

# ROBERT TENGES

1312 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois 60605  
312.369.3106

*rtenges@colum.edu*

## OVERVIEW

- An experienced community arts and higher education administrator, with proven success in creating and overseeing innovative and sustainable programs, particularly in the performing arts and media.
- A smart worker and change agent, with experience in managing and inspiring staff members for organizational achievement and efficiency.
- A leader with the proven ability to grow community, audience engagement, and revenue.
- An established playwright, musician, and teacher, with strong ties to the Chicago and New York performing arts and arts education communities.

## ADMINISTRATION/TEACHING

### **Assistant Provost, Continuing and Community Education**

**Columbia College Chicago; Chicago, IL 2016-present**

- Conducted institution-wide inventory and evaluation of all youth, pre-collegiate and adult education offerings within the college.
- Conducted staff-reorganization to ensure clear roles and efficiency within the new CCE office.
- Downsized several long-standing, revenue-negative, non-mission driven “legacy” programs within the college.
- Piloted new revenue-positive youth and pre-collegiate Summer offerings in 2017, all closely aligned with the college curriculum.
- In collaboration with the academic departments and the EAB’s Continuing and Online Education unit, created new adult professional development and enrichment pilot programs for launch in January 2019.
- Established partnership with HAVAS Worldwide, to provide marketing oversight and web design for new continuing and community education programs in 2018.

### **Executive Director, Sherwood Community Music School**

**Columbia College Chicago; Chicago, IL 2013-2015**

- Transformed classical music conservatory into a multi-disciplinary community arts center with a focus on children.
- Aligned curriculum with Columbia College Chicago’s School of Fine &

### Performing Arts.

- Streamlined faculty within the center, in the interest of separating less-invested teachers and engaging Columbia College Chicago alumni as teaching artists.
- Created and maintained new simpatico with Columbia's offices of Institutional Marketing, Enrollment Management, and Academic Affairs.
- Established and enforced environment of full transparency within the center itself, and created a culture of full accountability among direct reports.
- Brought Sherwood to independent financial sustainability within the college.

### **Director of Education & Programs**

#### **Old Town School of Folk Music; Chicago, IL 2007-2013**

- Grew student body by 20%, and oversaw highest enrollment numbers in the school's fifty-five year history.
- Increased earned revenue of educational offerings from \$5 million to \$7.2 million within five years.
- Reduced full-time program staff and instituted "department chair" system of program management for smaller programs.
- Eliminated the school's printed course catalog in favor of smaller schedules and enhanced web presence.
- Created CPS Artist-in-Residence program, and co-created a visiting artist series that brought in master artists from Finland, England, Mexico, and Brazil.
- Successfully managed Old Town School's accreditation process through ACCPAS, and served as editor of the organization's 700-page self-study.
- Curated content for Old Town School's Expansion Program, which includes its facility located at 4545 North Lincoln Avenue, which opened in 2011; and Wiggleworms early childhood music programs in three new satellite locations in the Chicago suburbs of Naperville, Glencoe and Hyde Park.
- Responsible for quarterly reporting to the school's Board of Directors on all items related to Old Town School's education programs.
- Supervised seven full-time and three part-time Program Managers, who in turn managed 260 teaching artists; as well as the school's Resource Center, Artist Referrals Services, and Education Outreach initiatives.
- Created and chaired the Old Town School Curriculum Committee.

### **Associate Education Director**

#### **Old Town School of Folk Music; Chicago, IL 2002-2007**

- Co-managed staff of full-time program managers in collaboration with the Education Director.
- Forged partnerships with various arts organizations, including 2005 co-production of HILLBILLY ANTIGONE with Lookingglass Theatre.

- Re-designed curriculum for Old Town School summer camp programs for children, and launched the school's first Teen Summer Camp.
- Wrote print catalog copy and oversaw the class schedule for Old Town School campuses in Lincoln Park and Lincoln Square.

### **Voice Faculty**

**Chicago Musical College at Roosevelt University; Chicago, IL 2000-2003**

- Maintained a studio of fifteen private students through Chicago Musical College at Roosevelt University.
- Worked with students on vocal technique and repertoire selection.

### **Theater Program Manager**

**Old Town School of Folk Music; Chicago, IL 1999-2002**

- Designed curriculum for Old Town School's Theater Program and oversaw programs that served nearly 300 students, weekly.
- Co-wrote a series of original children's musicals for children ages 3 through 14, all of which ran in rotating repertory.

### **Voice Instructor**

**Music Makers of Western Springs; Western Springs, IL 1995-1999**

- Private vocal lessons for children and adults.

### **Music and Theater Instructor**

**Old Town School of Folk Music; Chicago, IL 1995-2013**

- Instructor and stage director for musical theater classes for children and adults.
- Designed and taught the school's Musical Theater Ensemble, which was named one of the "Ten Hottest Adult Education Classes" by Chicago Magazine.
- For children, designed and taught a series of vocal technique courses.
- Maintained a large studio of private vocal students.

## **CONSULTANT/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Founding Member of the Chicago Consortium of Community Music Schools, a group of community music school Deans and Executive Directors that meets regularly to share resources and best practices.
- Panelist for the Illinois Arts Counsel (2008-2011), evaluating large operational grants for Illinois arts organizations.
- Consultant for The Chicago Guide for Teaching and Learning in the Arts (2009), published by the Chicago Public School's Office of Fine & Performing Arts.
- Vocal Jury Panelist (2005-2008) at Sherwood Conservatory of Music.

## **PLAYWRITING**

**A complete listing of work and production/development credits is available upon request.**

- Plays include STRANGERS KNOCKING, produced in Chicago by the side project in April-May 2005 and Off-Broadway by The New Group in May/June 2007; FOUND, presented Off-Broadway by Ensemble Studio Theatre in October 2004, and seen again at the Abingdon Theatre in 2005; THREE HYMNS OF APATHY, produced by the side project in November 2008; PEOPLE WE KNOW (2011 Jeff Nomination for Best New Play) produced by the side project in May-June 2010; ELSEWHERE, workshopped at The New Group and produced by the side project in March-April 2013; WHATEVER, produced by the side project in June-August 2015; KANSAS, workshopped at The Players' Club in New York, The New Group, and Chicago Dramatists, and produced in Fall 2016 by Chicago Dramatists, directed by Adam Webster; and ARIANA, slated for workshop at Chicago Dramatists beginning in February 2018.
- Created English-language adaptations of Chekhov's UNCLE VANYA and THE THREE SISTERS (both produced by LiveWire Theatre in 2004 and 2005), as well as an adaptation/completion of Georg Büchner's WOYZECK.
- Featured playwright in the annual One-Minute Play Festival at Victory Gardens Theater and The Den Theater, 2011-2015.
- Artist with The New Group, Off-Broadway.
- Playwright-in-Residence at New River Dramatists, North Carolina.
- Resident Playwright at Chicago Dramatists.
- Awarded the 2004 Illinois Arts Council Playwriting Fellowship for full-length play FOUND.

## **PERFORMANCE**

**A complete listing of stage and musical appearances is available upon request.**

- Tenor soloist for First Chicago/NBD television commercial, "The Mortgage of Figaro" (1997, Richard Manners).
- Various opera, oratorio, and recital appearances in Illinois and Wisconsin.
- Various acting experience in Chicago, including appearances with The Athenaeum Theater Company and Mary-Archie Theater.

## **EDUCATION**

DePaul University    Music Education (Vocal Emphasis)

## **REFERENCES**

Full list of professional references is available upon request.