



## Emerging Leaders Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 6:00 PM

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Chair

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Date

**Members present:** Nicole Adams, Yu Chen, Monique Gatling-Way, Zoe Hardy, Shanise Harris, Brion Humphry, Christina Irizarry Santiago, Drew Lusher, Ashleigh Maggard, Serena Murry-Webb, Tameika Serrano, Amanda Shortt, Janae Thompson, Shawana Ward, John Wiley

**Staff present:** Kelsey Backe, Michael Diller, Mechelle Hankerson, Amy Houck, Shannon Jay, James Roach

### Meeting was called to order at 6:01PM

- Tam opened the meeting, welcoming the new members of the Board.
- Amanda shared an ice breaker: do you make a new year's resolution and if so, what is it?
- Upcoming Events
  - The Story Exchange (formerly 757 Together)
    - John provided an update on the February event:
      - Event has been coming together – finalizing a host.
      - Tickets are on sale for \$10 through the Push Comedy Club.
      - The event will be recorded for future content use including a podcast, Curate, etc.
      - Requested a committee to help curating/selecting submissions, helping on the day of the event, and planning for the subsequent events.
        - Committee includes: Shanise, Brion, Christina, Serena, Amanda, Janae, Shawna, and John (Lead).
      - Suggestions were made for the event listing on the website to make it clearer where to submit stories, what should be submitted, etc.
      - Requested help in getting the word out for storytellers and tickets.
        - Members are encouraged to share the WHRO Facebook event/posts on social, share with organizations, etc. once the link has been updated.
        - Shannon to touch base with John on recording a video to promote the event.
        - Evaluate the Exodus Homecoming stories and consider reaching out to those that submitted.
    - Planning for future events:
      - Searching for theaters to partner with future events.
      - Kelsey offered to reach out to Zeiders as one option and to assist in finding another.
  - Play Your Heart Out
    - Brion shared that Play Your Heart Out is an opportunity to showcase emerging talent from our viewing/listening area. Musical artists submit original work for consideration and a committee of the Board reviews and selects a number to perform at the PYHO event.
    - Brion and Zoe will Co-Chair this year's event. If Members of the Board are interested in participating in the committee, planning will begin next month.



- Tam introduced the two available Executive Committee positions and opened the floor for nominees:
  - Vice Chair Election
    - Yu shared a speech on his passion for the Board, WHRO, and public media. He expressed a desire to prioritize connecting as a Board more often, allowing us to build trust, brainstorm ideas, and better serve our community and purpose. He shared his passion for advocacy, solving problems and connecting people and felt that in a Vice Chair role, he could be more proactive in moving our board forward.
    - John shared a speech on his renewed sense of purpose for the Board over the past few months and the future trajectory. He expressed a desire to expand the scope of programming and to collaborate with other young professional boards to help each other have a bigger impact and to continue building community.
    - The Board held a vote and elected John Wiley as Vice Chair for 2025.
  - Secretary Election
    - Yu was offered the Secretary position but declined.
    - The Secretary position was offered to interested new members. Monique Gatling-Way agreed to be Vice-Secretary with Amanda continuing as Secretary and assisting in the transition.
- WHRO Station Updates
  - Kelsey Backe has joined WHRO as the Community Relations Manager and will be the primary Board contact.
  - All Creatures Great and Small screening will be held Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 3PM and 6PM.
  - A new event, Chautauqua at 150: Wynton Marsalis will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6PM – many RSVPs have been received already, so interested, please RSVP soon.
  - Mechelle shared an Editor will be joining the newsroom and they continue to recruit for that department – searching for the right people that will help the department grow.
  - Amy reiterated that the station has an open door policy and that any information the Board wishes to share or discuss to please feel free to do so.
- The members shared personal and professional updates for the group.

### **Adjournment 7:30 PM - Next Meeting Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

#### Upcoming meetings

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| • February 12, 2025 | • August 13, 2025 TBD |
| • March 12, 2025    | • September 10, 2025  |
| • April 9, 2025     | • October 8, 2025     |
| • May 14, 2025      | • November 12, 2025   |
| • June 11, 2025     | • December 10, 2025   |
| • July 9, 2025 TBD  |                       |