



## 2017 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

DirectorsLabChicago is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit artist service organization, generously supported by the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab in New York, and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. We are very grateful to Victory Gardens Theater, our primary hosts for the 2017 Directors Lab.

## Our Mission

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DirectorsLabChicago offers environments in which emerging and established stage directors from Chicago and around the world are able to consider, challenge, and engage in both the traditional and contemporary aspects of their craft while creating opportunities for educating the public in the art of stage direction.

## The Lab

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The flagship offering of DirectorsLabChicago is our annual Lab; a week-long gathering of directors from all over the world for in-depth investigation of a single topic from multiple angles. The Lab is geared toward professional directors in early- to mid-career stages, who are selected through a rigorous application process.

DirectorsLabChicago was founded in 2005 by stage directors Elizabeth Margolius and Karin Shook as a result of their experience at the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab in New York.

Our annual Labs have hosted 170 directors from around the United States and 38 from other countries. Nearly 140 presenters and panelists – including Robert Falls (Goodman Theatre), Martha Lavey (Steppenwolf), Chay Yew (Victory Gardens), Andrew White (Lookingglass), Leon Ingulsrud (SITI Company), and Anne Cattaneo (Lincoln Center Theater) – have guided these directors through explorations of themes such as The Language of the Stage, The Director and The Designer, The Power of Myth and Ritual, and The Kinetics of Directing. Our college internship program has given 15 young directors access to our Labs as well.

Each year, we choose a theme for the Lab based on ideas and questions that emerge from the previous Lab, from current world events, and from general questions that seem to be surfacing in the field. For 2017 we will examine the relationship between director and audience:

## DIRECTOR–AUDIENCE Engaging and Challenging a Distracted World

Why this? Why now? Why me? Many of the director's answers to these questions will be about audience. With attention spans low and a hyper-connected world that has never felt more divided, this Lab will consider our relationship with our audiences and examine our role in guiding them to engage with the work, each other, and our world.

We'll discuss alterations to the traditional artist-audience contract that open the door to practices like site-specific, immersive, interactive, or educational theatre. Further options for exploration include everything from theatre of the oppressed and ritual/ceremony theatre to prison theatre and agitprop.



## 2017 Lab Specifics

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### Commitment

The dates for this year's Lab are **Sunday, August 20**, through **Friday, August 25, 2017**. The Lab will take place at Victory Gardens Theater and other locations throughout the city of Chicago.

The Lab is an immersive, full-time commitment during the dates listed. Lab participants should not plan to be available for any outside activities for the duration. In particular, we ask Chicago-based directors to treat the Lab as if they have traveled to attend and to clear their schedules completely. No rehearsals or other outside activities are permitted. Because of the round-the-clock nature of the Lab and the large number of applicants, if you find you are only partially available during this week, please apply in another year and let a space go to someone who can attend fully.

If you are accepted and confirm your attendance and then drop out before we begin (without a substantial reason such as illness or major job offer), you will not be admitted in future years. We plan the Lab around the directors we accept, and it negatively affects the entire group if a director drops out. This is a professional situation. The Lab's work relies on the directors' participation in all its activities, and for the good of all we need to accept people who can commit to the full Lab experience. Please consider your schedule carefully before applying.

### Daily Schedule

We draw most of the ideas for Lab sessions from responses in the application essay questions. We will be sorting through these ideas and putting the Lab together after participants are selected. Many years our schedule is not finalized until just hours before the Lab begins.

That being said, we can give you a general idea of what to expect. During the day, you will participate in workshops, activities, panel discussions and more. Evenings will be dedicated to rehearsal observations, theatre outings, and structured social activities. The exact schedule for the week will be provided on the first day.

### Cost

A \$25 registration fee is due on the first day of the Lab. Housing, meals, transportation, and other incidentals are your responsibility. We are unable to offer any grants or financial assistance to attending Lab directors.

Although DLC is often able to secure discounted group tickets to the shows we choose for participants to see, we are not able to cover these individual costs for you. As such, participation in these events is *strongly encouraged*, but not required. Directors who do not attend these activities for financial reasons will be provided with suggestions of lower-cost alternatives or places to gather so that the immersive Lab experience continues for everyone.



## Eligibility

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To apply for DirectorsLabChicago, a director must meet the following criteria:

- **Has directed at least two projects outside of an academic setting**
  - If unsure whether your projects qualify, err on the side of applying anyway!
- **Is not enrolled as a full-time student in the coming academic year**
  - Directors currently in an undergraduate program are invited to apply for a Lab internship, and those currently pursuing an advanced degree are encouraged to apply once your schooling is complete.
- **Has never withdrawn from a previous Lab after confirming attendance**
  - Excused exceptions are approved on a case-by-case basis and include significant, unforeseen life events such as illness or a major job offer
- **Has not attended more than one previous DirectorsLabChicago**
  - Directors may attend the Lab a maximum of two times. Attendance at the NYC Lab or any of our sister Labs does not count toward this limit.

The ideal applicant is a director who is committed to working professionally and has been in the field for at least a couple years. We welcome directors with academic/professional training as well as those without formal training, and we are interested in passionate people from varied artistic traditions. We value cross-cultural exchange and seek directors from diverse origins from around the world.

We love directors who come into the Lab thinking they have passion for one kind of theater and then have their course of life diverted in some unexpected way. We feel the Lab's success has come from members who are busy working but find they want or need to grow and know more. For this, the Lab is perfect: it will push you into exploring what you *do not* already know.

## Application Requirements

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- ☑ **Step One:** Register a profile in the Application Portal at [application.directorslabchicago.com](http://application.directorslabchicago.com).
- ☑ **Step Two:** Download the Application Questions document and prepare your essay answers.
- ☑ **Step Three:** Copy and paste your answers into your application on the Application Portal.
- ☑ **Step Four:** Upload a PDF of your directing résumé (name the file **FirstnameLastname.pdf**).
- ☑ **Step Five:** Finalize your application. Changes can no longer be made once the application is final. Your application must be finalized before **10:00PM CDT (GMT-5) on Sunday, June 25, 2017.**

**Note for international applicants:** Although the Lab takes place in English and applicants *must* be comfortable working and communicating in this language, we are able to read applications in French Spanish, Italian, and Norwegian. If one of these is your first language and you feel more comfortable writing in it, please do so. If you're most comfortable writing in another language not listed, you're welcome to have someone translate it to English for you. It's hard to write in a non-native language, and we want to know who you truly are!

**We will notify all applicants of decisions via email no later than Sunday, July 9, 2017.**

