



The Real-World Theatre

Turning Students into Professionals

Laura Krus
Management of
Nonprofit Arts Organizations
Professor Suggs



Mission Statement

The Real-World Theatre educates the students of West Hartford, Connecticut by teaching them the magic of theater, both on and off stage, in a nurturing and professional environment.

Vision Statement

Within the next ten years, The Real-World Theatre envisions a state-of-the-art theater with top-quality equipment.

Values Statement

The Real-World Theatre values Safety, Awareness, Education, Growth, Professionalism, Leadership, and Responsibility. We strive to embody all of these values in all aspects of our professional and personal lives.

Major Goals

- In the next two years, we hope to be very involved in the community.
- In the next three years, we hope to be having more fundraisers and be well known in the community.
- In the next five years, we would like to begin making plans to build our own facility.



Unique Qualifications

The Real-World Theatre is a unique theater because we work specifically with high schools and dance studios to put together a professional show of their own creation. We bring the students into a space they are not familiar with and show them the difference between putting on a high school production and a real professional show.

Community Service

The Real-World Theatre will serve the performing arts community by providing high schools and local dance studios a space to perform. Within this space they will receive the opportunity to learn more about the theater.

Community Engagement

The Real-World Theatre will engage the community by giving more people in the community the opportunity to experience and enjoy the performing arts. For a High School production put on in a high school, most audience members are related to a performer. However, if the high school production was done somewhere else in the community then more people would be likely to be present.



What We Do

The Real-World Theatre provides a friendly learning environment for high school age students wishing to be involved in theatre and dance. We give these students an opportunity to learn problem solving skills, leadership qualities, and display artistic ability. By taking these students out of a high school auditorium, The Real-World Theatre is giving students a unique opportunity to experience what it is like to work in a professional theater space.

The Real-World Theatre impacts the community by inspiring education and enriching entertainment. We inspire education by bringing students out of school and into a real theater. This will show them that performing and or working in the performing arts can extend past high school. We enrich the entertainment community by giving people a performance space that is capable of doing more than the basics. The Real-World Theatre will work to make all productions it houses the best it can possibly be with technical elements and experience. The Real-World Theatre is best described as a Not-For-Profit Presenter. This is because we are a performance space looking to educate high school aged students about working in the performing arts industry in any capacity they so choose.



Where We Are

We are located in West Hartford, Connecticut. This location was chosen because while there seems to be opportunity for the community to be involved in theater, it does not look like the community is as involved as it could be. This location was also chosen because the community theaters that are already located in West Hartford are not solely focused on educating the youth in the community about all aspects of the performing arts industry like The Real-World Theatre. West Hartford has the opportunity to expand their theater and dance following if only an organization chose to focus on educating and improving the performances already taking place within the high schools and dance studios in the community. Because West Hartford has a thriving economy, is close to New York City, and is lacking the educational aspect we hope to provide, The Real World Theatre could be very successful in this community.

In order for The Real-World Theatre to provide the services it is planning to provide, we will need access to a theater space that has capabilities to house multiple types of performances, like plays, musicals, and dance recitals.



Policies and Volunteers

Policies

- A member with experience in the theatrical field with The Real-World Theatre has to be present at all times when a visiting organization is present in our theater.
- No food or drinks are allowed in the house or the stage at any point, besides water during a performance.
- Closed toed shoes must be worn at all times in the theater space.
- All injuries must be reported to a member of The Real-World Theatre.
- Safety Precautions must be taken at all times.
- All volunteers must pass a practical exam before they can work without supervision in the theater.
- No one is allowed to work in the theater by themselves for safety reasons.
- All volunteers working backstage must be fourteen years old or older.
- A Monthly Newsletter will be sent out to all donors and local partners.

Volunteers

- We are looking for volunteers that are willing to learn.
- All new volunteers wishing working in the theater must be trained by an experienced volunteer that has passed a practical exam. This is to make sure everyone is safe and knows what to do in the theater.
- All volunteers wishing to work backstage must be 14 years old or older.



Programs

The Real-World Theatre plans to implement a program of masterclasses every other month. Each masterclass would discuss a new topic in relation to theater. Topics like Design work (lighting, sets, prop, and costume), stage management, sound, audition etiquette, audition music, dance, mock auditions, casting, directing and so much more.

In the future we could also begin a mentorship program.

This will begin after a few years when The Real-World Theatre has made connections and alumni. With this mentorship program high school students can sign up to be placed with a mentor that either is knowledgeable about theater or working in the industry. The student will also be able to choose if their mentor is someone who is knowledgeable of more the on stage or off stage side of theater. This mentorship would last for at least six months.

The students could then choose to either gain another mentor or keep working with the same mentor. The reason for this is to give the students the opportunity to meet multiple people knowledgeable within the industry and to get out of any possible mentorship that may not be working for them. Each student wishing to participate in the program will fill out a questionnaire stating their name, high school, area of interest etc. From their we will reach out with our resources to find people interested in mentoring our current students.

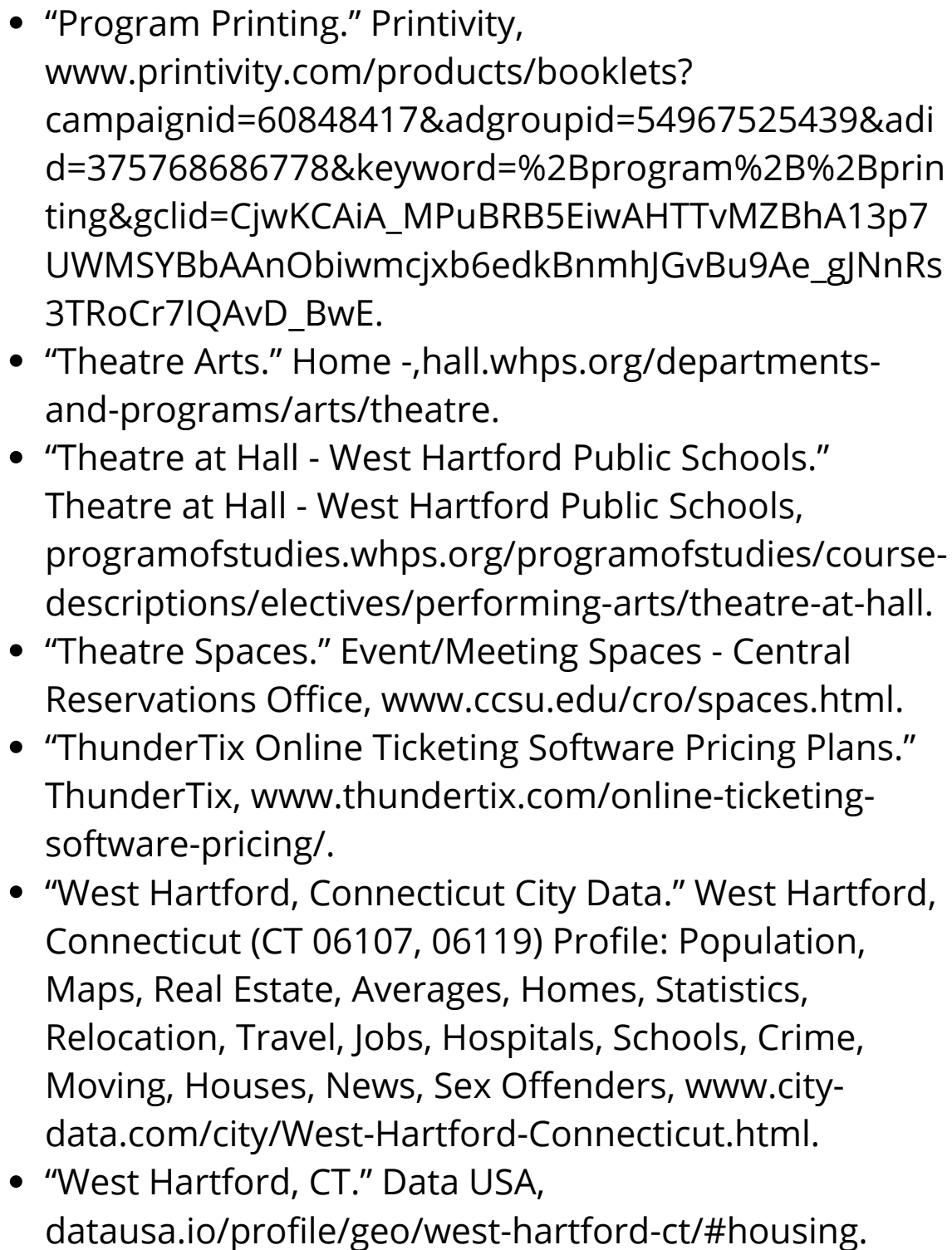


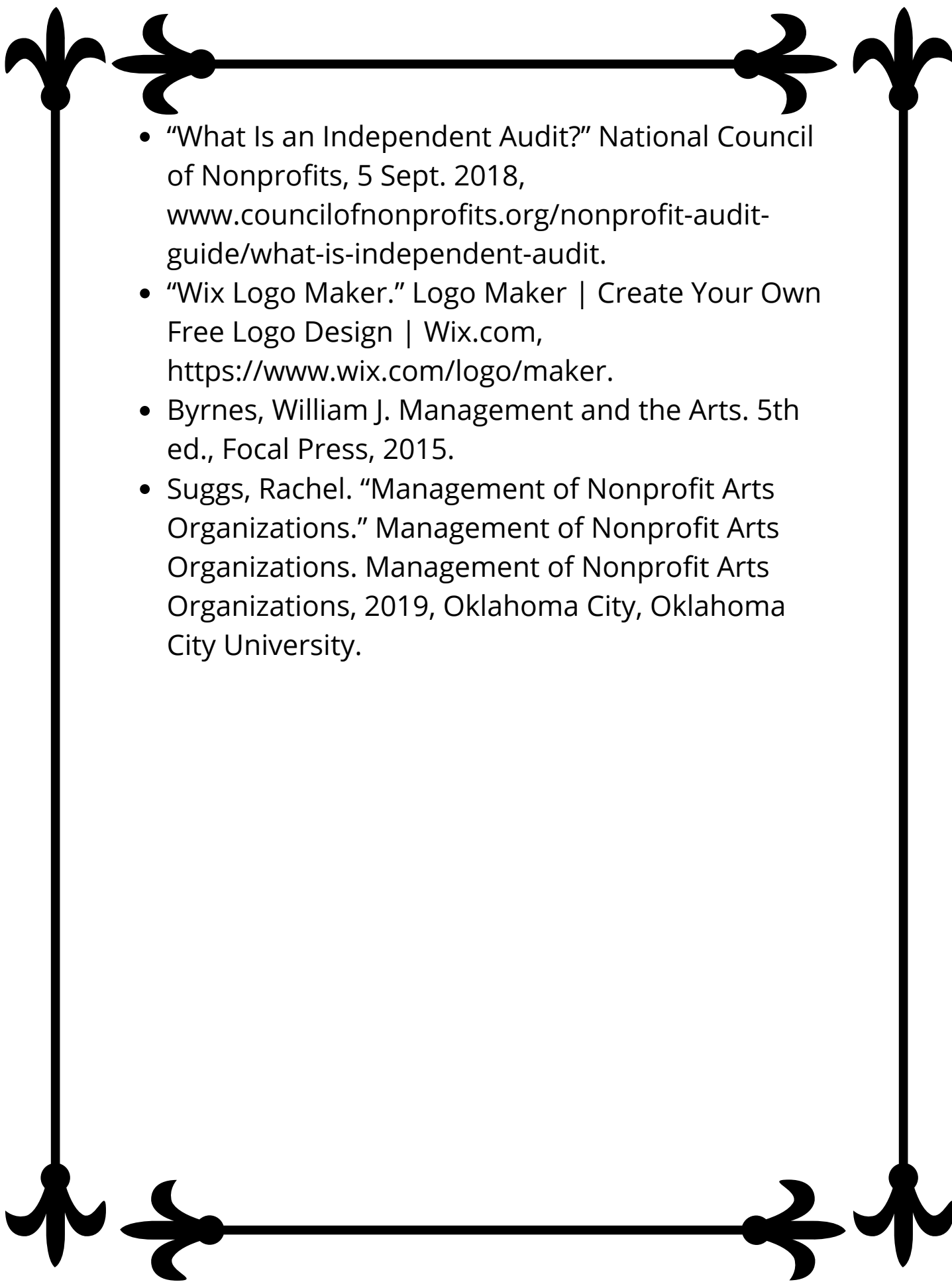
Additional Experiences

The Real-World Theatre provides a memorable and educational experience for everyone involved in any production we host. However, we would also like to provide a memorable experience and an opportunity to involve other members of the community for those not involved in the current production we are hosting. In order to do this The Real-World Theatre would like to host an event before or after the run of a show. This event would vary depending on what the production was and would be free to the cast and crew. The Real-World Theatre would partner with local businesses to provide food, activities, or even cats and dogs to distress. For example, if the production was *The Great Gatsby* we could host a Roaring Twenties after party. Or if the production was *Cats* we could help promote pet adoption from the local animal shelter by having a day in the family day in the park with cats and dogs. Each event would mirror each production we help produce a fun event that our cast, crew and audience would never forget. Members of the community not involved with the production would be invited to participate in these events for a ten-dollar fee if you RSVP or a twenty-dollar fee at the door. These types of event invite the entire community to come together and enjoy a show and maybe next time even be a part of it.

Works Cited

- "Contact." *West Hartford Community Theater*, westhartfordtheater.org/category/about/.
- "Cricket Press Inc-Printing-West Hartford, CT." Cricket Press Inc-Printing-West Hartford, CT, www.cricketpress.biz/.
- "Hall High School - Arts." *Home* -, <https://hall.whps.org/departments-and-programs/arts>.
- "Insurance." Risman Insurance Agencies, www.risman.com/business/theatre-insurance.
- "Kingswood Oxford - Arts." Cultivate Your Creative Power at Kingswood Oxford, a Private School in CT., <https://www.kingswoodoxford.org/arts>.
- "News." Central Reservations Office, www.ccsu.edu/cro/.
- "Nonprofit Audit." Accounting Resources, accountingresourcesinc.com/services/accounting-services-for-non-profit/.
- "Performing Arts Insurance, Performing Arts Organizations Insurance." Schweickert & Company, www.schweickert.com/insurance-quotes/business-insurance/performing-arts-insurance.
- "Program Printing." Marketing Solutions Unlimited, msuprint.com/print.

- 
- “Program Printing.” Printivity,
www.printivity.com/products/booklets?campaignid=60848417&adgroupid=54967525439&adid=375768686778&keyword=%2Bprogram%2B%2Bprinting&gclid=CjwKCAiA_MPuBRB5EiwAHTTvMZBhA13p7UWMSYBbAAnObiwmcjxb6edkBnmhJGvBu9Ae_gjNnRs3TRoCr7lQAvD_BwE.
 - “Theatre Arts.” Home -, hall.whps.org/departments-and-programs/arts/theatre.
 - “Theatre at Hall - West Hartford Public Schools.”
Theatre at Hall - West Hartford Public Schools,
programofstudies.whps.org/programofstudies/course-descriptions/electives/performing-arts/theatre-at-hall.
 - “Theatre Spaces.” Event/Meeting Spaces - Central Reservations Office, www.ccsu.edu/cro/spaces.html.
 - “ThunderTix Online Ticketing Software Pricing Plans.”
ThunderTix, www.thundertix.com/online-ticketing-software-pricing/.
 - “West Hartford, Connecticut City Data.” West Hartford, Connecticut (CT 06107, 06119) Profile: Population, Maps, Real Estate, Averages, Homes, Statistics, Relocation, Travel, Jobs, Hospitals, Schools, Crime, Moving, Houses, News, Sex Offenders, www.city-data.com/city/West-Hartford-Connecticut.html.
 - “West Hartford, CT.” Data USA,
datausa.io/profile/geo/west-hartford-ct/#housing.

- 
- “What Is an Independent Audit?” National Council of Nonprofits, 5 Sept. 2018, www.councilofnonprofits.org/nonprofit-audit-guide/what-is-independent-audit.
 - “Wix Logo Maker.” Logo Maker | Create Your Own Free Logo Design | Wix.com, <https://www.wix.com/logo/maker>.
 - Byrnes, William J. Management and the Arts. 5th ed., Focal Press, 2015.
 - Suggs, Rachel. “Management of Nonprofit Arts Organizations.” Management of Nonprofit Arts Organizations. Management of Nonprofit Arts Organizations, 2019, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City University.