

To our Lowbrow Community,

We would like to start with a note of gratitude. Even during a global pandemic, we are constantly reminded of our wealth of support, which made our fully-virtual 2021-22 season possible. We are deeply grateful and appreciative for all you have done for us, this year and beyond. For a full reflection on our productions and other accomplishments this past season, please refer to our Board President's report.



Though this year was arguably one of the most difficult for the performing arts, Lowbrow Opera Collective currently finds itself at an exciting moment of growth as an organization. We are about to enter our first full season as a 509(2)(a), otherwise known as a federally-recognized non-profit organization. This represents a huge step forward and opens up incredible opportunities for us. Mainly, we now qualify for grants and funding from the federal government, which will help us produce more aspirational projects.

Managing a federally-recognized entity brings with it an increase in responsibility that requires more hands, brains, and hearts. This season, we focused on increasing our cohort of board members. During our annual meeting, we voted in 3 new members and now have 7 members total. Our goal is to expand the board to 8 by the end of the calendar year, which we are on track to do. We are thrilled to see how enriching our board with the unique perspectives and experiences of our new members will elevate our work as an organization.

Expanding the board also means a greater focus on finding and pursuing fundraising opportunities. As a relatively-new organization, we have felt the disappointment of sidelining bigger projects due to a shoestring budget. With greater personnel, we can now set higher fundraising goals and invest more dedicated energy into finding opportunities. Our hope is to fundraise \$3,000 by the end of the year to produce our 2021-22 season.

We are eager to see how our company's growth will influence the caliber and sheer number of new operatic works we are able to present. Our 2021-22 season will include 4 projects, 2 of which will be fully-staged. This will be our most ambitious season to date, and we welcome the increased number of chances to reconnect with our community. When LOC began, we were only able to plan projects on the fly, one at a time. Now, we are fortunate enough to plan our seasons two years in advance, with a wellspring of prospective projects to select from. We anticipate voting on our 2022-23 season by the end of the calendar year.

Thank you for the continued support and investment in our work. As a non-profit that operates by and for our community, we strive for transparency and accountability. That being said, if you have any questions regarding any LOC endeavors, please reach out to us at boardofdirectors@lowbrowoc.org.

Fondly,
Nic Varela
Lowbrow Opera Collective Board Secretary