



## Responses to candidate questionnaires

*Responses are unedited, presented as received up to the allowable word count*



### **Cheryl Williams**

*Candidate for Board Director*

**1. Describe the leadership experiences you have had. Include significant accomplishments at the local, state, and or/national levels.**

My leadership experience consists of, but not limited to, Chair of the Fine Arts Department, Virginia Union University after creating and receiving accreditation for a B.F.A. degree. Since 2020 I have conducted Leadership Development workshops for the Hampton Sherriff's Department, Hampton, VA. I am the Project Manager for ETA's Behind the Scenes I & II. For four years I served as the Director of the Arts and Spiritual Ministry at One God One Thought Center for Better Living, Baltimore, MD. As Coordinator of the Tech Program at Morgan State University, I held this position for six years. I was the Production Manager at Olney Theatre in Olney, MD. For Maryland Department of Juvenile Detention Centers, I have conducted leadership workshops for the last four years.

Internationally I'm the Director for ACT: New Nordic Voices' project, "Silenced No More: Violence Against Women and Girls," in Denmark and Kenya.

**2. Share other information about yourself (education, personal and/or professional experiences, publications, awards, personal strengths, etc.) that you think would make you a qualified candidate and benefit the EdTA Board of Directors.**

At the age of 38 I decided to reenter college and earn my degree. Not knowing that I would continue for seven years and go from no degree to three degrees. In 2002 I received my Master of Fine Arts degree from Rutgers's University, Mason Gross School for the Arts at the age of 45 years old. Eleven years later while Chairing the Fine Arts Department at Virginia Union University I received a Master of Divinity degree. As a professor I have taught theatre at various institutions both nationally and internationally for over 25 years. I'm the founder of CJ Williams Consultant and it is under this umbrella that I'm a director, lighting and sound designer, workshop facilitator, theatre consultant and teaching artist. The three most important awards to me are the David P. Hirvela Outstanding Achievement in Theatre Award, EdTA's Founders Award and the Golden Key National Honor's Award.



**3. The EdTA Governing Board establishes policy guiding the Executive Director, staff and members to develop programs which advance our mission. Explain how you could help the Board forward EdTA’s mission and strategic priorities.**

In 2018 I became a Teaching Artist with EdTA participating in building the Model Curriculum Framework Project with the goal of expanding instructional practice for both teachers and teaching artists. In addition, I created a Model Cornerstone Assessment for Stage Management. As for webinars I have facilitated several on chosen aspects of theatre as well as workshop facilitator for the 2022 International Thespians Festival and conference. I have served on the Nominating and Education Committees, also collaborating on BACKstage: Measuring Tech Success Project. Behind the Scenes Project was developed as a scalable project intended to support an understanding of theatre and its associated career opportunities. It also created an awareness of teaching as a viable career path for pre-service college students of color. Diversity and inclusion have been and will continue to be my mission in every role in which I participate.

**4. How have you committed yourself to understanding and aiding in the pursuit of equity and inclusion in your professional and/or personal life?**

In 1964 at the age of eight years old my parents put me in an all-white school, because of Civil Rights and integration in Smithfield, Virginia. I was the only person of color in my class for three years. At the age of 21 I was hired by United Parcel Service (UPS) in Baltimore, MD and was the first and only woman for five years on my shift. In 1998 I received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Iowa State University and was the only person of color in the theatre program. Leaving Iowa and going on to Rutgers University I was the only person of color in the MFA Stage Management program. As for understanding and aiding in the pursuit of equity and inclusion I have gone beyond understanding. I have lived it all my life and I know it is my purpose to continue.

# CHERYL J. WILLIAMS

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### EDUCATION

**Master of Fine Arts (*Theatre-Stage Management*)** – Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts; New Brunswick, NJ – May 2002

**Master of Divinity (*Theology*)** – Virginia Union University, Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Richmond, VA May 2013

**Bachelor of Arts (*Interdisciplinary Studies/Summa Cum Laude*)** – Iowa State University; Ames, IA -- May 1998

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**June 2002 to Present**

*CJ Williams Consultant*  
**FOUNDER**

- ⊙ Leadership development workshops for large corporations, small businesses, universities, non-profit, religious organizations, and community leaders from all sectors of society
- ⊙ Leadership facilitator for Hampton Sheriff's Department. Hampton, Virginia
- ⊙ Empowerment tool for individuals, recovery programs, ministries, and school programs
- ⊙ Technical theatre consultant for theatres, schools, churches, and private sectors
- ⊙ Workshops for Maryland Youth Detention Centers
- ⊙ Freelance lighting and sound designer (national and international)
- ⊙ Freelance director (national and international)
- ⊙ Motivational Speaker (national and international)

**July 2018 to Present**

*Educational Theatre Association, Cincinnati, OH*  
**TEACHING ARTIST**

- ⊙ Workshop Facilitator for 2022 International Thespians Festival
- ⊙ Member of EdTA's Nominating Committee
- ⊙ Member of EdTA's Education Committee
- ⊙ BACKstage: Measuring Tech Success Project
- ⊙ Project Manager for Behind the Scenes Project, a scalable project intended to support an understanding of technical theatre and its associated career opportunities for Baltimore-area middle school students and an awareness of teaching as a viable career path for pre-service college students of color. Supported by "The National Endowment for the Arts and EdTA
- ⊙ Participated in EdTA's Model Curriculum Framework Project, a year-long pilot supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to create a standards-based theatre curriculum framework and embedded instructional units based on the 2014 National Theatre Standards
- ⊙ Collaborated in the building of a model curriculum framework, with the goal of expanding instructional practice for both teachers and teaching artists
- ⊙ Collaborated on a chosen aspect of theatre (stage lighting, sound design and stage management) and wrote units of study with embedded assessments that are aligned with the model curriculum framework
- ⊙ Facilitated webinars on chosen aspects of theatre
- ⊙ Created a Model Cornerstone Assessment for Stage Management

**August 2016 to December 2016**

***Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD***  
**INTERIM COORDINATOR OF THEATRE ARTS**

Responsibilities:

- ⊙ Taught upper-level courses and senior seminars
- ⊙ Lead the department in recruiting and orientation for transfer and freshman students
- ⊙ Facilitated degree planning for undergraduate students
- ⊙ Maintained appropriate schedule of office hours for student access and inquiry
- ⊙ Recruited, hired, trained, supervised, and evaluated faculty and staff within the academic unit
- ⊙ Developed course schedules
- ⊙ Planned for and acquire capital assets and inventory
- ⊙ Worked in partnership with student success personnel on student advising and orientation
- ⊙ Developed, implemented, and reviewed effective teaching/learning processes, incorporating appropriate methodology, technology, and other tools

**August 2016 to May 2018**

**ADJUNCT LECTURE**

- ⊙ Taught LIGHTING DESIGN, SCENIC DESIGN, SCRIPT ANALYSIS, BLACK DRAMA and STAGE MANAGEMENT.

**September 2003 to May 2009**

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF FACILITATOR**

Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- ⊙ Scheduling Theatre Arts productions
- ⊙ Hiring designers for each production
- ⊙ Overseeing building of sets
- ⊙ Scheduling design meetings
- ⊙ Producing production calendars for each production
- ⊙ Producing academic calendar for the program
- ⊙ Resident lighting and sound designer
- ⊙ Assigning and supervising theatre students for lab hours and maintain budget

**January 2016 to May 2018**

***Howard Community College, Columbia, MD***  
**ADJUNCT LECTURE**

- ⊙ Taught INTERPERSONAL, HUMAN, and INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

**January 2017 to May 2017**

***University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD***  
**ADJUNCT LECTURE**

- ⊙ Taught SOUND DESIGN

**September 2017 to December 2017**

***University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD***  
**GUEST LECTURER**

- ⊙ Taught THEATRE HISTORY

**September 2014 to December 2015**

***Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA***  
**ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

- ⊙ Taught VOICE AND DICTION, PUBLIC SPEAKING and THEATRE APPRECIATION

**August 2009 to May 2014**

***Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA***  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

- ⊙ Taught FUNDAMENTAL OF STAGE CRAFT; THEATRE HISTORY; SCRIPT ANALYSIS; ACTING I & II; INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE; SCENIC DESIGN; LIGHTING DESIGN, STAGE MANAGEMENT, COSTUME DESIGN; THEATRE MANAGEMENT; DIRECTING; CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN CONTEMPORARY THEATRE; and MUSIC AND THEBLACK CHURCH

**August 2011 to May 2014**                      **CHAIR OF FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

Responsibilities included but not limited to:

- Ⓢ Communicating departmental needs and desires to the Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs
- Ⓢ Encouraging the development and improvement of the departmental curriculum
- Ⓢ Insuring the preparation of catalog information and schedules of class offerings in accordance with deadlines
- Ⓢ Supervising the departmental budget, record keeping, and the requisition of supplies, equipment, materials, and other instructional needs
- Ⓢ Developing and following procedures to assign faculty to classes, laboratories, studios, and other responsibilities
- Ⓢ Coordinating and supervising the departmental programs, reviews, accreditation and departmental evaluations, and other reviews
- Ⓢ Cooperating with departments, college, schools, and other units in the accomplishment of their tasks.

**August 2009 to May 2011**                      **CONSULTANT**

- Ⓢ Created the proposal for the implementation of a new Fine Arts Department
- Ⓢ Developed the curriculum for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree that included three disciplines: music, theatre and visual arts
- Ⓢ Designed and surrendered the blueprints for the reconstruction of Belgian Theatre
- Ⓢ Submitted proposal, curriculum and all other pertinent information to the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Ⓢ May 11, 2011, the Fine Arts Department received accreditation and the department was implemented.

**August 2009 to December 2015**                      *J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA*  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

- Ⓢ Taught PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC SPEAKING; INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION; CULTURAL DIVERSITY; INTERPERSONAL AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION.

**January 2008 to May 2011**                      *Spiritual Unfoldment for Better Living, Richmond, VA*  
**DIRECTOR/TEACHER**

Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Ⓢ Directing study groups from study group status to full church status under the umbrella of Universal Foundation for Better Living.
- Ⓢ Organizing core groups
- Ⓢ Teaching classes
- Ⓢ Marketing and fund raising
- Ⓢ Grant writing
- Ⓢ Presenting at seminars and workshops
- Ⓢ Writing by-laws/policies and procedures

**September 2005 to May 2009**                      *Coppin State University, Baltimore, MD*  
**ADJUNCT LECTURER**

- Ⓢ Taught ADVANCE ACTING FOR THE MAJORS AND INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE.

**September 2006 to Present**                      *Johnnie Colemon Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL*  
**MASTER TEACHER**

- Ⓢ Teach BIBLE – OLD & NEW TESTAMENT; WORLD RELIGION; METAPHYSICS I & II; RESTORING WHOLENESS; DISCOVERING THE POWER WITHIN YOU; SELF-DISCOVERY; BASIC TRUTH PRINCIPLES I & II; CHRISTIAN HEALING and WOMANIST THEOLOGY.

**July 2002 to September 2003**

***Olney Theatre Center for the Arts; Olney, MD***  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Ⓢ Scheduling and correlating the production aspects of a seven-show season
- Ⓢ Developing and maintaining production budget
- Ⓢ Hiring, contracting, and supervising production heads, staff, stage managers, and crew
- Ⓢ Contract and support guest directors and designers
- Ⓢ Create and collaborate with artistic, production, and administrative staff to maintain production calendar
- Ⓢ Recruit and supervise interns
- Ⓢ Contract production and crew for summer festivals
- Ⓢ Chair production meetings
- Ⓢ Communicate with SSDC, USA, and AEA

**September 2001 to December 2001**

***National Theatre of Ghana; Accra, Ghana (West Africa)***  
**GUEST PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Responsibilities:

- Ⓢ Overseeing production and facility use of a 2700 seat house
- Ⓢ Overseeing all work during production week
- Ⓢ Chaired design and production progress meetings
- Ⓢ Communicated the budgets and design deadlines with the directors and designers
- Ⓢ Prepared and distributed the provisional schedule and budgets to all production departments
- Ⓢ Contributed to the technical rehearsal by taking technical notes and scheduling their completion
- Ⓢ Ensured the staff was trained in safe working practices as required by the Health and Safety policy
- Ⓢ Prepared the production risk assessment and advised on action to be taken

**September 2001 to December 2001**

***University of Ghana, School of Performing Arts.***  
***Legon, Ghana West Africa***  
**VISITING PROFESSOR**

- Ⓢ Taught AFRICAN AMERICAN THEATRE 409.

**January 2001 to December 2001**

***Harlem Renaissance Encyclopedia***  
**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

Responsibilities:

- Ⓢ Researching biographical data of three African American performers (Bert Williams, Anita Bush and Rose McClendon)
- Ⓢ Research included investigation at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (New York) and the City University of New York's Hatch-Billops Collection

**January 2000 to May 2001**

***New Jersey Performing Art Center; Newark, NJ***  
**GUEST PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**

Responsibilities:

- Ⓢ Coordinating the flow of information between all departments
- Ⓢ Overseeing the rehearsal process, company calls and overtime payments pertaining to union agreements
- Ⓢ Running the technical rehearsal in liaison with the director
- Ⓢ Called the show for the performances of a 2500 seat house

**March 1998 to May 2001**

***T. Schor Middle School, Piscataway, NJ***  
**TEACHER/DRAMA PROGRAM DEVELOPER**

Responsibilities:

- Ⓢ Developing games and activities that encouraged improvisation, trust, ensemble, emotional recall and confidence with self-expression through the performing arts
- Ⓢ Training individuals in the writing and performing of their work

**March 1990 to May 1997**

**Virginia Correctional Center for Women, Goochland, Virginia  
CORRECTIONAL OFFICER**

Responsibilities:

- ⊙ Ensure the safety and welfare of sixty-one inmates within their living quarters
- ⊙ Assign work detail
- ⊙ Supervised over one hundred inmates on work sites
- ⊙ Wrote reports
- ⊙ Transported inmates to hospital and court
- ⊙ Supervised medicine disbursement
- ⊙ Administered medical assistance

**February 1978 to October 1989**

**United Parcel Service; Baltimore, Maryland  
SORTER**

Responsibilities:

- ⊙ Routing packages to proper trucks to be loaded for next day delivery

**July 1976 to December 1992**

**United States Army Reserve; Fort Meade, Maryland  
11<sup>th</sup> SPECIAL FORCES - MILITARY POLICE**

Responsibilities:

- ⊙ Patrolling and ensuring safety on the military base
- ⊙ Writing reports
- ⊙ Making arrests
- ⊙ Attending court

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

- ⊙ *David P. Hirvela* Outstanding Achievement in Theatre Award
- ⊙ United States Achievement Academy All-American
- ⊙ Scholar
- ⊙ *Golden Key* National Honor Society

#### ORGANIZATIONS

- ⊙ Actors Equity Association
- ⊙ Women in Theatre
- ⊙ Crowns for Little Brown Girls Organization (Board member)
- ⊙ Educational Theatre Association – EdTA (cited in Playbill, May 2018)  
<http://www.playbill.com/article/24-teachers-and-teaching-artists-board-educational-theatre-associations-model-curriculum-framework-project>
- ⊙ Parent Student Prison Initiative (Board member)
- ⊙ Boys and Girls Club of America
- ⊙ America Businesswomen’s Association
- ⊙ Maryland State Arts Counsel
- ⊙ Golden Key National Honor Society
- ⊙ Alpha Psi Omega National Honorary Theatre Society
- ⊙ Spiritual Unfoldment for Better Living – President
- ⊙ One God One Thought Center for Better Living (Board member)
- ⊙ Iowa State University Alumni Association
- ⊙ Rutgers University Alumni Association
- ⊙ Virginia Union University Alumni Association

## THEATRE EXPERIENCE

### DIRECTING

<b>IDA B. WELLS</b>	Two River Theatre, Cape May, NJ
<b>BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>HOME</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>SOJOURNEY</b>	Strand Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>FROM THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA</b>	Belgian Theatre, Richmond, VA
<b>BIG MOMA 'N' EM</b>	Belgian Theatre, Richmond, VA
<b>GOD'S TROMBONES</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>BLACK NATIVITY 06</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>MISS EVERS BOYS</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>STEEL MAGNOLIAS</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>RAGTIME</b>	Gilliam Auditorium, Baltimore, MD
<b>FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF</b>	Efua T. Sutherland Drama Studio, Legon, Ghana
<b>CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD</b>	New Theatre, New Brunswick, NJ
<b>J.B.</b>	Levin Theatre, New Brunswick, NJ

### LIGHTING DESIGNER

<b>MARIE ANTOINETTE AND THE MAGICAL NEGROS</b>	Single Carrot Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>SPELL #7</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>THE PIANO LESSON</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF</b>	Casa Theatre, Copenhagen, Demark Roco Theatre, Frederiksberg, Demark Intercult Theatre, Helsinki, Finland Royal Theatre. Stockholm, Sweden
<b>THE WIZ</b>	Gilliam Auditorium, Baltimore, MD
<b>THIS IS HOW IT GOES</b>	Firehouse Theatre, Richmond, MD
<b>SARAFINA</b>	Gilliam Auditorium, Baltimore, MD
<b>CROWNS</b>	Gilliam Auditorium, Baltimore, MD
<b>THE GREAT MACDADDY</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>ODYESSY</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>SNEAKIN OUT AT THE ROYAL</b>	Gilliam Auditorium, Baltimore, MD
<b>IT TAKES A VILLAGE</b>	Annabele Ferguson Auditorium, Suitland, MD
<b>LES BLANCS</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>BLACK NATIVITY</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>RAISIN THE MUSICAL</b>	Gilliam Auditorium, Baltimore, MD
<b>IN THE BLOOD</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD

### SOUND DESIGNER

<b>A CHRISTMAS CAROL</b>	Chesapeake Shakespeare, Baltimore, MD
<b>SPELL #7</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>THE PIANO LESSON</b>	Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD
<b>FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF</b>	Casa Theatre, Copenhagen, Demark Roco Theatre, Frederiksberg, Demark Intercult Theatre, Helsinki, Finland Royal Theatre. Stockholm, Sweden



**RED VELVET**  
**MADNESS, MENOPAUSE & MORE**  
**ODYESSY**  
**LES BLANCS**  
**STEEL MAGNOLIAS**

Chesapeake Shakespeare, Baltimore, MD  
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Cntr., MD  
Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD  
Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD  
Turpin-Lamb Theatre, Baltimore, MD

### **PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**

**CHARLEY'S AUNT**  
**THE MISER**  
**BUS STOP**  
**KIDDAFEST** (*International Children's Festival*)  
**LIVING WITH AIDS** (*Premiere/International Tour*)

Olney Theatre Center, Olney, MD  
Olney Theatre Center, Olney, MD  
Levin Theatre, New Brunswick, NJ  
National Theatre of Ghana, Accra, Ghana (West Africa)  
National Theatre of Ghana, Accra, Ghana  
Centre Culturel Français, Lome, Togo (West Africa)  
SECCA, Winston-Salem, NC  
Opera at the Forum, Madison, NJ  
New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, NJ  
State Theatre, New Brunswick, NJ

**NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE FESTIVAL 2001**  
**LA TRAVIATA**  
**THE WIZ**  
**TALKING LEADERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP**  
(*with Lily Tomlin and Dr. Helen Caldicott*)

New Theatre, New Brunswick, NJ  
Nicholas Music Center, New Brunswick, NJ  
Duncan Smith Theatre, Homdel, NJ  
Meisner Theatre, New York, NY  
Levin Theatre, New Brunswick, NJ  
Darbeth Fine Arts Center, Winfield, KS  
C.Y. Stephens Aud., Ames, IA  
Fisher Theater, Ames, IA  
Fisher Theater, Ames, IA  
Fisher Theater, Ames, IA  
C.Y. Stephens Aud., Ames, IA

**BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY**  
**LE NOZZLE DI FIGARO**  
**ALL IN THE TIMING**  
**AN EVENING OF ONE ACTS** (*Showcase*)  
**IN THE BOOM BOOM ROOM**  
**THE KING AND I**  
**THE MUSIC MAN**  
**FORTINBRAS**  
**THE MEDEA MYTH**  
**SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL**  
**BYE, BYE, BIRDIE**