

A note from Melissa Chin-Parker, Interim Artistic Director



Dear friends,

I hope you and your family are safe and well in this extraordinary time that continues to challenge our courage and spirit. Thank you for standing by, waiting beside us. I hope what I share next will be welcome signs of an optimistic future for the Arts at Hartnell College in general, and for The Western Stage in specific.

On February 2nd, my appointment as Interim TWS Artistic Director until the end of December was approved by the Hartnell Board of Trustees, and as I shared with Hartnell's Arts Council, I view this as evidence that the College intends for the program to continue, in spite of our having to put our production season into a wait-and-see status for the time being. This speaks to our long history of excellence and the trust that the Trustees and College administration have that we can weather campus closure and return as strong as ever. Below there is a template for our return schedule once we are safe to gather.

I am excited to re-engage with the visioning process with Malinda DeRouen, Berniz House, Zalissa Johnson, Heather Osteraa, and Cheryl Worthy to make plans that strengthen our existing points of access while adding new and exciting pipelines that align with our desire for broader inclusivity and for uplifting BIPOC artists and stories.

Lastly, I am happy to reveal our IN THE MEANTIME IN BETWEEN TIME series of online/virtual offerings that will take you through the metaphorical Stage Door to experience some of the inner workings of TWS. We want to create a gathering space for you to see each other again and to try your hand at something new or familiar. Take a look at the series teaser below and be sure to share with others who may also want to join us. We will announce dates and times for each of these events shortly, so I'll be back soon!

There is so much more to share, but for now, take very good care and I will look for you in our virtual theater soon.

Come play!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Chin-Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Melissa Chin-Parker

TWS Artistic Director – Interim