



Eastern North America Candidate

Drew Horn

Vice President of Operations
KMI International
Primary Location: United States
Running for 1st term



ABOUT THE APPLICANT:

I believe that the ultimate mission and vision of TEA is one that I can make meaningful contributions to. In my current role as Vice President of Operations at KMI International, I was instrumental in bringing KMI into TEA. Our company has a deep history in the themed entertainment space. The founders met while working at Universal Orlando over 20 years ago, and we have helped manage and consult on construction projects of all sizes within Themed Entertainment since our inception.

The attraction of being a part of TEA is the multitude of knowledge that exists in members, from diverse backgrounds, collaborating to advance the art of designing, building, producing, and creating distinct themed entertainment locations around the world. With my career experience working with industry leaders worldwide, I am confident in my experience, abilities, industry insight, and passion for the themed entertainment business.

If selected to be on the Board, my specific goals would focus on membership to reach beyond the traditional theme park space. Our current client list includes Themed Entertainment, Hospitality, Marine (Cruise), and Aviation. All these sectors have some element of Themed Entertainment to draw those traveling guests from across the nation and international. This is a great opportunity to bring together members of each of these spaces to increase the membership as well as customers for existing members.

As a native Floridian, I grew up in the world's theme park capital. My career began as an intern at Disney's Animal Kingdom, supporting construction managers. This was the catalyst for my love of theme parks which set the foundation for my career in the Architecture/Engineering/Construction (AEC) industry. After graduation, I continued my career and worked on Animal Kingdom, specifically creating the African and Asian landscapes. My role included assisting teams in procuring the tools and materials needed to create a unique land within the active theme park.

From there, I worked for AECOM at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) and supported the build out for the new Space Launch System replacing the Space Shuttle.

I returned to the Theme Park industry as an estimator for the new Universal theme park in Beijing, China. Joining during the conceptual phase, I worked closely with teams from the facilities, maintenance, area development, props, rides, and shows. We collaborated with international design firms and local designers throughout Beijing.

I regularly volunteer on the TEA's Finance and Sponsorship Sub Committee as well as for local events and am always searching for ways to create a more significant impact by collaborating with other members of the themed entertainment business. My passion for this industry is deeply rooted and profound. I also enjoy traveling to new countries and visiting local theme parks, where I look for inspiration and innovation. The Leadership of Orlando Class encouraged me to apply for the TEA Board of Directors.

VISION FOR THE TEA

I would like to assist the Eastern North America TEA Division, meeting with new potential members and promoting the value of TEA membership. Having worked with architects and engineers, I have seen the benefit of networking and collaboration to spark innovation. My background working as an owner, contractor, and consultant brings a varied perspective that helps me relate to different TEA members, current and potential sponsors. Ideally, I would like to continue to work with the Finance and Sponsorship Committees or get involved with the New Business Relationships Committee.

SKILLS AND CORE COMPETENCIES

I am incredibly passionate about the themed entertainment industry, and most of my career has revolved around this field. One of my strengths is adaptability, which allows me to develop creative solutions for each challenge a project faces. This skill would be beneficial to the success of TEA because I can offer unique approaches and solutions. I enjoy creating new connections with people in the industry, which makes me a strong candidate for the New Business Relations Team.

I have been a TEA member for many years, and I thoroughly understand the association. I would enthusiastically communicate the benefits of joining TEA. One of the goals of the current strategic plan is to advance through leadership and transfer industry knowledge; with decades of experience in the industry, I am eager to share my knowledge with others, especially those just entering the field. I know one of the goals of the Eastern North American Board is to create more opportunities for events and workshops, and I am adept at organizing and leading these events. Moreover, with my diverse global experience, I am confident I can support the current strategic plan by using my connections and international knowledge to grow the TEA. I understand the brand's identity and can accurately define how this is a leading association in the industry. I am a strong leader and have extensive experience developing departments in my career. I would find ways to expand and build TEA in ways that broaden its global reach, share industry knowledge, and foster diversity and inclusivity.