



RESPONSES TO CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Responses are unedited, presented to the allowable word count.



FELICIA LATOYA BROWN

Candidate for Board Director

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

I have been in leadership positions in a variety of organizations and as an individual outside of a specific organization. I was a youth leader at a church for 25 years and helped prepare students for a national competition in the arts. I was the youngest president of the Career and Technical Education Association of New Jersey, taking on the role as an interim for a year shortly after winning the NJ New Teacher award for Career and Technical Education. I am currently the co-lead of the arts, media, and entertainment area of interest under the Engineering and Technology Education Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). This happened because I kept asking about what was being done on the national level to help CTE programs like my theatre one. Before getting this position, ACTE had me host an online event for arts-focused CTE teachers.

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.

I have two MAs; one in theatre studies and the other in arts administration. They both allow me to look at theatre and theatre education through the lenses of a student, a teacher, an administrator, and a businesswoman.

I have taught theatre in Costa Rica, Brazil, and Kenya. I also have a connection with the Slovak Theatre Institute with a standing invitation to their annual festival. There are so many beautiful ways this organization can grow internationally.

Being that I have taught in public and private schools and worked as a teaching artist, I have an understanding of the needs when it comes to starting, building, and maintaining new theatre programs.



I am a low-needs autistic black woman who has made it quite far in life before being diagnosed. Since my autism diagnosis, I have been learning more about neurodiversity and how to better advocate for myself and others.

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.

To help EdTA's mission: I would encourage joint endeavors with organizations like ACTE, CA-AME, IATSE, SAG-AFRTA, and Equity. I would encourage us to push for Thespians to be recognized as a Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) for all CTE theatre students nationally.

To help EdTA's strategic priorities: As a board member of EdTA and the co-lead of the arts, media, and entertainment area of interest for the national organization for CTE, I have the opportunity to publicly speak and gain support for theatre education. I have already done so through a video created by Arts Ed Now and through online interviews with Princeton University's head of theatre, Jane Cox and a series put out by Arts Ed NJ.

Theatre helped me as an autistic person and as a person of color. Those things guide me in how I look at ways to increase diversity and access.

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

I was the president of Students Organized Against Racism (SOAR) during my undergrad. In 2020, I hosted an online group for people (some were alumni of the original SOAR) who needed a safe space to heal after the George Floyd murder. I took the group the Resmaa Menakem's book on Racialized Trauma. I took some of that training into my theatre classroom to help my students.

I did EDIA training with Michael Bobbitt as a part of being on the board for AATE and helped shape their anti-racism statement. I was also on the small committee to help EdTA when they worked on their statement and what their next steps should be.

With the Association for Career and Technical Education, I was an IAED mentor for about half a year. After receiving my diagnosis, I publicly spoke to the ACTE leadership about how to help neurodiverse students and teachers.

Felicia Latoya Brown

Web- <http://www.felicialb.com> **Email-** felicialb@comcast.net



I, Felicia Latoya Brown, am a hard-working, creative academic with a great love for and understanding of ethnic cultures and a burning passion for helping people of all ages awaken their innate gifts and potential. My life has been filled with learning and imparting what I learn to others.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

- Through Rowan University's online graduate program, I completed a master's degree in **theatre arts administration** December 2018.
 - Advanced Directing
 - Arts Administration
 - Producing
 - Arts Planning
 - Audience Development
 - Educational Outreach
 - Arts Advocacy
 - Fundraising & Grant Writing
- Master's degree in **theatre studies** completed at Montclair State University in 2014.
 - Advanced Acting
 - Classical Myth in Modern Theatre
 - Dramaturgy
 - Entertainment Law
 - Graduate Theatre Readings
 - Modern & Contemporary theatre history
 - Playwriting with Rogelio Martinez
 - Research Methods in Theatre
 - Text analysis
 - Theatre criticism
- **Educational theatre** graduate classes at New York University.
 - Introduction to Theatre for Young Audiences
 - Role Play: Teacher in Role
- My Bachelor of Arts degree in **English with communications for secondary education** from Eastern University.
 - Shakespeare
 - Methods for Music Production
 - Theatre Production
 - Advancing Writing: Poetry/Drama
 - Linguistics
 - Communications Across Cultures
 - Fundamentals of Acting
 - Introduction to Theatre
 - Actor's Lab

WORK EXPERIENCE

- For the last five years, I have been developing a Career and Technical Education (CTE) general theatre program at **Trenton Central High School** in Trenton, NJ. My partnerships include Passage Theatre, McCarter Theatre, Princeton University, Rowan University, Montclair State University, and Rutgers University. The program is designed to train students to either the go into a theatrical field or into further studies at the end of three years. I also run an after-school program outside of the CTE program and a theatre honor society (Thespian Troupe 8266) at the school.
- Over the course of nineteen years, I taught three times at my original alma mater, **Life Center Academy** (LCA). The first time was from 2000-2002 as a fifth-grade teacher. I stepped in because they needed a teacher, and I left because I wanted to be more involved in the arts and entertainment industry.
- I began working at the **Ritz Theatre Company** in Oaklyn, New Jersey as an actor and house manager while also assisting film and television actor **Grayson McCouch** as he established Graystone Studios in New York City
- I returned to LCA in 2005 and **taught English and theatre** for four years in the upper school before leaving, this time to move to the Slovak Republic to teach business ELLs. While there, I also edited the first English translation of a book on Slovak civil law, edited news articles for a major online news station, and sang with the **Technik Choir**.
- Upon returning from the Slovak Republic, I worked at a printing company. In the fall of 2012, I began full-time work on my masters. Concurrently, I returned to Life Center Academy and **taught history** part-time. More courses were added to my teaching schedule at LCA, and I was made **college guidance counselor** for the upper school within a year. When LCA's leadership changed, I stepped down from counseling to focus on **developing the artistic programs** at the school. I added a humanities class, learned the national core standards, organized opportunities so my fellow art teachers could obtain professional development courses, started an International Thespian Society troupe, and created an after-school theatre program in which a third of the upper school participated.
- While teaching in 2016, I was an associate producer for the award-winning independent film, *The Sand Box*.
- Until a year ago, I was a **youth leader** at the church connected to LCA; and for several years, I headed up their **fine arts program** which overlapped with what I was doing at the school. I am currently still at Life Center Academy.
- This summer, I will be developing an after-school theatre program with Burlington County Library System as a part of their teen outreach. We plan to launch fall 2018.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- Book-collecting and reading are my favorite pastimes.
- I love to travel, to get in the car and go or pack a bag and fly.
- Dancing, cooking, singing, painting, playing the piano, writing, acting, and anything else artistic are also hobbies of mine.
- I take voice lessons at **Valde Voice Studio** with NYSTA member Kimberly Valde and sing on a worship team at my church.

- Throughout the summer, I enjoy watching Drum Corps International performances because of the creativity of the leaders and unity of the corps for each routine remind me of theatrical productions.

SKILLS

- I am proficient in **Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Outlook**.
- I taught myself **Adobe InDesign** to teach a course and construct LCA's yearbook. I also learned **Prezi** after seeing how it operates intuitively with the creative mind.
- I am internet and social media savvy (**Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and WordPress**).
- My typing speed is between 60-70 wpm.
- My work as a **theatre director, teacher, and stage manager** sharply honed my organizational and communication skills.
- I am beginner level **Spanish and Slovak**. My Slovak studies are ongoing.

RECOGNITIONS

- **2021 NJ New CTE Teacher of the Year**
- **Associate Producer** for the award-winning independent film *The Sand Box*
- Academically, in 2014, I received a **Senate Commendation** from New Jersey Senator Diane Allen upon my graduation from Montclair State University.
- In 2006, I was honored with **Burlington County's Humanitarian Award for Child Advocacy**. It recognized my work with young people in US and Kenya, and specifically in Costa Rica and Brazil which consisted of drama therapy with former child prostitutes and storytelling through theatre to former street children.
- Artistically, in 2008, I led a youth choir to a first-place win at the **Assemblies of God Fine Arts' Festival** on the state level, and tenth place on the national level. In 2003, the Ritz Theatre Company awarded me the **Subscribers' Choice Award for Female Gypsy of the Year** for acting in every show in the season. In 2002, I was a **featured soloist** on the Angels of Harmony gospel CD *Trust God*.

SPECIAL INVITATIONS

- The Slovak Republic's **Divadelný Ústav (Theatre Institute)** invited me to represent the United States at their annual Nova Drama Festival for several years in a row. I attended in 2013 and 2016. While there, I discussed the impact of theatre on society with theatre leaders from all over Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Middle East. My relationship with TI continues to develop, and I have a standing invitation to return whenever I am able.
- In 2004, I received a special director's invitation to and attended the private movie premiere for *Throttle* from James Seale.

ORGANIZATIONS & LICENSES

- Current **Co-Lead of the Arts, Media, and Entertainment** area of interest under the Engineering and Education Technology Division of the **Association for Career and Technical Education**
- **Past President of the Career and Technical Education Association of New Jersey**

- Past Regional Programming Director of the **American Alliance for Theatre & Education**
- As of July 2020, I have been issued three **New Jersey Standard Certificates** in theatre, CTE/vocational theatre, and English.
- Past board member for the **Ritz Theatre Company** and subcommittee member for diversifying their seasons
- **Educational Theatre Association** for seven years
- **Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey** for three years.
- Member in the **Theatre Communications Group (TCG)**, Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) which includes the **NJ Thespian Directors**, the Speech & Theatre Association of New Jersey (STANJ), **National Education Association (NEA)**, the **New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)** and the **Trenton Education Association (TEA)**.
- I have received my Provisional Certificate from **The Association of Christian Teachers and Schools**.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I continue to learn through my ongoing work with the following institutions: the Association for Career and Technical Education, Educational Theatre Association, Theatre Communications group, the New Jersey branch of the International Thespian Society, Speech and Theatre Association of New Jersey, New Jersey's teacher convention, Book Expo America, and in-school seminars and workshops. I am enrolled in a program to receive my certificate as an arts integration specialist. My private study includes ongoing reading of articles and books on the teaching and practice of theatre, education, classroom management, leadership, the arts, and business. I also lead a small group in studying and helping each other face the struggle of peacefully tear down racism within our personal lives and in the scope of our influence.

REFERENCES

Upon request.

NON-ACTING THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE

Role	Play	Venue
Producing Artistic Director	<i>In the Forests of the Night & Chairs</i>	Trenton Central High
Producing Artistic Director	<i>The Wiz</i>	Trenton Central High
Producing Artistic Director	<i>Faces of Freedom</i>	Trenton Central High
Producing Artistic Director	<i>#Viral</i>	Trenton Central High
Producing Artistic Director	<i>Twisted Tales of Poe</i>	Trenton Central High
Producing Artistic Director	<i>Seussical, JR.</i>	Life Center Academy
Producing Artistic Director	<i>The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe</i>	Life Center Academy
Producing Artistic Director	<i>A Murder is Announced</i>	Life Center Academy
Set Designer	<i>A Murder is Announced</i>	Life Center Academy
Associate Producer-FILM	<i>The Sand Box</i>	
Producing Artistic Director	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Life Center Academy
Producing Artistic Director	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> (musical)	Life Center Academy
Producing Artistic Director	<i>All I Really Need to Know I Learned...</i>	Life Center Academy
Stage Manager	<i>Complete Works of Shakespeare Abr.</i>	Imagination Creation
Stage Manager	<i>Alice!</i>	Imagination Creation
Stage Manager	<i>Hyrannonous A. Frog</i>	Imagination Creation
Producing Artistic Director	<i>A Midsummer Night's Midterm</i>	Life Center Academy
Producing Artistic Director	<i>I Don't Have a Clue</i>	Life Center Academy
Producing Artistic Director	Carol Burnett Variety Show	Life Center Academy
Producing Artistic Director	Performing Arts Living Room	Life Center Academy
Stage Manager	<i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Director	Haddonfield Friends Skits	Haddonfield Friends
Stage Manager	<i>Fiddler of the Roof</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Assistant	<i>Christmas Spectacular</i>	Fountain of Life, NJ
Director	<i>Mercy Med Center</i>	Fountain of Life, NJ
Acting Coach	<i>He Is Alive</i>	Fountain of Life, NJ
Sound	<i>Cocoa Brown & the 7 Homies</i>	Bruce Robinson Co, PA
Assistant Director	<i>Balkan Women</i> -college premiere	Eastern Univ., PA
Dramaturge & Costumes	<i>Balkan Women</i> -college premiere	Eastern Univ., PA
Spotlight	<i>The Fantasticks</i>	Eastern Univ., PA

Acting Theatrical Experience

Mary Magdalene	<i>He is Alive</i>	Fountain of Life, NJ
Lady Lotta BonBon	IMC's <i>Cinderella</i>	Imagination Creation
Satan	<i>He Is Alive</i>	Fountain of Life, NJ
Lucy	<i>You're Good Man, Charlie Brown</i>	Imagination Creation
Idella	<i>Purlie</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Mourner	<i>He Is Alive</i>	Fountain of Life, NJ
Ghost of Christmas Past	<i>Scrooge, the Musical</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Old Lady	Bernstein's <i>Candide</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Blue Fairy	<i>Pinocchio</i> children show	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Papa/Baby Bear	<i>Goldilocks & the Three Bears</i>	Ritz Theatre Tour
Witch	<i>The Frog Prince</i> children show	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Mrs. Squires	<i>The Music Man</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Abby-understudy	<i>Yankee Panky</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Stepp Sister	<i>Dreamgirls</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Lorrell-understudy	<i>Dreamgirls</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Tituba	<i>The Crucible</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Step Sister	<i>Cinderella</i> children show	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Roustabout	<i>Annie Get Your Gun</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ
Nubian Princess	<i>Mame</i>	Ritz Theatre, NJ

Suzanna
Mother
Titania
Lady
Aldonza

Sacrifice Fly- a reading
6 C's in Search of an Author
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Feiffer's People
Man of La Mancha

Germantown, PA
Eastern Univ., PA
Eastern Univ., PA
Eastern Univ., PA
Eastern Univ., PA