

# Overview

**When writing your short blurb/bullet points, here are the points you want to hit:**

What did you do in your current time as a board member (besides working on shows)

What makes you a good board member?

What do you plan to do this year on the board? Do you have new things you want to head up, do you want to grow something that we already do, ect.

Maranda

In my past year as a board member, I have both driven projects and supported others in their projects. The project that I am most proud of for this year has been working on the mural with Rise Up to make the theater stand out to possible patrons, as well as my effort archiving production materials like posters, programs, and newspaper mentions. Currently, programs from production #2 up to mid 2013 have been organized and kept in chronological order in binders. These projects are both extremely important to me, as the theater is rich with history, and having these things out and accessible allows us to take more time to go through memory lane with older members or may spark inspiration for someone to bring a past show back. Aside from honoring our past, I make a concerted effort to empower and support others in their projects. I have also represented the theater as the featured fundraiser for the group Revolution. With this I attended two meetings monthly to make connections for the theater and raise funds. Currently, we have made ~300 from it, which should be going to replace the crumbling floor in the lobby.

In my time on the board, my aim has been to be a positive influence and make people feel like their work and presence is valued. I think being on the board, and especially being president, my interactions with others will shape people's opinions of the theater, and I would like to think that I have made people feel like others are excited they're there, and hope to increase efforts next year in empowering members to be more confident in pitching ideas and making the moves to get these ideas completed.

Patryk

This past year was my first full year as a board member. A lot of it was learning more about what I can do to help make the community better. I have always been there to lend a helping hand to anybody that needed it. When Circle Mirror needed somebody to step up to take up stage management duties I was more than willing to despite never having stage managed before. I was also the dialect coach for The Book of Will. I convinced a close friend of mine in the stand up comedy community to audition for The Crucible and now he leads our improv workshops which have been a great success so far. This next year, as somebody in the music community, I would love to have a part in bringing musical acts to fill our space when we aren't doing theatrical productions as a way of raising money so we can continue putting on great work and as a way of attracting new audiences that may not have been aware of our space before.

Colette

This is the second year Colette Gardner has sat on the board of directors here at Hole in the Wall Theater. It is also my first year as an assistant vice president to Maranda Gallo. My time here really is aimed at hoping to help improve in the community's experience and encouraging creative process.

I am often one to step in where I am needed and to try and raise the bar when I do. Whether it's from stepping up as assistant director to director for *The Crucible* and putting in the work to make sure my cast felt safe and that their voices were heard. Or whether it's myself and fellow board member Keith Fiermonte stepping in to direct *The Mystery at the Museum* and help foster a creative relationship with The New Britain Museum of Art. My goal is to go where I am needed or wanted and to encourage others to do the same. This past year, I have assisted the president and the board in a few different ways. Whether it was testing our new ticket system Ludus, helping where I can with showcases like the Horror Writers Association of America, aiding in house committee or suggesting fun fundraising ideas to keep the community engaged and keep the energy up. It is not a stretch to say how much I care about the theater, the art, It puts on and the people it allows to shine. I got brought into this theater as a blood expert for *Jekyll and Hyde*, and while I have been a makeup artist in many shows and a blood expert in at least 3 a director in one and a half and one more to come. I would also ask that you consider me someone you can confidently vote to be, one of the board of director members that you can rely on to put my all and what I do. Thank you.



Lynn

This past year as a member of the board, I helped to grow the amount of season subscribers we have and helped to organize the sponsor-a-seat fundraiser both of which helped to bring in money when it was sorely needed. I also spearheaded the 1st annual Monologue Competition which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

As treasurer, I pride myself on being on top of all the things that are required in my position such as paying bills, taxes, reimbursement checks, deposits and showcase payouts.

I think my greatest strength is that if someone asks me to do something or I take on a project, they know that I will follow through. And if something comes up that hinders my ability to do the job, I find someone else to help.

This year I hope to continue to find fun and unique ways to make our theater more dynamic and to bring more money through the doors.

Ellie

In my past year as a member of Hole In The Wall's board of directors, I have made myself an active and present member of the theater. Shortly after joining the board, I was offered the position of assistant secretary. Confident in my abilities due to my experience as secretary in my college's pride club, I accepted. Since then, I have put into action ways to streamline meetings and make minutes clearer that weren't present before my term. These include noting what members made motions at board meetings, documentation of how many votes each motion received, integrating online votes taken outside of meetings with proper ratification, limiting repeated info at general meetings, written email newsletters, and condensing old business to items that need concrete follow-ups.

Outside of my responsibilities as secretary, I have also taken up many volunteer opportunities, and worked to bring in new membership to the theater. I have volunteered for concessions multiple times, and have also worked as house manager. I am a member of multiple committees, where I have remained active, one of which I am also the secretary of. As assistant director of Book of Will, I brought first-time faces to our sound booth, and will continue to pull connections where I can. Presently, I am also the co-producer of our up and coming New Works Festival. I have been and plan to continue to be an active member of our theater, and I hope my presence at the theater has reflected this.

When I first joined the board, I did not expect to be able to run for re-election. I expected to have moved too far to continue to be an active member. To my past self's surprise, I am not only still able to be here, I am able to be even more committed than I previously was. Moving into the next year as secretary, I plan to continue making meetings as efficient and clear as I can, continue pushing the theater into a more stable financial future as a board member, keep the board in active conversation with the membership, as well as taking on now tasks such as organizing our Google Drive and making it easier to locate documents both online and in the theater's physical filing. I hope to have your vote as a secretary you can continue to trust to stay active at the theater and keep the gears of our organization well oiled.

Seth

I've been part of the Board for a little over two years now, and in my time here I've taken up Head of the Maintenance. Although I'm not as familiar with some maintenance items as Thom is, nor am I as familiar with our HVAC system as Jim Nason, I feel enthusiastic to continue learning under their wings. They are an invaluable source of information and I would like to continue my time learning under them. It's with their help that I was able to unclog the paint room sink from January, and am working with Jim to prepare a repair plan for the landlord to improve our system.

In November, I collaborated with a previous Board member to revitalize our Code of Conduct, hoping to provide fair resolution of serious issues and communicating any behavioral expectations for all of our members. The Code of Conduct and the role as Conduct Chair are important to me, and I feel confident that they can be a vital resource available if and when a situation arises. I hope to continue my role as Chair and help facilitate future changes to the document as needed.

Recently, HITW has been in a growth period where countless people have been putting in effort to steer the theater not only towards a more fiscally stable future, but also one where everyone feels valued and heard. One issue that members have spoken up about is that they don't feel heard, or don't have as many opportunities to speak up. In the past few months, I have made attempts to open and encourage discussion on important topics outside of general meetings, removing the barrier of attending meetings for those who still wish to be heard, while ensuring that decisions are made with all possible information. It is my hope to not only continue those efforts, but to improve them to be most conducive to creating an equitable space.

I tend to hover around the paint room and basement so it seems, so even though this isn't a Board function I like to continue working on basement cleanup and storage solutions like we did with our locked cabinets. (Thank you Thom and Sergio!)

Keith

Over the past year at Hole in the wall I have been privileged to work for the betterment of the theater. I have helped to revitalize the light and house committees. And through our work with the house committee we have been able to clean and revamp the lobby, revitalize and improve concession sales, and bring our recent HITW history to the forefront while continuing to honor all 50 plus years of theater history.

I am grateful to have played a major role in bringing cocktail and alcohol sales to concessions. Which, in just three MainStage shows, has brought in over \$6000 in concessions revenue and will hopefully continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

I am grateful to have had a part in fostering a sponsorship relationship with the Midsummer Fantasy Renaissance Faire, which annually brings us over \$3000 in revenue.

Mostly I have been lucky enough to work on some remarkable MainStage shows such as The Crucible and The Ferryman. Each one record breaking at their time. Bringing in \$10,000 and \$12,000 in revenue, respectively.

What I cannot put a number on, or a dollar amount to, are the friendships working relationships and professional colleagues I have made along the way. All of whom I regard with an overwhelming sense of pride. The people who are willing to give their time and their talents to this small corner of the performance community are without reproach and without peer. And no accomplishment, large or small, can be credited to just one person but to the community of HITW at large who routinely make something from nothing. Who make wonder and spectacle for no reason other than the love of their craft.

The magic makers, and the dreamers of dreams.

I hope to continue my work with them. At this place and beyond.

And I hope to continue to do all I can for this place and this board of directors.

Thank you.



Jenna

Since joining HITW in 2021 I have been on the board for two years. That time has allowed me to grow in both leadership and communication. I've worked on 17 shows to this point and in the past year I led a stage management workshop while assisting with 5 others, took over leading the house committee, started working on accessibility within our space, cataloged four years of our show history, assisted in creating a mural for our space, and much more.

Since becoming head of house committee I have led:

- Completely repainting the lobby.
- Completing and restocking first aid.
- A photo grid celebrating the next 50 years of our history along with allowing for current show photos to be displayed (twice).
- Stocking concessions for every show and volunteering myself whenever possible.
- Teaching volunteers how to run box office and concessions.

Hopefully moving forward with the board I am to continue and ramp up working on accessibility (from the view of someone who is disabled themselves) to and in our space along with maintaining the cleanliness of the whole space. I wish to continue to grow the learning aspect of our space. I will be creating guides for house and checklists for things like painting. I wish to continue my growth in delegating and communicating while on the board. I am someone who's passion runs deep for this theatre and the people in it. I lead by example. I work hard to make HITW the best it can be. I wish to continue that.

Jess

I joined the board in June of last year and quickly became a leader in marketing. I worked on *There's Always Plenty of Light at the Starlight All Night Diner*, the *The Crucible*, and I led marketing for *The Ferryman*, helping it become the theater's highest attended and bestselling show. In January, I became the Executive Marketing Manager. This role allows me to oversee all of the theater's marketing and assist with social media when requested, as I did for *The Book of Will* and am currently doing for *Circle Mirror Transformation* and *Game On*.

In the past year, I've also become someone who leads by example. I've attended multiple work calls for shows, even when not acting in them, and always exceed the required one work call for shows I'm part of. During tech week, I've stayed late to help with painting or other tasks. I've worked house and concessions and volunteered for house beautification projects, like repainting the lobby and painting the "HITW" letters above the water fountain.

As a board member, it's crucial to have a specific focus on the theater's success, whether it's marketing, house, maintenance, or fundraising. I have chosen marketing as my niche. I also believe in showing up for my fellow theater members, making my best effort to attend every mainstage show and showcase to offer support.

I want to make everyone aware that last month, I moved 2 hours away, back to New Hampshire where I am from, to be closer to my family. But as Executive Marketing Manager, I have the ability to do my work remotely. I've shown this ability by remotely writing a recent newsletter, coordinating with the *Game On!* crew remotely for social media and Glastonbury Pride, and if you've seen Facebook and Instagram posts about Circle Mirror Transformation that have been going up every single day since June 2, I created and posted those myself remotely. Within a couple years, I plan to move again to be closer to the theater, about an hour or so away. But for now, I promise to make my best effort to travel to attend every performance and I will continue my current duties as Executive Marketing Manager.

Terry

I joined the Board of Directors to help support a theater I care deeply about—and I believe I've made tangible, lasting contributions toward that mission.

Over the past year, I've continued to secure grants and funding that help keep our productions sustainable and our doors open. I've supported numerous shows, helping to coordinate their operations and stepping in during moments of conflict or crisis when a steady hand was needed. I led the charge on acquiring and safely implementing our liquor license, creating a new revenue stream for the theater. I also directed the most successful production in the company's history, while supporting the creative and logistical needs of other shows right behind it.

But ultimately, what matters most to me is our mission: making theater available to everyone. That mission has guided every decision I've made on the board, and it's the reason I'd like to continue serving—if the community feels I'm still a helpful presence.

At this point, I'd prefer not to "campaign" for a seat. I trust our community to decide whether my presence on the board continues to serve its best interests. I believe in this place, and I'm proud of what we've built together. If there's more I can offer, I'd be honored to keep contributing.

Alex

## Board Member Statement of Purpose (Alex Palazzo)

I was nominated and elected to the board of directors at Hole in the Wall Theater in January of 2025, resulting in a short but fruitful five month tenure. Despite coming to HITW with the sole intention of being on its stage, I quickly found myself interested in being one of its leaders who brings that stage to life.

I believe at its core, theatre is a conversation. For 90 minutes (or 3 hours and 20 minutes if you do the Ferryman), theatre has the miraculous ability to make everyone in the room laugh, cry, and applaud despite what they might disagree upon outside its doors. And if they do disagree, theatre provides a platform for such conversations; theatre allows us to reflect on ourselves, or those we know in our lives, and challenges our existing views of them. Additionally, theatre builds community, and community builds theatre. Without the actors, the directors, the tech crew, the production team, or the patrons, theatre could not happen, and the aforementioned conversations could not take place. Each and every role in the theatre is a titular one, and what each of these roles can accomplish is greater when a diverse group of people is at the helm. Building a community with people from all walks of life allows the conversations on the stage to be open-minded, honest, and productive. Even the most obscure, absurdist, and farcical theatre is embedded in truth. Without that, theatre does not accurately reflect our world and is meaningless.

Cultivating an environment rooted in diversity and truth has never been more important than it is during this period in history. As a board member at Hole in the Wall I have two goals: to ensure that our theatre is a safe place for diversity and discussion, and to keep the lights on for new stories and new truths to unfold. And I believe in my first term as a board member I have worked towards achieving these goals.

Recently, I was asked to act as chair of the Conduct Committee, and am co-leading the effort to make sure our Code of Conduct is thoughtful and specific. In doing so, I am positive that I will have a positive impact on the environment and culture of the theatre. It is important to me that HITW take pride in its ability to reflect on itself as an organization. If there are areas where we can improve upon our values, and how those values are reflected in our expectations of our returning and new members, then I hope to be a part of that change.

In my first month as a board member, I was part of the vote to acquire a liquor license for the theatre. While a vote is a routine board member task, this vote provided an effective and creative means of increasing the theatre's revenue during the run of a show. Additionally, I strongly believe that in order to keep the lights on in the theatre, we need to keep the lights on in the theatre. In my next term as a board member, I hope to champion the move towards hosting events at the theatre more frequently. Outside of our main-stage shows, these events are currently scarce. Things like staged readings, happy hours, karaoke nights, and improv classes are a few examples of how we can both generate revenue for the theatre and also build our community.



I am also currently a member of the Mural Committee. It is my hope that this art will serve as an open invitation for new faces and creative forces. While we should always strive to uplift our current community at HITW, we need to work equally as hard to welcome newcomers to the theatre. Current people bring new people, and those new people bring newer people. Even a simple aesthetic change to let people know we are here will go a long way in enhancing our quality of work and seeing to it that our seats are always filled.

Lastly, I believe it takes a village to run a theatre, and my perspective alone cannot. Having open discussions at general meetings is an excellent way to have one's preconceived notions challenged, and familiarize oneself with the experiences of others (much like theatre itself). In my next term, I hope to collaborate with my fellow board members on how to run these meetings more efficiently, while also fostering a safe environment for people's voices to be heard. Along these lines, I hope to revitalize our DEI initiatives at the theatre so that these voices are heard. I believe that our DEI committee is perhaps our most important one yet it is also our least attended to. The existence of this committee with no action behind it is only performative inclusion, and we as an organization can do better. In my next term, I hope to become a member of the DEI committee and generate ideas for how to make our theatre more accessible and inclusive. Perhaps this involves things like monthly DEI nights, cultural showcases, or the inclusion of shows in our season that are DEI-centric. It goes without saying that in our current climate, these initiatives are important now more than ever.

Geo

I can stay on if you want. I've enjoyed the short time I've been on the board. I hope my contributions have shown how much I support HITW. I believe in the power of this theater, a home for collaboration, experimentation, and connection. I ask for your vote, and I look forward to continuing the work with the members and board together.

I leave it up to you!

Thanks.