

## ICFAD Roundtable Discussion 2021 Proposal

### Title:

Design Collaboratories: More than a Lighting Lab

### Abstract:

In theatre education, we tend to think of the stage as the laboratory space where education and training takes place. But these spaces have access limited by the production schedule, making it difficult for students to use this for experimentation, especially outside of a production. Other spaces, like the lighting lab and scene shop, become the place concepts are demonstrated and new ideas are tested. How can these spaces be used to advance production design and design education? In this discussion, we will explore the benefits and possibilities for production laboratory space, using case studies from the lighting labs at Texas Tech University and Penn State.



**William Kenyon**, Head of the Lighting Design Program, School of Theatre at Penn State  
An active professional designer, Prof. Kenyon has designed over 180 plays, operas, and dances, along with over a dozen national and international tour seasons with several theatre & Dance companies. Prof. Kenyon has been involved in Native American theatre and dance for over 15 years, serving as resident LD for the American Indian Dance Theatre, and was involved in the complete reimagining of “Unto These Hills”, a massive outdoor spectacle celebrating the history of the Cherokee Tribe. Prof. Kenyon serves as the Chair and US Delegate to the OISTAT Education Commission, is the Curator of the Penn State Theatre Lighting Archive, serves as the Chair of USITT’s History & Heritage Committee, and has served as an advisor to the USITT@PSU Student Chapter since it was started in 2005. Prof. Kenyon is the author of Theatre & Stage Photography, a new book addressing the challenges of photography for live performance.



**Andrea Bilkey**, Associate Dean of Students & Curricula, J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts, Texas Tech University  
Andrea Bilkey has spent over 38 years in the performing arts exploring almost every aspect of design. Ms. Bilkey’s teaching focus and creative endeavors include lighting design, computer drafting and design, theatre planning, technology in the classroom and design communication process, and performance photography. Research interests also include the history of theatre lighting. Her work has been recognized by USITT’s Young Designer’s Forum, ETC’s LDI student sponsorship program, Southwest Theatre Association, and KCACTF Regions III and VI. Her design work has been published in World Stage Design and TD&T, and her articles and reviews have been published in TD&T. Ms. Bilkey is a fellow of the Texas Academic Leadership Academy, Theatre Design & Technology Journal editor, Vice-Chair of the USITT History & Heritage Committee and is a Director for USITT.



**Kimberly Corbett Oates**, ASTC, Partner, Schuler Shook  
Kimberly specializes in theatre consulting and performance space planning as a Partner at Schuler Shook Theatre Planners. Her technical, production, and performance background in theatre contributes to her understanding of how these spaces function for the people who call them home. Kimberly collaborates with architects, engineers, consultants, and stakeholders to create functional facilities that will serve their communities well into the future. Her notable recent and current projects include University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Academic Performing Arts Complex, Texas Tech Maedgen Theatre expansion, University of Memphis Music Performance Building, and Buddy Holly Hall of Performing Arts and Sciences. She is a member of the American Society of Theatre Consultants (ASTC) and USITT, where she is past-Commissioner of the Engineering Commission and an incoming Director on the Board.