

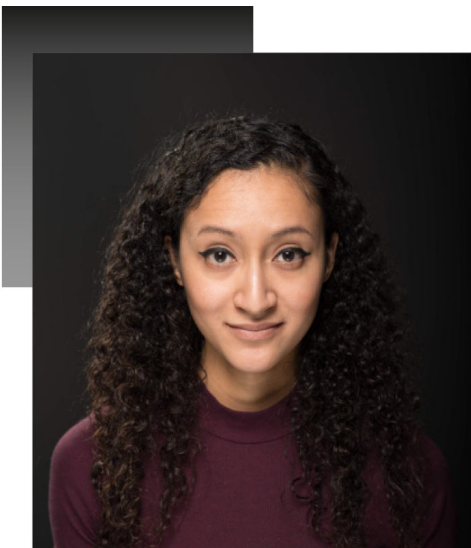
OUR CULLEN FELLOWS

WHAT IS THE CULLEN FELLOWS PROGRAM?

The Cullen Fellows program reflects the foundation's belief that development of talent is essential to strengthening individual professionals, organizations, and elevating WNY's performing arts sector as a whole.

The year-long, self-designed program provides substantive new learning opportunities for promising performing arts leaders to move from "success to significance" by providing them with the financial resources to enhance their skills through intentionally selected activities and a customized professional advancement plan.

[APPLY NOW](#)



UJIMA COMPANY, INC.

MARIA TA

HOW HAS YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE COHORT AND FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE BENEFITED YOU?

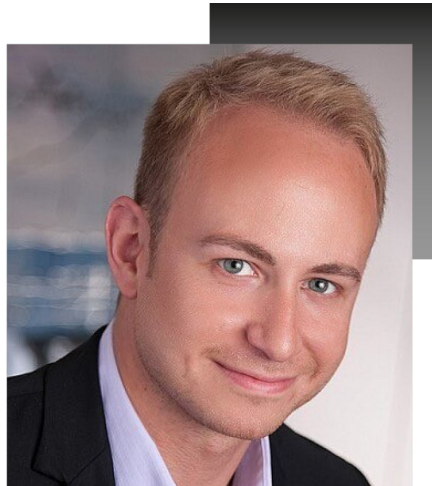
"As a young professional and senior manager, this fellowship allowed me to expand my skill sets and network in all directions. Not only was I able to explore in depth the artistic field of performance art, I was also able to meet and network with top professionals in theater management. Many of these connections are still strong and growing today, allowing me to continue on this dynamic path of personal and professional development."

BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

PATRICK O'HERRON

AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE CULLEN FELLOWS PROGRAM, WHAT ARE YOU NOW BETTER EQUIPPED WITH MOVING FORWARD?

"The best tool that I have gained from the Cullen Fellowship is a cohort of cultural colleagues—a brother and sisterhood of arts leaders—from whom I continue to learn, and from whom I will always find support. These incredible people inspire me every day. They are building a better Buffalo-Niagara region, a place vibrant with a thriving arts community in which people want to visit, live, work, and play. I'm proud to call them my friends."



BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC CHORUS

ANGELA GOLDBERG

WHAT FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY DID YOU FIND THE MOST IMPACTFUL?

"I've found all of my fellowship activities so beneficial, but one of the most impactful was my March 2020 trip to Washington, D.C. During the trip I had the opportunity to visit and chat with staff from four different choral organizations, tour the Kennedy Center and meet with staff from the National Symphony Orchestra, visit the Chorus America offices, and attend a choral concert. The opportunity to learn firsthand from and with these professionals in my field was invaluable and an experience I will always remember. Getting the chance to take this trip and experience these opportunities just weeks before the country shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic also makes it that much more meaningful, in retrospect."

ROAD LESS TRAVELED PRODUCTIONS

GINA GANDOLFO

WHY WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE EMERGING PERFORMING ARTS LEADERS TO APPLY FOR THE CULLEN FELLOWS PROGRAM?

"Emerging arts leaders tend to grow and learn within our respective organizations over time as we have limited time and resources. Cullen Foundation believes in the value of the performing arts and provides emerging arts leaders opportunities for professional development that a leader may have not have otherwise. Being a Cullen Fellow has been invaluable. The ability to custom-build my own development program uniquely served my needs, allowing me to expand my skills in artistic-based learning, fundraising courses and mentorship coaching sessions. I met with various performing arts leaders all over the country, at conferences and by visiting others at their respective theaters. Those new relationships have expanded my perspective, learning from others' challenges and successes. I have also established a great friendship with arts leaders across the country whom I now routinely meet with to exchange insights. I hope additional local performing arts leaders will take advantage of this opportunity. I learned a lot about myself, my environment and found the program makes me a stronger leader with more confidence and appreciation for what I do. The experience made a great impact on my life."



SHEA'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THEMBI DUNCAN

THROUGH THE COHORT EXPERIENCE, WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF AND THE OTHER FELLOWS?

"This incredible opportunity gave me the resources and space to rediscover my "why" and curate unique learning experiences towards the strengthening of my leadership journey. The other fellows provided an affirming and constructive forum in which I found deep connection and collective synergy."

ALLEYWAY THEATRE

CHRIS HANDLEY

HOW HAS YOUR LEADERSHIP STYLE ADJUSTED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF COVID AND/OR WITH THE FELLOWSHIP?

"Hearing from my fellow Fellows about how they handle their teams has made a world of difference. I feel that I'm a better listener thanks to them, and they continue to remind me of the need to balance the endless to-do list with an attempt at that all-but-elusive work/life balance. Covid gave me time to think about long-term strategy, and now as we slowly emerge into this new future, I am able to simultaneously mix long-term and short-term planning."



**THE NOMINATION PROCESS FOR THE 2022
CULLEN FELLOWS COHORT IS NOW OPEN!**

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE OCTOBER 15TH!

[APPLY NOW](#)