

# MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS



**BRONWYN BAHR**

## **1. Describe your background and career - where did you go to college, what degrees, and career roles?**

I attended New York University where I studied musical theatre and on-camera acting at the Tisch School of the Arts through both the New Studio on Broadway and Stonestreet Studios. Going to college in NYC was incredible – you're right in the middle of the largest theatre scene in the country, and your professors are all actively working in the industry! I earned my BFA in Drama from NYU and remained in NYC for a couple of years after that, pursuing acting while falling into various positions.

Eventually, I opted to move back to the Midwest to be closer to family. I relocated to Omaha in 2020 and worked in administrative positions at ACCESSbank and the Iowa West Foundation before deciding to pursue graduate school. Board service became a way to be involved in the causes I cared deeply about, and studying nonprofit management seemed right up my alley. In 2024, I graduated with my Master of Public Administration in Nonprofit Management from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Currently, I serve as Special Projects Administrator at Omaha Performing Arts (O-pa). In my role, I manage cross-departmental projects as well as government affairs for the president's office. Every day is different, and it has been amazing to get to utilize knowledge and skillsets from both of my degrees. In addition to Nebraskans for the Arts, I also serve as Treasurer of the Nebraska Arts Action Fund board and a board trustee for Destination Imagination, an international creative problem-solving competition program.

## **2. Describe a meaningful moment from your career in theatre.**

Any time I get to see kids experiencing their first encounter with music or theatre is incredibly powerful to me. Growing up, I attended a camp for gifted students that involved a two-hour show choir-style performance that was put together in eleven days (confusing concept, I know). Throughout and after college, I worked on staff at this camp, and it was my favorite two weeks of the year. Getting to watch these students from across the state of South Dakota who had never sang or danced before step out of their comfort zones and gain so much confidence in such a short time was mesmerizing. Students became inseparable from other kids they never would have met or talked to if it wasn't for this experience. That is the power of arts and community in action.

## **3. What type of arts do you like to be involved in or arts events you continue to support?**

It has been thrilling to return to the stage several times in the past year. Between moving across the country, a global pandemic, and grad school, I hadn't been able to be in a show for about seven years. It has been such a joy to join the wonderful and vibrant Omaha theatre community – there is so much talent and so much opportunity to showcase it! I also love to support music and theatre throughout the metro – both local and touring artists and productions.

**4. You are an advocate and proponent of how the arts impact communities, especially with your work through Omaha Performing Arts. Would you share an experience you have had where you have witnessed meaningful change through your advocacy work.**

In my time at O-pa, we have made a point to continuously advocate and educate leaders on the positive impacts of the arts. The arts not only bring people together, but they strongly impact our quality of life. Providing world-class experiences for everyone to enjoy is vital to creating places where people want to live and grow. Additionally, the arts have a strong economic impact – in 2022, the arts were a \$3.6 billion industry in Nebraska. Continuing to communicate this is important, and we have started to see it resonate with folks. The arts are not just a “nice-to-have;” they are a necessity.