



netWORKS

AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE & EDUCATION
NETWORKS POLICY MANUAL
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AATE NETWORKS POLICY MANUAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AATE Networks Overview	3
Network Membership	3
Primary Networks	3
Networks of Interest	3
Network Communication	3
Conference Meetings	3
Year-Round Meetings	3
Network List-Serves	4
Website Forums	4
Network Projects	5
Purpose & Scope	5
Timeframe	5
Proposals & Funding	5
Network Governance	6
Network Council	6
Network Co-Chairs	6
Responsibilities	6
Elections & Removal	6
Network Descriptions	7
Applied Theatre Network	7
College / University / Research (C/U/R) Network	7
Grades PreK-8 Network	7
High School Network	7
Playwriting Network	7
Professional Theatre	7
Youth Theatre Network	7

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AATE NETWORKS OVERVIEW

AATE's Networks provide members with opportunities to build communities of artists, educators and scholars focused in/on specific areas within the broader field of Theatre & Education. Members join one Primary Network within their area of expertise, but may also participate in multiple networks and plan inter-network collaborations.

AATE Networks foster the exchange, development, and implementation of ideas throughout the year, providing professional development, advocacy, and other tools within and across the field of theatre and education. Joining a Network allows AATE members to share best practices, resources and contacts within particular areas of practice.

NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

All AATE Members will be asked to select a "Primary Network" that best represents their professional interests and / or primary way in which they engage in the broader field of theatre and education. Given that many members' interests overlap between multiple networks, each member will also be able to indicate one or more other networks as "Networks of Interest," as detailed below.

Members can identify or change their primary network each year when renewing their AATE membership, and eventually will be able to change their primary network online through the AATE website.

PRIMARY NETWORKS

All AATE Members are asked to select a primary network in order to help network chairs identify those members that are most interested in their focus area. However, selecting Primary Networks is in no way intended to foster environments of exclusivity, rather, asking members to identify primary networks will help to form a community of practitioners and scholars with shared experiences and goals. Furthermore, members will be able to participate in more than one network, as described in the following section. For administrative purposes, such as conducting Network Chair elections, members will only be able to vote in the election for their Primary Network.

NETWORKS OF INTEREST

In addition to the network they select as their Primary Network, members may also indicate interest in and engage in projects with other networks beyond their designated primary network. Members may fully engage in all conversations, projects, and other activities of both their Primary Network and their other Networks of Interest, with the exception of voting as indicated above.

NETWORK COMMUNICATION

CONFERENCE MEETINGS

Each Network will have at least two time slots dedicated to discussing and advancing network business at each year's Annual Conference. All Network members are encouraged to attend. The agenda for these meetings will be determined by the Network Co-Chairs in consultation with the Network membership at large.

YEAR-ROUND MEETINGS

Each Network will have at least three meetings throughout the year outside the timeframe of the annual conference (for example, it is recommended that meetings be scheduled approximately around the beginning of October, February, and April). These meetings may take the form of conference calls, online meetings, or in-person gatherings. The structure and agenda of these meetings will be determined by the Network Co-Chairs, in consultation with the Network Membership at large, as they see fit to best serve the needs of their Network's membership.

One effective model Networks have employed in the past is to host a series of conference calls throughout the year, each focused on a particular topic of interest to the membership. The Co-Chairs may take advantage of AATE's conference call service (free of charge) to host these meetings. Once the meeting time, date, and topic have been determined, the Co-Chairs invite any and all interested network members to call in to discuss their thoughts / questions / experiences related to the topic and / or any other network-related concerns. Minutes from these meetings may then be distributed to the entire membership so that individuals unable to attend can still benefit from any insights shared at the meetings.

NETWORK LIST-SERVES

Each network has the option to set up a network list-serve that allows members of the network to e-mail all other members of the network simultaneously. Networks wishing to set up a list-serve should contact the AATE Central Office for assistance.

WEBSITE FORUMS

Each network has a page on the AATE website that features a discussion board / forum. Network members are encouraged to use these resources to ask questions, dialogue, and communicate in between the annual conference and other Network meetings.

NOTE: The AATE Board of Directors has determined that forming individual Network groups on social media (e.g. Facebook) does not effectively serve the mission of AATE, given the high number of individual groups that could be created. However, Networks may use the official AATE Facebook back as a tool for communicating, advertising events, etc., and members are encouraged to join the official AATE Facebook page.

NETWORK PROJECTS

PURPOSE & SCOPE

In order to advance the shared goals of each network, Network members work with their Co-Chairs to devise and implement at least one Network Project each year. The framework for these projects is flexible, and Networks may pursue any set of goals that is relevant to the network membership, provided that:

- The project advances the mission of the individual Network and the mission and goals of AATE at large.
AATE MISSION STATEMENT:
The American Alliance for Theatre & Education connects and inspires a growing collective of theatre artists, educators, and scholars committed to transforming young people and communities through the theatre arts.
- Participation in the project is open to all interested Network Members.
- The project follows all AATE guidelines for symposia or other events, when applicable.

TIMEFRAME

While some part of the project may take place at the annual AATE conference, Network Projects primarily take place outside of the conference time frame. This enables Networks to pursue more ambitious projects that cannot be accomplished in the space of a few days and require greater time, reflection, and resources. This also allows Network Members to remain actively engaged in AATE activities throughout the entire year, as opposed to primarily engaging with the organization only during the annual conference. Projects could be completed with a year, over the course of multiple years, or in a shorter time frame as is appropriate for the given project. Networks may engage in multiple projects simultaneously, and should generally have at least one active project at all times.

PROPOSALS & FUNDING

Each year, Network Co-Chairs should submit a proposal for Network Project(s) they wish to pursue to the Director of Networks & SIGs, who will review the proposals in conjunction with other selected members of the AATE Board who may be stakeholders in the project. In general, projects will be approved provided they meet the criteria outlined above *and* funding is available.

While many Network projects can be achieved without substantial financial support, Networks may apply for funding to support their projects by contacting the Director of Networks & SIGs, who will advance the request to the President of AATE. Networks should recognize that, at this time, limited funding is available for such projects. Proposals that seek modest support to fund essential needs of the projects are most likely to be funded. Networks may also pursue other avenues of funding (e.g. registration fees if hosting symposia or events, external funding, etc.). AATE is committed to pursuing additional avenues of financial support Network Projects in the future.

NETWORK GOVERNANCE

NETWORK COUNCIL

The Network Council is composed of all elected Network Chairs and oversees policies related to AATE Networks in consultation with the AATE Board of Directors.

The Council meets at least once annually at the annual AATE Conference, and generally meets an additional three times per year, though the council may elect to meet in small groups (such as each pair of network chairs meeting with the Network Council Chair for individual meetings) rather than meeting as a full group.

The Director of Networks & SIGs serves as the Chair of the Network Council and is responsible for running all meetings of the council. In general, meetings are run informally; however, if the council members present at any given meeting of the council feel it would be prudent to adopt a formal method for running the meeting (for example, Robert's Rules of Order), they may call for a vote to do so. Should the majority of members present vote for the meeting to be run by formal rules, the Chair shall do so for the duration of the meeting or until a majority of members present vote to end running the meeting by such rules.

NETWORK CO-CHAIRS

The membership of each network elects two Co-Chairs who, in consultation with the network members, envision goals for and carry out the mission of each network.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Co-Chairs of each AATE Network shall:

- Serve the members of their Network by overseeing all Network initiatives, projects, communications, and finances with enthusiasm, integrity, and transparency.
- Serve as liaisons between Network membership and the AATE Board of Directors in partnership with the Director of Networks & SIGs / Network Council Chair.
- Review and vet session proposals related to their Network's area of focus that are submitted for each year's AATE Conference.
- Facilitate at least two Network meetings in-person at the AATE Conference and an additional three Network meetings throughout the year.
- Participate in all Network Council meetings both in-person at the AATE conference and throughout the year through conference calls / online meetings.
- In consultation with their members, plan and oversee the execution of AATE Projects as described above.
- Manage the Network's page on the AATE website & moderate the network list-serve.

ELECTIONS & REMOVAL

Any member of a network is eligible to run for the position of co-chair. Each chair will serve a term of two years that commences at the Membership Meeting at the annual conference in the year in which they are elected. One chair is elected each year, thus terms are staggered (in any given year one co-chair will be in the first year of her/his term, while the other is in the second year of her/his term). Should a Network Chair fail to perform the responsibilities above, she or he may be removed from office by AATE's Board of Directors; in such situations, a Board Member must submit in writing a formal motion detailing how the Chair has failed to fulfill her/his responsibilities, and the motion must pass with a 2/3 majority of all Board Members. In the event that a chair resigns or is otherwise removed from office before the end of her/his term, a special election may be held to complete the rest of her/his term.

NETWORK DESCRIPTIONS

APPLIED THEATRE NETWORK

The Applied Theatre Network includes individuals who use alternative theatre and/or drama practices with a wide variety of populations. Two major commonalities our members share are that they often work in non-traditional performance settings (such as schools, community centers and museums) and that they seek to help others, often through active participation in drama or the debates that ensue.

COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY / RESEARCH (C/U/R) NETWORK

The C/U/R Network is comprised of higher-education faculty members, independent scholars, and other individuals who teach at the post-secondary level and / or produce scholarship related to drama and theatre education.

GRADES PREK-8 NETWORK

The Grades PreK-8 Network membership includes those who primarily teach drama to primary, intermediate, and middle school / junior high students. Members include drama specialists, elementary teachers, elementary or middle school theatre directors, teaching artists, and college professors training elementary drama teachers.

HIGH SCHOOL NETWORK

The High School Network serves the needs of secondary school teachers and professional theatres committed to providing for adolescent audiences. The Network provides resources for the secondary school teachers including lesson plans, support for innovative classroom ideas, and communication among its members.

PLAYWRITING NETWORK

The Playwriting Network supports and advocates for playwrights who write quality plays for young people. Network activities include maintaining directories of award winning plays and plays by member writers, and producing events such as the Unpublished Play Project and the Playwrights in Our Schools residencies.

PROFESSIONAL THEATRE

The Professional Theatre Network is comprised of artistic, administrative, education and / or community engagement staff members of arts organizations that focus on professionally produced theatrical experiences for a variety of ages. Network members connect audiences with theatre arts in a variety of capacities within these organizations through artistic creation, educational and artistic programming, curation, and / or community engagement.

YOUTH THEATRE NETWORK

The Youth Theatre Network includes individuals who work with young people to create quality theatrical experiences / performances (scripted and/or devised) by the youth artists for an audience. Members include freelance teaching artists as well as artistic, administrative, and educational staff from an array of youth theatres and organizations.