UPDATED FEBRUARY 16, 2022 – BY THE AACT STRATEGIC PLANNING TASKFORCE



2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan: The Next AACT

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Vision

AACT aspires to be:

- The trusted and qualified resource for aiding all theatres and theatre community constituents in the United States
- The respected advocate for the largest, most inclusive national network of theatre organizations and practitioners
- The vibrant proponent of community theatre in the international theatre environment.

Mission

AACT pursues opportunities and experiences in theatre for every community across America helping theatre organizations and practitioners thrive

Beliefs

- Participation in creative endeavors contributes to human development
- Theatre programming helps strengthen and build community
- AACT fully supports and promotes comprehensive equity throughout the theatre world. AACT is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

Core Values

- Creative expression
- Celebration of all races, genders, ages, religions, identities, and experiences
- Partnerships and relationships
- Community-building

STRATEGIC PLAN INTENT

THE FUTURE

We envision AACT as...

- The trusted and qualified resource for aiding all theatres and theatre community constituents in the United States
- The respected advocate for the largest, most inclusive national network of theatre organizations and practitioners
- The vibrant proponent of community theatre in the international theatre environment.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2019 - 2022

Strive for excellence, accessibility, and affordability of offerings that are in highest field demand

Increase AACT's visibility and deepen connectedness

Transition to a virtual operating structure bolstering AACT's ability to succeed and thrive

Fortify AACT's financial future

SPECIFICS HOW...

- Amplify AACT's mission and core values in program, administrative, and governance policy and practice walk the talk.
- Strengthen the portfolio of offerings increasing AACT's value to theatre providers at every level.
- Achieve exceed membership goals in every state.
- Strengthen relationships with theatre educators at every level.
- Implement a nationwide communication and networking strategy that expands and deepens AACT's connectedness with theatre providers and practitioners.
- Implement a year-round media strategy to increase AACT's visibility.
- Strengthen AACT's stature and value in the national and international theatre ecosystem.
- Learning from the successes of others, transition AACT to a virtual organization with even greater capacity to implement this plan.
- Invest in the technology, operating systems, and expertise AACT needs to implement this plan.
- More strategically focus the Board on AACT's future.
- Streamline and better coordinate committees.
- Expand Corporate and Advisory Partnerships essential to plan success.
- Expand and strengthen earned income.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive contributed income plan.
- Grow the endowment and establish a capital reserve.

PLAN CONTRIBUTORS

This plan was developed over nine months, from December 2018 through September 2019, with thanks to the collective wisdom and dedication of AACT's Board, staff members, and contractors.

BOARD	\sim	DIDE	CTCDC
RUARII	() -	IIIKF	() () () () ()

Carole Ries, President and Strategic

Planning Task Force Co-Chair Rick Kerby, President Elect

Frank Peot, Secretary

Michael Fox, Treasurer

Sara Phoenix, Strategic Planning Task

Force Co-Chair Emily Anderson Sally Barnes

Sharon Burum Steven Butler

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Donna Fisher

Bob Frame

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Dennis Gilmore

Steve Hughes

Lucinda Lawrence

Ron Cameron-Lewis

Stephen Krempasky

Bevie Lord Joan Luther

Carolyn McCloskey

Lynn Nelson Stephen Pellman

Kristi Quinn

Lynn Rahl

Jon Douglas Rake Judy Rozema

Chris Serface

Jamie Ulmer Jim Walker

Dane Winters

REGION REPRESENTATIVES

Beverly Lord, Region I Joan Luther, Region II

Steven Hughes, Region III Lynn Nelson, Region IV

Nancy Eppert, Region V

Sally Barnes, Region VI

Donna Fisher, Region VII

Dennis Gilmore, Region VIII Jon Douglas-Rake, Region IX

Dane Winters, Region X

ADMINISTRATION

Quiana Clark-Roland, Executive Director

David Cockerell,

Marketing/Communications Director

Geoff Leonard-Robinson, Former

Membership Director

Karen Matheny, Membership

Coordinator & Office Support Manager Darlene DeLorenzo, Vendor Services

Coordinator

Jill Patchin, Corporate Partners

Manager

Winston Daniels, Operations and Events

Assistant

Stephen Peithman, Webmaster &

Spotlight Editor

Ron Zeigler, Festivals Coordinator

Susan Austin, NewPlayFest Coordinator

BACKGROUND

In AACT's 33- year history increasing its reach and relevance to theatre providers across the country — helping them succeed - has been its chief aim. At the Board's Salt Lake retreat in February 2019 to launch this planning process, prevailing sentiment was that reach and relevance gains could only be achieved with a clearer road map - including strategy, action steps, metrics, timelines, and accountability. Building on the wisdom of previous AACT plans, this plan looks to the future with a keener eye, provides a clearer road map, and strives to make AACT the most trusted "go-to" service organization for theatre organizations across America.

Since AACT's creation, it's board and volunteers have been the lifeblood of the organization. When this planning process began, a roster of 103 persons were serving on the 21 committees and task forces listed here. A closer look at those 103 showed there were actually 62 individuals, with 25 serving on two or more committees. This total volunteer workforce was not only driving AACT's governance but was also very involved in programming and operations. Over the past decade, as AACT has retained professional staff and contractors, programming and operational responsibilities have been shifting from board and volunteers to staff. But it is important to recognize, when ownership and dedication are high, shifting is easier said than done.

At AACT's June 2019 meeting in Gettysburg, when the first draft of this plan was presented for Board review, we realized this plan would be more valuable if it could also clarify committee and task force roles; specifically, helping lay tracks for streamlining and coordinating the staff/board interface on programming and operations. And, perhaps even more important, evolving the Board from hands-on staff-like responsibilities to a more forward-focused stewardship role including membership and partnership growth, financial stability, and elevating AACT's national image and prominence.

Following Gettysburg, 21 committee and task force leaders were asked to report on 2018-19 accomplishments, share their plans for 2019-2020, and offer suggestions for going forward. This plan draft has been updated to incorporate committee and task force leaders' inputs and offer recommendations to respectfully and carefully evolve AACT board + staff functions with everyone pulling in the same direction to accomplish what one board member shared at the start of this process, "I don't want AACT to catch up, imitate, or beg to be invited. I want us to lead."

Standing Committees as per Bylaws

- 1. Executive Committee
- 2. Nominating Committee
- 3. Education Committee
- 4. Festival Committee
- 5. Endowment Committee

2018-19 Committees, Teams, Task Forces

- 6. Accreditation
- 7. Awards
- 8. AACT's Ambassador
- 9. Audit Committee
- 10. Awards Committee
- 11. Bylaws 2018-2019
- 12. Communications Team
- 13. Fellows Program
- 14. Festival Commission
- 15. Finance Committee
- 16. International Committee
- 17. Member Engagement Team
- 18. Regional Representatives + State Contacts
- 19. Steering Committee AACTFest 2019
- 20. Strategic Planning
- 21. Youth Activities Committee

PRIORITIES AND ACTION PLAN DETAILS

PRIORITY 1. STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE, ACCESSIBILITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF OFFERINGS THAT ARE IN HIGHEST FIELD DEMAND

Our vision

The trusted, go-to resource for helping theatre providers and practitioners at every level across the United States thrive.

 How to achieve the vision...
 Strive for excellence, accessibility and affordability of offerings that are in

highest field demand

- Amplify AACT's mission and core values in program, administrative, and governance policy and practice walk the talk
- Strengthen the portfolio of offerings increasing AACT's value to theatre providers at every level.

Aim	1.1. Amplify AACT's mission, beliefs, and core v	alues in policy	and practice - v	valk the talk.		
Stra	tegies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Part ners on Point	Outcomes/Meas ures	Status
1.1	Update core values. Staff will present a draft to the Strategic Planning Task Force for reviews and improvements before the Winter 2019 meeting.	for Nov Board meeting approval	ED+	Strategic Planning Task Force	AACT and its vision, mission, purpose, beliefs, and values will be	Completed
1.1	Update AACT policy statement on racial, social, and gender equity and inclusion.	For the Jan (?) 2020 Board meeting	ED+	Exec Comm	clearer to the world and serve as the model for theatre organizations	Completed
1.1	Update AACT belief statement to include proactive language on racial, social, and gender equity and inclusion	2020	ED+	Exe Comm or Task Force	across the country.	In Progress

1.1	Model racial, social, and gender equity and inclusion to the field. Include policy recommendations for accreditation.	2020	ED+	Accreditat ion Task Force		
1.1	Update vision statement.	By Oct 2019for Nov Board meeting approval	ED+	Strategic Planning Task Force, Exec Comm		Completed
1.1	Building on the 2016-2017 results of the Accreditation Task Force, create policy to strive for field excellence by developing and adopting "best practices and guidelines for theatre offerings in communities across America." Community theatres Organizations offering theatre education programming	2020	Membership Dir+ ED, Education Contractor	Accreditati on Task Force, Education Comm	AACT will be the standard bearer for theatre best practices in America. Theatre in communities across the country grows stronger.	
	1.2 Enhance and strengthen AACT's portfolio of					
Strat	egies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Part ners on Point	Outcomes/Meas ures	

1.2 .1	classes, and more): - Create timeline and annual budget for each of the above areas through 2022; Closely monitor and communicate progress. - Create "how to's" and, where appropriate, curriculum for the most important service needs recommended in the Salt Lake Retreat Synthesis and the inventory (good business models, budget and finance, stage management, social media, marketing, branding, touring, and more); - Determine how use will be tracked and reported; - Determine how use will be evaluated.	Round I by 2 nd qtr. 2020	Education Contractor + Membership Coordinator, Marketing/C omm Director ED, Operations & Events Asst,	Education Committee Directors Conferenc e Liaison	Annual usage targets are reached/exceede d. Budget targets are reached. Evaluations and field buzz about AACT are increasingly positive.	Completed
Strat	tegies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Part ners on Point	Outcomes/Meas ures	
1.3	Enhance festival methodology to be more inclusive and efficient. O AACT NewPlayFest; O AACTFest; O AACT Youth Fest; O AACT WorldFest; O Standalone youth festival/conferences.	Prepare for in 2021 with implement ation beginning in the 2023 Cycle	Festivals Coordinator + NewPlay Fest Coordinator ED, Education Contractor	VP Festivals, Festivals Committee , Education Comm. Chair, New Play Festival	Forthcoming by Ron	In Progress

	 Develop a timeline and budget for festival modifications with benchmarks and participation goals; Better connect all the above festivals with AACT education offerings; Where possible collaborate more with the regions and states; Report progress to staff and board quarterly. 			AACT WorldFest Liaison, YouthFest Liaison, Youth Arts Activities, Reg Oversight Coordinato r		
	1.4 Strengthen and expand the Military and Res			Doord /Door		
Strai	egies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Part ners on Point	Outcomes/Meas ures	
1.4	Enhance and expand the military, veterans, and Military Artist-in-Residence/Internship Program to program be more inclusive, efficient, and far-reaching.	2021	Ron Zeigler	Dane Winters Education Committee	Forthcoming by Ron and Dane	In Progress
Aim	1.5 Combine Corporate Partner and Discount P	rogram to a ne	w AACT Corpora	ate Partner Pro	gram construct.	
Strat	egies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Part ners on Point	Outcomes/Meas ures	
1.5	Keep those discount providers, corporate resources, and partners with highest value and eliminate the rest. - Set annual discount and Corporate Partner goals and include in AACT's annual operating budget; - Refresh and strengthen policies and practices for program partners, highlighting mutual benefits to achieve budgeted goals;	By June 2020	Corporate Partners Manager+ Vendor Services Coordinator ED Staff as needed	-	Each discount program is used by at least 20 AACT members per year. Discount program attracts new members each year.	In Progress

	 Report progress to staff and board quarterly. 					
Aim	1.6 Revitalize website to be more informative, a Strategies/tactics	when	ent, enticing, ar Staff on point	nd relevant. Board/Part ners on Point	Outcomes/Meas ures	
1.6	Refresh and curate website content as recommended in the Salt Lake Retreat Synthesis. O Vital info for members Resource sharing Research Education tools Best practices Resource More - Develop a timeline and budget with benchmarks, and report progress to staff and board quarterly.	Now through 2020	Webmaster+ Website Developer ED Operations and Event Asst. Office Support Manager	Focus Groups	AACT, in partnership with Drexel University, is the national and international repository for theatre artists, theatres, and theatre information evident by positive user feedback, web traffic, online sales, and membership goals.	In Progress

Aim prac	theatre community and					
Strat	egies/tactics	When	Staff on	Board/Part	Outcomes/Measures	
			point	ners on		
				Point		
			Member	Treasurer,	AACT membership is	
1.7	Building on what is learned in the 2020	Dv Fall	ship	Membersh	more highly valued	
.1	inventory, simplify and revise membership	By Fall 2020	Coordina	ip	evidenced by increased	In Progress
.⊥	categories according to new Strategic Plan	2020	tor +	Engageme	numbers of members in	
	categories according to new Strategic Plan		ED	nt Chair	every state.	

Goals. Incorporate financial targets into	Office	Budgeted membership	
AACT's annual operating budget.	Support	income goals are	
	Manager	reached/exceeded.	
Invigorate messaging about membership			
offerings per membership category:			
- Theatres			
- 501 c3 organizations offering			
theatre			
- Practitioners			
- Education Partners			

PRIORITY 2. INCREASE AACT'S VISIBILITY AND DEEPER CONNECTEDNESS

We envision AACT as...

- The most trusted, valued "go-to" resource for helping all theatre providers in the United States thrive
- The respected national advocate for the largest, most inclusive nation-wide network of theatre organizations and practitioners
- The vibrant proponent of community theatre in the international theatre ecosystem

How to achieve the vision...

- Increase AACT's visibility and deepen connectedness

- Achieve exceed membership goals in every state.
- Strengthen relationships with theatre educators at every level.
- Implement a nationwide communication and networking strategy that expands and deepens AACT's connectedness with theatre providers and practitioners.
- Implement a year-round media strategy to increase AACT's visibility at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels.
- Strengthen AACT's stature and value in the national and international theatre ecosystem.

Aim 2.1	. Achieve – exceed – membership goals in eve	ry state.				
Strateg	ies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partner s on Point	Outcomes/Mea sures	
2.1.1	Improve the methodology of maintaining a more accurate nonmember theatre list for every state and territory.	2020	Membership Coordinator + ED All staff	Regional Oversight Contractor State Associations + State Contacts	AACT will be the national resource connected to, or at least known by all theatre providers.	In Progress
2.1.2	Better connect with existing members and expand membership: - Create more accessible options for theatres, organizations	Strategic develop ment in 2020 and impleme	Membership Coordinator + ED All staff	Member Engagement Chair, Regional Oversight Contractor,	Meet and reach/exceed # targets in every state.	In Progress

	offering theatre, and practitioners; - Building on past successful practices, update networking policy, practices, and plan of action to increase members; - Develop a specific game plan with benchmarks for membership growth in the 37 states with statewide theatre associations; - Develop a specific game plan with benchmarks for membership growth in every state with no statewide theatre association; - Report progress to staff and board quarterly.	nt by 2021		State Associations + State Contacts, Other National Theatre and National Art Service Organizations		
Aim 2.2	Strengthen relationships with theatre educat	ors at every	level.			
Strategi	es/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partner s on Point	Outcomes/Mea sures	
2.2.1	Create a college affiliate program. Define the mutual benefits to be gained by the AACT- College Affiliate Partnership Internships Learning opportunities Fellowships Develop a manageable plan of action. Based on AACT's Board and Staff current alumna and working relationships, identify those	2021	ED+ Education Contractor	Collegiate and University Partners, Member Engagement Chair	Compelling rationale and mutual benefits in place. Annual targets reached/exceed ed. Budgeted income goals reached.	In Progress

	university programs in the US to target; - Report progress with staff and board quarterly.					
2.2.2	Create a strategy for connecting with k-12 theatre educators. Develop a manageable plan of action. - Based on AACT's Board and Staff current working relationships, identify those university programs in the US to target; - Report progress to staff and board quarterly.	2022	ED+ Education Contractor	Other National Theatre Associations	Meet and reach/exceed # targets.	In Progress
	Aim 2.3 Implement a nationwide communication and networking strategy that expands and deepens AACT's connectedness with theatre providers and practitioners.					
Strategi	es/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partner s on Point	Outcomes/Mea sures	

2.3.1	Develop constituent- friendly AACT tags to refresh the brand. - Test with a diverse sample of AACT constituents to ensure intent is achieved.	By Oct 2019 for Winter meeting approval	Marketing & Communicat ions Director+ ED All Staff Marketing Contractor	Marketing/ Branding Contractor, Strategic Planning Task Force Chair, Exec Comm Chair	AACT's 4 branding/tags expands members to include younger theatre practitioners and more diverse organizations.	In Progress
2.3.2	Building on practices and success of the Corporate Partners Program, create policy, practice and plan of action to connect with select cultural entities across the US.; - Include recommendations suggested in the Salt Lake Retreat Synthesis Report progress to staff and board quarterly.	2020- 2021	Marketing/C omm Director ED	Regional Reps, State Reps, Other National Associations	tbd	Completed
Aim 2.4	Implement a year-round media strategy to in	crease AACT	s visibility.			
Strategi	es/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partner s on Point	Outcomes/Mea sures	
2.4.1	Develop and implement a 12-month media plan including targets of younger theatre practitioners and diverse organizations. - Include recommendations suggested in the Salt Lake Retreat Synthesis Please See Appendix C.	2020	Marketing/C omm Director+ ED	Media Partners Other National Association Partners	AACT's successful branding/tags expands members to include younger theatre practitioners and more diverse organizations.	In Progress

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	Improve the quality, relevance, and readershes/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partner s on Point	Outcomes/Mea	
2.5.1	Improve the quality, relevancy, and increase readership of Spotlight magazine online and print and improve the partnerships and relationships with advertisers and CP's via the magazine. Create a business plan for Spotlight that will include: - A marketing strategy for expanding reach; - Relevant, valuable, forward looking content and topics including features about and by prominent figures; - Refreshed look and branding; - Update advertising guidelines.	2020 and forward	Marketing/C omm Director+ Contracted Editor	Media Partners, Other National Association Partners Finance Committee Chair	Spotlight readership will increase by x% per year. Spotlight will become a prominent facet of the face of AACT internationally.	In Progress
Aim 2.6	Strengthen AACT's stature and value in the n	ational and i	nternational the	eatre ecosystem.		
Strategi	es/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partner s on Point	Outcomes/Mea sures	
2.6.1	Create an international advisory board with well-known champions, legends, and thought leaders in the theatre world. - Include recommendations suggested in the Salt Lake Retreat Synthesis;	2020	ED+ Contractor Corporate Partners Manager	Board President, Board Officers, International Committee Liaison	International Advisory Board elevates AACT's image and visibility. National and international	In Progress

¹¹ Michael Fox

	 Add them to the web site; Add quotes from them in all publications, social media – at every chance – to elevate AACT's visibility and stature. 		Marketing & Comm Director	publication mentions increase. Membership goals reached	
2.6.2	Continue to participate in key national/international events. Create an annual calendar and budget for this - Report benefits to the staff and board annually	ongoing	ED+ All staff	or exceeded.	In Progress

PRIORITY 3. FORTIFY AACT'S OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

We envision AACT as...

- The trusted, go-to resource
- The respected national advocate
- A vibrant proponent

How to achieve the vision...

 Transition to a virtual operating structure bolstering AACT's ability to succeed and thrive

- Learning from the successes of others, transition AACT to a virtual organization with even greater capacity to successfully implement this plan.
- Invest in the technology, operating systems, personnel and additional expertise AACT needs to implement this plan.
- Strengthen AACT's Board focus, Corporate, and additional Partnerships essential to plan implementation.

Aim 3.1 Learning from the successes of other national service organizations and building on the 2016 SWOT analysis, transition AACT to a virtual organization with even greater capacity to implement this plan.						
Strategies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partn ers on Point	Outcomes/Measures		

3.2.1	Determine technology needs of virtual office. - Develop a budget and timeline for purchases: See that o Personnel will have technology (individually and collectively) to function efficiently and effectively; o Data base will be kept current; o Data and info will be secure. - Explore Customer Relationship Management software acquisition: See that o Personnel will have technology (individually and collectively) to function efficiently and effectively;	now	ED+ All Staff	Exec Comm	Personnel has technology needed to be effective. Communications are excellent. ACCT's interaction with current and potential members increases. Membership retention rates increase. Evaluation of member services shows increased levels of satisfaction.	Com
3.2.2	Determine operating system needs of virtual office. - Develop a budget and timeline for purchases, set up, beta tests, training, implementation, and evaluation to get it right. O Create communications protocols to ensure staff, board, and advisory committee communications are excellent; O Develop new standard operating procedures for virtual office that are clear and ensure staff performance remains effective and productive.	now	ED+ All Staff	Exec Comm	AACT's operations run efficiently and effectively.	Com
3.2.3	Develop the ideal staff construct. Together with each existing staff person, determine ideal staff repositioning; - Given the critical need expressed by the Board for more onthe-ground presence, explore a regional representative transition to a comprehensive, more cost-effective, contractor network to increase field connectedness. - Develop transition budgets and timelines. Please see Appendix A for staffing plan matrix, page 24.	2019-2020	ED+ All Staff	Exec Comm Regional Oversight Contractor	Staff morale remains high. The virtual organization works! Membership satisfaction levels increase. Budget, program, and operating goals are achieved/exceeded.	Com

Strategie	es/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partn ers on Point	Outcomes/Measures	
3.3.1	 More intently focus the Board on policy and the longer view Ensure adequate attention to AACT's fiscal stability; Fortify operating and program policies; Help AACT achieve the national and international reputation envisioned by accessing key networks, access to financial resources, etc. Implement AACT's Board intent as stated in Salt Lake to increase Demographic diversity (age, ethnicity/race) Geographic diversity (all regions) Please see Appendix B for sample board matrix, page 32. 	Now - 2020	ED+	Exec Comm	Gov culture of continuous improvement in place. Board and Advisory Board expertise more focused and optimized.	<u>In</u>
3.3.2	 The following governance best practices and strategies are respectfully offered for AACT's consideration to accomplish the following: Consider streamlining the committee/task force structure over time as suggested in Appendix B, page 25. Seamlessly connect and coordinate committee functions with staff functions - I.e., everyone pulling together in the same direction as cost effectively and time efficiently as possible; More closely align work of committees with Board approved budget and this plan's priorities. Strengthen communications and information sharing across the organization. Consider creating a monthly dashboard report with key stats. (please see page 38) Continue to benefit from the wisdom of Board members; however, better utilize Board member time. Consider evolving AACT board policy to service on 1 or 2 committees only. 	2020	ED+	Exec Comm, Proposed Governance Committee	Committee, Task Force, and Liaisons function are integrated into AACT's overall operations. Annual goals are achieved. Everyone pulling together in the same direction as cost effectively and time efficiently as possible.	<mark>ln</mark>

	 In the spirit of increasing AACT's reach, see that committees and task forces are more representative of AACT's diverse membership. 					
3.3.3	Create an International Advisory Board (as in 2.5.1) - Recruit international and national theatre luminaries (as recommended by Board Members in Salt Lake) whose imprimatur and reputation will help elevate AACT's visibility and reputation. [Lin Manuel Miranda, Ken Ludwig, Kristin Chenoweth, etc.) "Rising stars rather than aging stars" - Convene virtually once per year. - Provide tailored job descriptions for each to help the ED increase AACT's national/international visibility. - Provide entre and access to foundation, Broadway, producers, and others.	Now - 2020	ED+	Exec Comm, Proposed Governance Committee, International Committee Designee	National and International image and visibility raised with help from theatre celebs.	In Pr
3.3.4	Reinvigorate AACT Ambassador Program as part of Member Engagement. - Update member criteria. Include former board members who have served six+ years and Past Presidents - Develop communication plan - Include Ambassadors on website - Assist with outreach to new members, and AACT events around the country	2021	ED+	Member Engagement Chair	Ambassadors strengthen the welcoming presence of AACT.	<mark>In Pr</mark>
3.3.5	Conduct regular evaluation of board effectiveness (individuals, committees, and the board as a whole).	Last qtr. annually beginning 2019	ED+	Proposed Governance Committee		In Pr

² Salt Lake Retreat quote

PRIORITY 4. FORTIFY AACT'S FINANCIAL FUTURE

We envision AACT as...

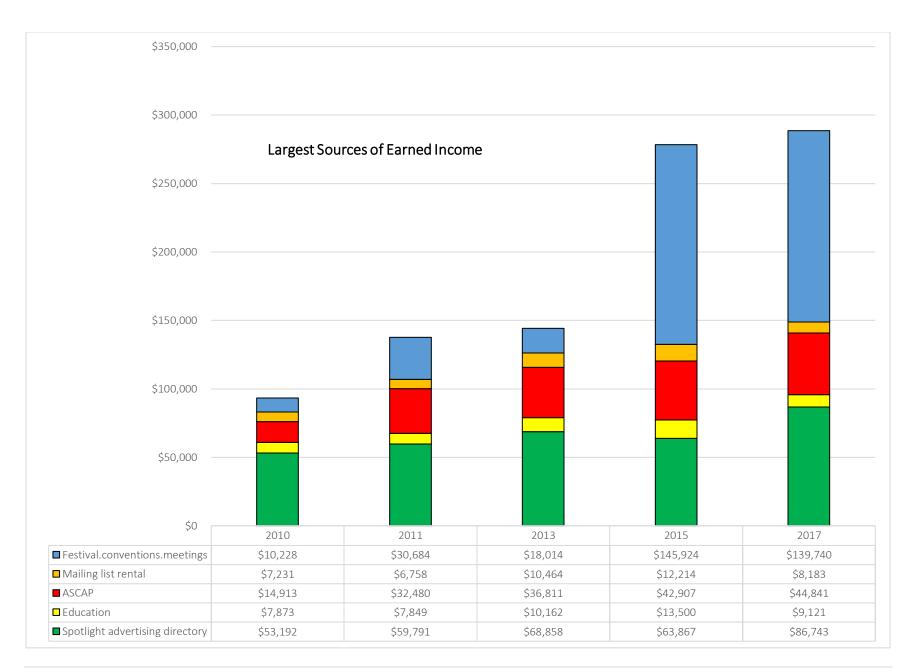
- The trusted, go-to resource ...
- The respected national advocate
- A vibrant proponent

How to achieve the vision...
- Fortify AACT's financial future

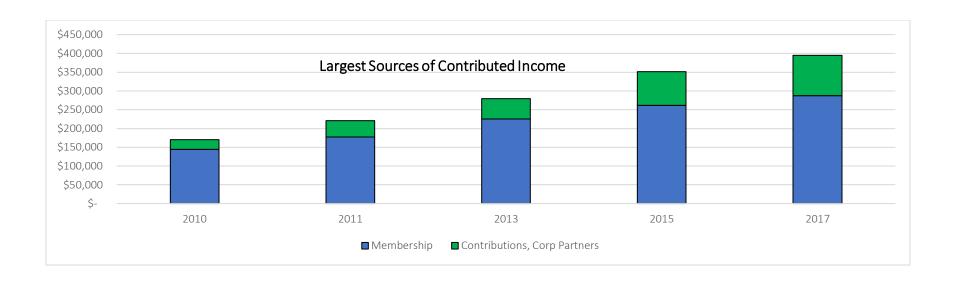
- Further strengthen earned income generation.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive contributed income plan.
- Strengthen Corporate and additional Partnerships essential to AACT's financial stability.

Aim 4.						
Strate	egies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partners on Point	Outcomes/Measures	
4.1.1	Assess direct income and expenses of each AACT program. - Explore increased revenue generation possibilities for each program (costs plus potential net gain). - Create 24-36 month refreshed income strategies for each program to help increase mindfulness of the longer view; - Incorporate all the above in annual budget development.	In the 3 rd quarter of each year for the subsequent year starting 2021	Each staff member for programs in their charge. All staff	Treasurer+, Finance Committee	Earned income goals are reached/ exceeded for each AACT program. AACT's financial stability grows stronger.	<mark>In Progress</mark>
4.1.2	Adopt regular reporting regimen: - Create dashboard (simple reporting format) tracking revenue generation progress;	2020	ED+ Bookkeeper	Treasurer+, Finance Committee		In Progress

- Provide staff with monthly financials for areas in their		
charge; - Report overall progress to board and staff monthly.		



Strate	gies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partners on Point	Outcomes/Measures	
4.2.1	Develop and implement a comprehensive development plan (contributions) which encompasses: - identification, research, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship - fundraising areas - annual giving, major giving, foundation giving, and corporate giving. Please see proposed framework in Appendix D, page 34.	By Jan 2021	ED+, Development Contractor, Corporate Partners Manager	Treasurer, Corporate Partners, Proposed Development Committee	Contributed income goals are clear, reached or exceeded. Board is more involved with AACT's fund development. Work of the Endowment	<mark>In Progress</mark>
4.2.2	Create policy for board roles and responsibilities in fund development		ED+, Development Contractor, Corporate Partners Manager	Treasurer, Proposed Development Committee	Committee is coordinated with AACT's overall development	In Progress



Aim 4.3	Grow the endowment and establish a capital reserve.					
Strateg	gies/tactics	When	Staff on point	Board/Partners on Point	Outcomes/Measures	
4.3.1	Revisit endowment policy and set 5 and 10-year goals. - Annually review with the board.	2020	ED+	Treasurer, Endowment Sub Committee, Finance Committee Chair	AACT will have the resources it needs for sustainable success. Annual goals achieved.	Co
4.3.2	Establish a plan for building capital reserves - A rainy day fund.		ED+	Treasurer, Finance Committee, Endowment Sub Committee Chair	AACT will have the resources it needs for sustainable success. Annual goals achieved.	<u>In l</u>

APPENDICES -

APPENDIX A. STAFFING PLAN --

		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
1	Executive Director	*	*	*	*
2	Marketing/Communications Director	*	*	*	*
3	Membership Coordinator & Office Support Manager	*	*	*	*
4	Vendor Services Coordinator	*	*	*	*
5	Corporate Partners Manager	*	*	*	*
6	Operations and Event Assistant	*	*	*	*
7	Webmaster and Spotlght Editor	*	*	*	*
8	Festivals Coordinator	*	*	*	*
9	New PlayFest Coordinator	*	*	*	*
10	Development Manager			*	*
11	Education Contractor	*	*	*	*
12	Development Contractor		*		
13	Marketing and Web Site Contractor – as needed	*	*	*	*
14	Regional Oversight Contractor		*	*	*
15	AACT Field Contractor(s)		*	*	*

APPENDIX B. GOVERNANCE

Overall AIM – Streamline Committees, at your pace, to more seamlessly connect and better coordinate them

These recommendations are respectfully offered for AACT's consideration to accomplish the following:

- Consider streamlining the committee/task force structure over time for greater efficiency by expanding standing committees in the bylaws from five to seven as suggested below. Continue the work of various subcommittees and "task forces" as needed, but more closely coordinate.
- 2. Seamlessly connect and coordinate committee functions with staff functions I.e., everyone pulling together in the same direction as cost effectively and time efficiently as possible.
- 3. More closely align work of committees with Board approved

- budget and this plan's priorities. Discuss progress toward alignment as suggested in quarterly convenings on page 26.
- 4. Strengthen communications and information sharing across the organization. Consider creating a monthly dashboard report with key stats. (please see example on page 38).
- 5. Continue to benefit from the wisdom of Board members; however, better utilize Board member time. Consider evolving AACT board policy limit service to 2 committees.
- 6. In the spirit of *increasing AACT's reach*, see that committees and task forces are more representative of AACT's member diversity.

PROPOSED STREAMLINING

Building on the current practice of committees and task forces reporting to three Vice Presidents, this plan offers a similar recommendation that might help all committees, sub committees, and task forces better coordinate what they're doing with staff and others working to achieve plan direction. See that everyone is not only thinking about building membership but actively engaged in strategies to do so.

		Standing Committees as per E	Bylaws		Proposed Additional Standing Committees						
Executive	Nominating <i>to Governance</i>	Education	Festival	Endowment <i>to</i> <i>Development</i>	FINANCE	MEMBER ENGAGEMENT					
Consider	Consider evolving	Consider evolving all	Continue	Consider creating an	Consider adding Finance as a	Consider adding Member					
adding each	nominating to a	education-related task	efforts to	"development	Standing Committee in the Bylaws	Engagement as a standing					
standing	"Governance	forces and committees	include all	committee" umbrella	to keep pace with nonprofit best	committee. Include Member					
committee	Committee"	under one "umbrella	Festivals under	that will include	practices.	Engagement Team, Regional					
chair as liaisons	consolidating	education committee."	its jurisdiction,	endowment,	Consider adding liaisons from	Reps, State Contacts, AACT's					
to Exec Comm.	elections	Include: Accreditation,	including	individuals, corporate	corporate partners, education,	Ambassadors, Fellows, and					
	committee	Program Audit, Leadership	International	partners, etc.	member engagement and festivals	Regional Reps.					
Fold in	functions,	Conference, Resource	Committee.		committees increasing their						
strategic	awards, bylaws	Roster, and Full-Time			awareness of lines they impact in	Focus everyone on increasing					
planning.	and other	Directors Conference			the budget.	membership and Customer					
Possibly	functions					Relationship Management					
awards.	described below.				Distribute financial reports to track	actions proposed in this plan.					
					progress						

PROPOSED QUARTERLY BOARD COORDINATION & COMMUNICATION SCHEDULE

The board is encouraged to further tailor this to improve

MONTH 1	MONTH 2	MONTH 3
Each Standing Committee has check in call with	Finance Committee check in call with all Standing	Exec Committee check in call to review progress of
heads of their respective task forces, sub	Committee heads and ED to review financial	each standing committee, their pacing with
committees + AACT staff assigned to them.	reports and pacing/progress toward budgeted	strategic plan.
	goals.	

PROPOSED COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS TO EVOLVE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: President

Officers + President Elect Immediate Past Chair

Suggest adding Standing Committee Chairs as Ex Officio and convene quarterly to track streamlining, coordination and communication progress

Staff Liaison: Executive Director Frequency of Meetings: Monthly

Proposed Responsibilities

Working closely with staff,

- A. See that AACT stays true to core values, implements its mission and stays laser focused on this plan's four strategic priorities.
- B. Monitor strategic plan progress.
- C. Oversee AACT policy making and implementation. Revise as needed.
- D. Expedite clearer communication and coordination among and between all board committees and staff.
- E. President annually reviews committee leadership for effectiveness.
- F. Oversee HR plus Executive Director performance review.
- G. Step in to help the Executive Director as needed.
- H. Once the plan is approved, closely coordinated with Strategic Plan Task Force to monitor plan progress.
- I. Help staff keep key partners informed of AACT's activities, successes, needs, and challenges.
- J. Consider moving Awards as Subcommittee in Exec.

2. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (SUGGEST TRANSITION FROM NOMINATING)

Chair: President Elect (selected to this office the prior year)

Members: Representative of AACT's various member organization

types plus diversity of theatre practitioners

Staff Liaison: Executive Director Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Working closely with staff,
Proposed Nominating Responsibilities

- A. Build an increasingly excellent board while honoring AACT's board culture and values. Commit to the longer view of significantly expanding AACT's membership.
 - 1) Assess board current composition, (Please see page 31) balancing institutional history and wisdom with AACT's vision to increase reach and relevance.
 - 2) Cultivate new prospects to fill possible gaps.
 - 3) Engage the full board in the process of board recruitment.
 - 4) Propose slate of candidates to the Board for approval.
 - 5) Conduct an orientation for new board members
- B. Propose an excellent Officer Slate: President, VP, Sect, Treas, new President Elect.
 - 1) Prioritize those to be considered for candidacy.
 - 2) Use Operations Manual job descriptions of officers to inform the process. Revise and update as may be needed.

Proposed Governance Responsibilities

- A. Continually strive to build on strengths of the current board for further improvements.
- B. With the board chair, helps assess and maintain board members' individual commitment, support, and participation.
- C. Ensure the board annually engages in self-assessment.
- D. Administer an annual letter of recommitment to encourage highest levels of board participation and board member fulfillment of obligations.
- E. Arrange for ongoing training for board members on aspects of board governance and assist Executive Committee with Annual Board Planning Retreat.
- F. Annually update the Board Handbook.

Proposed Highest Governance Standards

- A. See that AACT is governed according to national best practices.
- B. Ensure AACT is following the bylaws and that bylaws are current.
- C. Ensure compliance with best practices and policies: succession planning and resolutions that protect the organization including conflict of interest, whistle blowing, and discrimination.
- D. Explore changes to continually strengthen governance structure.

3. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: President Elect

Members: Those fiercely committed to AACT's education goals, including various AACT member organization types + theatre

practitioner diversity

Staff Liaison: Executive Director, Education Contractor

Frequency of meetings: Quarterly

Working closely with staff,

Proposed Responsibilities

- A. Enhance and strengthen the portfolio of education offerings as proposed in this plan on Page 6, with the overarching aim of increasing membership.
- B. Create an annual timeline of all education activities to understand human resource needs.
- C. Create budgets for each educational program, monitor and report progress.
- D. Include Full-time Directors Conference, Leadership Conference, Accreditation Task Force and Military programs here.

4. FESTIVALS

Chair: Jim Walker

Members: Leaders of all Festival Committees and Task Forces

Staff Liaison: Ron Zeigler, Sue Austin

Frequency of meetings: TBD

Proposed Responsibilities

Working closely with staff,

- A. Enhance festival methodology to be more inclusive, efficient, and help build membership.
 - AACT NewPlayFest;
 - o AACTFest;
 - AACT Youth Fest and Youth Activities
 - AACT WorldFest;
 - o Standalone youth festival/conferences.
- B. Develop a comprehensive annual festivals and youth activities timeline to better understand human resources needed.
- C. Develop budgets for every festival and monitor income and expenses.
- D. Better coordinate with AACT education offerings.
- E. Where possible collaborate more with the regions and states.
- F. It is understood that the Youth Activities Committee split from education committee last year for specific focus on youth. it's encouraged that work of the group continue; however, consider shifting under the Festivals umbrella for purposes of coordination, human resource allocation, monitoring budgets, and alignment with other festivals' aims.

5. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FORMERLY ENDOWMENT) Chair:

Members:

Staff liaisons: Executive Director, Development Contractor, and

Corporate Partners Manager Frequency of meetings: TBD

Proposed Responsibilities

Working closely with staff,

- A. Assist with contributed income
 - 1) With staff, helps create, implement, manage, and evaluate the annual development plan. Appendix D.
 - 2) Assist ED, Corporate Partners Manager and development contractor in managing relationships with donors.
- B. Regularly engage the Board in Development
 - 1) Work to encourage full board participation in development activities (as board members agree to in their annual letter of commitment).
 - 2) Ensure development stats and the dev plan are kept current.
 - 3) Track and report progress to the board on the monthly dashboard update.
- C. Help staff to achieve capitalization goals set by Finance Committee.
- D. Build on strength of endowment subcommittee to increase endowment as part of long-term capitalization plans.
 - 1) Set and reach annual AACT Endowment fund goal.
 - Working with AACT Fellows and Legacy Society, plan and conduct solicitations + other activities such as People's Choice Awards at Worldfest for the endowment.
 - 3) See that endowment fund stewardship policies are followed including investment and distribution.

6. FINANCE

Chair: Treasurer

Members

Staff Liaisons: Executive Director, Development Contractor as

needed, Bookkeeper as needed Frequency of meetings: Monthly

Proposed Responsibilities
As AACT's Fiduciary Watch Dog ...

Working closely with staff,

- A. Monitor monthly financial activity and status of the Association throughout the year.
 - 1) Keep financial policy and procedures current and annually monitor compliance.
 - 2) Oversee monthly financial reports to the board.
 - 3) Manage complaints concerning AACT's accounting, internal control, or other financial procedures.

B. Budgeting

- 1) Guide staff in the creation of two to three-year budget projections. See that money will be available to support subsequent year plan aims.
- Assist with earned income strategies. Annually revisit, assess, and recommend changes as necessary (including all pricing).
- 3) Assist in setting and meeting funding goals, seeking revenues from a variety of sources.
- 4) See that annual fundraising goals for earned and contributed income are aligned with the budget and cash flow needs.
- C. Capitalization Plans
 - 1) Oversee and assist staff with strategies to build reserves.
 - 2) Create investment guidelines for board approval and monitor and report to the Board.

- D. Appoint AACT's Sub Committee for external audit and tax reporting.
 - 1) Select an independent auditor to conduct the annual audit. Review/approve the engagement letter.
 - 2) Communicate with the auditor as needed.
 - 3) Present audit report to Board for approval.
 - 4) Review any audit comments and make appropriate recommendations concerning internal controls or changes in accounting procedures.
 - 5) Review the 990, 990T, and/or other tax returns before they are filed.
 - 6) Note
 - Audit Sub Committee members should have financial and tax reporting experience in nonprofit organizations.
 - At least one member should be considered a "Financial Expert" in Not for Profit Accounting and Tax reporting procedures, such as a CPA or CMA.
 - No Audit Task Force may be an employee or have any direct financial interest in entities servicing AACT.

7. MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Chair: TBD Members:

Staff Liaisons: Executive Director, Membership Coordinator

Frequency of meetings: TBD

Proposed Responsibilities Working closely with staff,

A. Create more accessible program options for theatres, organizations offering theatre, and practitioners.

- B. Building on past successful practices, update networking policy, practices, and plan of action to increase members.
- C. Develop a specific game plan with benchmarks for membership growth in the 37 states with statewide theatre associations.
- D. Develop a specific game plan with benchmarks for membership growth in every state with no statewide theatre association.
- E. Report progress on dashboard.
- F. Better connect with existing members.

Coordinate work of Regional Reps, State Contacts, AACT's Ambassadors, and Fellows in the following ways:

- A. Develop a comprehensive member engagement timeline to better understand human resources needed.
- B. Develop budgets for each of the above so they can monitor income and expenses for areas in their charge.
- C. Better connect with AACT education offerings and festival to optimize membership engagement so everyone is pulling on the same direction.

SAMPLE BOARD COMPOSITE - to be amended to best fulfill $\protect\ensuremath{\mathsf{AACT}}$'s needs

				Con	nmitt	ees				Term	Ехр					Rep	resen	tatio	n Exp	perti	se			Age			Ger	nder			Race	2		Geo	ograp	hy	
	Name	Exec	Governance	Education	Festival	Development	Finance	Member Engagement	2020	2021	2022	2023	Rural	Suburban	Urban	Budget over \$750,000	Budget lower than	Theatre practitioner	Accountant/CPA	Corporate Partner	NPO non community theatre member	Collegiate theatre educator	Discount provider		>55<	М	Non-Binary	Non Disclosed	F	Anglo	Latino	Af Amer	Northeast	Southeast	Central	Northwest	Southwest
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${\sf APPNDIX}\ C.\ {\sf MEDIA}\ {\sf AND}\ {\sf COMMUNICATIONS}\ {\sf to}\ {\sf be}\ {\sf tailored}\ {\sf and}\ {\sf fine-tuned}\ {\sf by}\ {\sf staff}$

	Press Releases	Annual Report accomplishm ents	Spotlight Monthly e- newsletters	Tailored E- blasts on conferences, workshops, research	blog and website portal	Visits/Person al Contacts	Major Events	Personal notes Board/ED	Instagram, Fb, Tweets/apps
National Media – and Regional	*					*	*		
Current Contributors/Partners									
Legacy Donors		*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Sponsors		*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Major Gift Individuals		*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Individuals		*	*	*			*	*	*
Potential Contributors								*	
All prospects [foundations, corporate, other]		*	*	*		*		*	
Partners									
Corporate		*	*	*		*		*	
Education Partners [Collegiate + EDTA]		*	*	*					*
International, National Associations Colleagues [TCG, Tonys]		*	*	*		*		*	*
Members Organizational + Individual		*	*	*	*			*	*
International Advisory Board + Fellows		*		*	*			*	
Board + Committee Personnel		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Inventory Participants + Nonmember program users		*	*	*	*				*

APPENDIX D. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SAMPLE DEV PLAN

18-Month Development Calendar	2020	<u>)</u>											2021	_				
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OVT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Fundraising Database created																		
<u>Membership</u>																		
Org Membership Benefit Review																		
Collateral Rewrite																		
Collateral Design																		
Distribution Plan																		
Drop																		
Follow-up																		
Sponsorships																		
Categories + benefits developed (up to 24																		
months in advance for conference																		
sponsorships and special initiatives)																		
Materials written																		
Materials designed																		
Solicitation (proposals, face to face, site visits)																		
TBD																		
<u>Corporate Partners</u>																		
Categories + benefits developed (up to 24																		
months in advance for conference																		
sponsorships and special initiatives)																		
Materials written																		
Materials designed																		
Solicitation (proposals, face to face, site visits)																		
TBD																		
Website updated as appropriate with above																		
<u>info</u>																		

18-Month Development Calendar					2020									2021				
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OVT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Board of Advisors Appeal																		
Materials written																		
Materials designed and produced																		
Cultivation																		
Thank yous																		
Public acknowledgement placement																		
Board of Directors Appeal																		
Materials written																		
Materials designed and produced																		
Cultivation																		
Thank yous																		
Public acknowledgement placement																		
<u>Legacy Appeal</u>																		
Materials written																		
Materials designed and produced																		
Cultivation																		
Thank yous																		
Public acknowledgement placement																		
<u>Events</u>																		
Committee meetings																		
Save the date design and printing																		
Invitation design and printing																		
Invitation drop																		
Social media reminders																		
Follow-up																		
					1													

18-Month Development Calendar					2020									2021				
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OVT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Government & Foundation Grants																		
Prospect A																		
Guidelines secured																		
Proposal written																		
Proposal due																		
Proposal notification																		
Funder report due dates																		

AND SO ON

APPENDIX E. BUDGET FORECAST

Some organizations find that developing 24 – 36 macro operating budgets provides ample time to identify, cultivate, and secure revenue from various sources such as businesses, individuals, foundations, conference host sites, etc.

SUMMARY PROJECTIONS	2018.19 Actuals	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
EARNED				
Program Income				
Conference Income				
Membership				
Total Program Income				
Fundraisers				
CONTRIBUTED				
Board Dues				
Advisory Board				
Major Gifts				
Individuals				
Foundations				
Business & Corp				
Investment + misc.				
Reserves				
Sponsors				
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED				
TOTAL REVENUE				
EXPENSE				
Total Personnel				
Total conferences and festivals				
All other				
Net Result				
Reserves				

APPENDIX F. SAMPLE DASHBOARD

	Current Moth	YTD	Annual Goal
EARNED INCOME			
Program Income			
Ad Income			
(add other categories AACT wishes to monitor)			
MEMBERSHIP			
Numbers of Organization Members			
Organizational Membership \$\$			
Number of Individual Members			
Individual Membership \$\$			
CONTRIBUITIONS			
Advisory Board Contributions			
Number of Major Gifts/Sponsors			
Major Gifts/Sponsors \$			
Foundation \$			
Number of Corporate Partners			
Corporate Partner \$			
Endowment Contributor Numbers			
Legacy Numbers			
(add other categories AACT wishes to monitor)			
OTHER STATS			
Number of Website visits			
Number of Tech Assistance Inquiries			
Number of Discount Program Users			