@theatreconsultants.org</u> e-mail address. He requested an application for Associate Membership. He was sent an application.
- e. On March 19, 2021 an inquiry from Kirstin Oliver came in through the <u>applicants@theatreconsultants.org</u> e-mail address. She requested information as to her best options for membership. Duane answered her questions and an application was sent. Discussions are ongoing. To date, a completed application has not been received.
- 2. New member recommendations to the Board of Directors:
 - a. For Topher Skulley, AIA, LEED AP Senior Associate at HORD COPLAN MACHT the Membership Committee cannot recommend membership and suggest that the Board review the application and decide if membership is suitable or not. If not, then the Board will need to prepare a letter explaining why he could not be considered for membership.
 - b. For Ted Ohl, Principal, Schuler Shook, THEATRE PLANNERS / LIGHTING DESIGNERS the Membership Committee recommends Associate Membership. As of Feb.2021, Ted stated he had 19 months of experience as a consultant. To meet the bylaws requirement of 5 years experience the committee recommends that the beginning of Ted's Associate Membership be August 2020 but that the board vote at the April Meeting.
- 3. New member inquiries through the applicants@theatreconsultants.org e-mail address:
 - a. We have now received a number of inquiries from Architects and other theatre professionals (who are clearly not theatre consultants) inquiring about the membership requirements. It seems like this may be a trend that ASTC will have to formally deal with.
 - b. The Membership Committee suggests that the Board prepare a letter for those inquiries that are clearly not qualified and why that could serve as a model response.
 - c. The Membership Committee could then use that letter as a model response to future similar inquiries
- 4. The Membership Committee discussed additional ideas regarding these applicants:
 - a. Are Architects who specialize in performance venues automatically disqualified? Many ASTC members have come to theater consulting from architecture. While ASTC members with architect licenses generally do more theater consulting than architecture is there a reason why an architect who does more architecture than theatre consulting could not be

a member if they meet the membership criteria? How could we address the income requirement in the By-Laws and how can that be proven or enforced?

- b. These professionals seem to want to connect to others who are doing what they would like to be doing and are interested in theatre consulting. We may not be able to sign them up because they don't meet the membership requirements, but could we offer some sort of mentoring?
- c. Can we offer a guest option for the ASTC Forums. Is there a place for these people as forum guests, where we all could learn from each other?

Membership Committee Members:

Stephen Placido, Chair

Michael DiBlasi

Scott Crossfield

Robert Long

R Duane Wilson

Todd Hensley

Publications Committee:

The last issue of *ASTC:Notes* was sent out on 17 December 2020. The next issue will go out 22 June with an intent to push out most articles in advance so there is regular fresh content on our site and via Facebook and LinkedIn.

Articles remain our greatest hurdle. While we can and will generate new content internally, we would appreciate assistance from outside the committee. For the Spring issue we have articles in review from Bob Davis and Michael Parrella. Kent Conrad will write about the Renovation Challenge as quickly as possible after the event; this can also serve as a press release. We hope to continue the short form Did You Know series as an easy way to create quick, useful content and we welcome input from across membership. Long and Parrella are heading up that effort (as producers and writers).

There was some movement to create an article from the Post-Pandemic Theatre discussion after the Forum, hopefully for another more widely-read publication. There seems to be no response so we will probably produce something in house.

We planned on a "suggested reading" article for the fall issue, but we had challenges getting it together. The latest idea is this will be a living document of member-written articles, as published for third parties. These are not articles published on your own site or articles promoting your work or projects. These are intended to be general interest topics you might write for publication. Please share those with Kim Corbet Oates or Paul Sanow.

The Fall 2020 forum is available in the Member's area of the website. We anticipate providing the 2021 Business Meeting as well.

We are looking into developing a small series of videos, starting with member's only content. We would like to capture some knowledge from our long-standing members and fellows. Think of NPR's Story Corps. We will likely do these online since we are all getting so good at it with minor editing. More to come on this front.

There has been discussion and research along with Jody Kovalic and Susan Lustig regarding Bulletin Boards. A brief history (please correct if wrong): there was at one time a bulletin board used by members which was abandoned due to lack of interest and some challenges with website updates. We are looking at options that allow robust and flexible notifications. The goal is to move Member Mail List traffic to a separate location, so it is easier to find later and by future members, and to reduce traffic for members not interested in some topics. There would be categories to which you could subscribe and receive notifications. Organizational topics would remain via Member Mail List. Is this of interest to members? Would you use it.

Not to be a broken record... we can always use more articles.

Current Publications Committee Members:

Kent Conrad Andrew Gibbs Robert Long Kim Corbett Oates Michael Parrella Alex Robertson Paul Sanow Robert Shook The Editorial Board remains: Peter Scheu, Kyle Smith, and Don Hirsch.