

# STEVE WILSON, MFA, BFA

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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I have pursued my life's work as a non-profit arts executive, community connector, diversity advocate, artistic leader and educator. Extremely dedicated to my work, I strive to nurture visionary ideals by motivating committed staff and stakeholders through well-crafted organizational strategy and collaborative dialogue ignited by innovative energy and well-researched data.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Adjunct Professor

University of Denver's University College, Arts & Culture Management Program, Denver, CO  
2021 – present

### Executive Artistic Director/ Artistic Director, Theatre Division

Mizel Arts and Culture Center (Mizel Center), Denver, CO

Artistic Director, Theatre Division, 1994 – 2003; Executive Artistic Director 2004 – 2020

### Artistic Director/ Resident Director

PHAMALY Theatre Company (Physically Handicapped Actors & Musical Artists League), Denver, CO

Resident Director, 2000 – 2015; Artistic Director, 2003 – 2015

### Performing Arts Chair/ Faculty Member

St. Mary's Academy, Englewood, CO

1994 – 2004; Department Chair 1998-2004

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## EDUCATION

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### Master of Fine Arts, Acting

National Theatre Conservatory at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Denver, CO

### Bachelor of Fine Arts, Drama; *cum laude*

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

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## PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT/ VOLUNTEER SERVICE

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Colorado Theatre Guild (CTG), Board of Directors, 1997-present/ President, 2000-2006

Rehabilitative Rhythms, Board of Directors, Treasurer; 2020-present

IDEAS Stage, Leadership Team; 2020-present

The Collaborative of the SCFD, Co-Chair, Board of Directors 2007-2020

Citizen for Arts to Zoo (CATZ), Board of Directors, 2010-2020; Member of Steering Committee for 2016 Reauthorization campaign

Member SCFD\* Reauthorization Task Force; Jan-May 2015 – 18-member task force charged with working to evaluate and recommend changes for 2016 SCFD reauthorization

Member of SCFD Tier II Attendance Task Force, Fall 2013 – evaluation of Tier II weighting formula

Member of SCFD Task Force, 2008 – evaluation of effect of legislative changes on SCFD Tiers

*\*SCFD (Scientific and Cultural Facilities District): Sales tax funded district to support arts and culture in Metro Denver; \$60M+ distributed in 2020.*

*Additional professional involvement, awards, personal statements available upon request.*

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVERVIEW

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### General

- 25+ yrs senior level non-profit management experience at multidisciplinary presenting and producing arts facility with programs in theatre, film, music, dance, visual arts, literary arts and arts education
- Well-rounded set of competencies - including visionary leadership, artistic management, fiscal stewardship, nurturing educator, engaging collaborator and outstanding communicator
- Solid record of revenue growth and fiscal management; experience fundraising & grant writing
- Master networker grounded in extensive personal relationships with cultural leaders & staff
- Self-motivated, with an unparalleled work ethic
- Positive, cooperative, energetic, inclusive, empathetic, supportive leadership style

### Strategic Leadership

- Strong, creative, innovative thought partner for multiple boards, staff and community
- Keen awareness of positioning arts in a community context – ever seeking connections with organizations and community leaders; significant work with mission and vision
- Politically savvy and diplomatic in service of multiple stakeholder constituencies – boards, funders, government, patrons, artists/presenters; extensive contract negotiations; served on multiple task forces
- Extensive management experience including hiring, evaluations, termination, team motivation, productivity systems & measurement
- Highly effective speaking, writing and listening skills; experienced public speaker to a variety of audiences; 15 years curtain & keynote speeches at theatre & festival events
- Strategic thinking and planning; numerous retreats, workshops, strategic plans and conferences

### Financial, Fundraising and Grants Stewardship

- Demonstrated history of financial success: Expertise in budgeting, finance and allocations management; grew Mizel revenue from \$3.2M in 2015 to \$4M in 2019 – 25% increase last 5 yrs; 36% increase last 10 yrs; 100% increase during leadership tenure; experienced reading and creating financial statements – budget, forecast, re-forecast; overseeing accounting & audits
- Expert in donor relations from strategy to solicitation to closing to ongoing stewardship; averaged \$1M annually contributed giving last decade (all sources)
- Successful grant writer and custodian, successfully obtaining ongoing funds from multiple granting sources including government, foundation and corporation
- Instrumental in the creation of two endowment funds for theatre programs (\$300K+)
- Project team member in major Elaine Wolf Theatre renovation in 2012 (\$3M) & Shwayder Theatre renovation project in 2006 (\$200K)

### Communications, Collaboration and Inclusion

- DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) experience with disability/ accessibility programs for the arts (PHAMALY Theatre Co; DEI programming at Mizel Center); IDEAS Stage & Rehabilitative Rhythms board service; passionate advocacy for arts and culture and inclusion programming
- Coalition and partnership building - community collaborator through Collaborative governance and program participation; numerous collaborations with other organizations
- Effective use of data collection and measurement tools including demographics, focus groups & surveys
- Deeply engaged in SCFD reauthorization effort (2016); part of prestigious task force (charged with making recommendations for changes to the legislation); on the Steering committee for Citizens for Arts to Zoo (who ran the campaign)

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- Strong technology experience and computer proficiency – MS Office, Google, Vendini, ArtsPeople, PayCom, Zoom, Neon, Canvas & more

## Arts Venue Management

- Over two decades experience at Mizel operating two theatrical venues – 400 seat mainstage theatre and 100 seat black box with a variety of in-house programming, rentals, national and international presenting programs
- Oversaw upkeep, maintenance, improvements, equipment purchase and renovations on Arts Center facility which included two theatres, workshop space, dressing rooms, several class & rehearsal rooms, a ceramics studio, an art studio, and a small art gallery (closed in 2015)
- Oversaw box office operations and ticket sales including improving existing systems and acquiring new systems
- Oversaw all staffing at the arts center including personnel management for box office, technical, artistic, programming and education staff
- Assisted in marketing a wide array of programmatic offerings to a variety of audiences.
- Project team member in 2012 Elaine Wolf Theatre renovation (\$3M), 2006 Shwayder Theatre renovation project (\$200K) and 1995 construction of Pluss Theatre (\$200K)

## Program Creation, Development and Management

- Oversaw and nurtured JAAMM Festival (Jewish Arts, Authors, Movies and Music) from its founding in 2007 through its 2020 programming; JAAMM served over 50,000 patrons and earned \$1.4M in ticket sales during its 13-year history; primarily a music and literary festival, presentations ranged from Israeli Dance companies to celebrity speakers (David Axelrod) and music performers (Manhattan Transfer) and more; attended annual conference in NYC to select authors
- Fostered growth of the popular Denver Jewish Film Festival program which grew from 1,600 patrons in 2006 to over 7,500 in 2020: featuring 40+ films in annual festival
- Founded the Wolf Theatre Academy (WTA); built from 30 students in 1994 to serve over 600 students annually. Between 2009-2019, the WTA served over 6,300 students and over 33,000 audience members earning over \$2.5M in revenue.
- Founded the award-winning Denver Children's Theatre (adults performing for children); 150,000+ children served in 23 years
- Oversaw Mizel Art Academy offering classes in visual art and ceramics for adults & children (12 years)
- Oversaw operations of Singer Art Gallery (11 years); small, professional gallery space
- Developed and fostered growth for PHAMALY Theatre Company with programs in education and theatre performance for individuals with disabilities (14 years)
- Founded and developed Mizel Center Theatre Company, adult theatre company (6 years)
- Developed and fostered growth for Reorganized Colorado Theatre Guild/ personally submitted IRS 501(c)(3) application

## REFERENCES

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**Stuart Raynor**, CEO of MetroWest JCC in New Jersey; former CEO of Denver JCC  
720-480-2389; [rraynor@jccmetrowest.org](mailto:rraynor@jccmetrowest.org); [stuarrraynor@me.com](mailto:stuarrraynor@me.com)

**Charlotte D'Armond Talbert, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor DU; former Collaborative of the SCFD  
Coordinator  
303-519-7772; [Charlotte.Talbert@comcast.net](mailto:Charlotte.Talbert@comcast.net)

**Regan Linton**, Artistic Director, PHAMALY Theatre Company  
720-840-8123; [rlinton@phamaly.org](mailto:rlinton@phamaly.org); [reganlinton@gmail.com](mailto:reganlinton@gmail.com)

*Additional References Available Upon Request*